**Farmers wanted change**

Ford alters ag policy group

President Gerald Ford has announced a reorganization of the Administration's agricultural policy-making machinery in line with policy established by voting delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 1976 annual meeting.

Official Farm Bureau policy for 1976 states: "Decisions affecting agricultural exports should be made with full participation by the Secretary of Agriculture. We deplore such decisions being made by labor leaders and government agencies such as the Department of State."

Accordingly, a new Agricultural Policy Committee is being formed with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz as Chairman, the White House reports.

The new Committee is being formed to consolidate agricultural policy making into one group which will report directly to the President and will advise him on the formulation, coordination and implementation of all agricultural policy. The scope of the Committee will include both domestic and international issues.

The new Committee replaces the International Food Review Group, chaired by the Department of State, and the EPB-NSC Food Committee, co-chaired by the Departments of State and the Treasury.

**Milk support goes up on April 1**

Beginning April 1, the support price for manufacturing milk was increased to 80 percent of parity, 80 percent of parity, according to a U.S.D.A. news release, is $8.13 per hundred weight.

The law requires that milk be supported at a level, between 75 percent and 90 percent of parity, determined by the Secretary of Agriculture as necessary to assure an adequate supply of milk to meet current needs, reflect changes in the cost of production and to assure a level of farm income adequate to maintain production to meet anticipated future needs.

The support price has been tilted in favor of milk going into cheese and butter production by increasing the Commodity Credit Corporation purchase prices of cheese and butter while leaving the purchase price of nonfat dry milk at previous levels. The purpose of the tilting action was to discourage production of nonfat dry milk and prevent further declines in its consumption. The CCC has over 400 million pounds of nonfat dry milk in storage holdings.

**In elevator explosion**

FBS will contest Labor Dept. fines

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., has filed its formal Petition for Dismissal of the citations filed against it by the Michigan Department of Labor regarding the grain elevator explosion at Zilwaukee, Michigan on January 22, 1976. These citations allege violations of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act.

It is the position of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., that the charges filed by the Michigan Department of Labor are vague, general, unsubstantiated and will be found to have no basis in fact once all of the proofs are submitted in this matter. The Michigan Department of Labor has exceeded its statutory authority under the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act is issuing these citations.

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., has always been genuinely concerned with the safety of its employees and has taken great pains to insure the safe operations of the Zilwaukee facilities. Farm Bureau Services, Inc., is proud of its record of diligence and care. Accordingly, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., intends to vigorously contest these citations with all of its energy and resources.

Clyde Springer named member of National Egg Board by Butz

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz has appointed Clyde I. Springer of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. to serve on the Egg Board which will administer the recently approved Egg Research and Promotion Order. The order is authorized under provisions of the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act of 1974 and was approved by egg producers voting in a referendum conducted last November (press release 3655-75).

The board members and alternates were selected from nominations made by certified egg producer organizations. The egg research and promotion program is designed to develop markets for eggs. The board, after organizing and adopting rules and regulations to govern its operations, will initiate projects covering promotion, research, and consumer education on the use of eggs, egg products, and spent fowl (non-productive laying hens). Operations of the board, and its plans, are under the general supervision of the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Members of this first board will serve staggered terms, with one-half the members serving for a two-year term and the remainder serving for a three-year term. Subsequent appointments to the board will be for two-year terms. Springer is vice president in charge of FBS's Egg Marketing Division.

Clyde I. Springer
Stated in great concern and importance to farmers throughout the land has finally come to the forefront after growing more serious year by year. I speak of the outdated federal estate tax laws.

Laws which increasingly cause hardship and heartbreak as heirs are forced to sell part or all of long-held family farms in order to pay off estate taxes.

For several years Farm Bureau has been calling for estate tax reform. Current Farm Bureau policy says:

1. Laws covering the taxation of estates and gifts have not been changed materially since 1942.
2. We place a high priority on major amendments to the estate and gift tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. At a minimum, these amendments should include: (1) an increase in the standard estate tax exemption to reflect the effects of inflation since the present $60,000 exemption was set in 1942; (2) a substantial increase in the marital deduction to minimize the problem of the so-called “widows’ tax”; and (3) provisions for basing the value of farmland and open spaces at levels reflecting their current use rather than their highest possible use.

Immediate passage of such legislation is necessary if we are to allow farmers and small businesses to be passed from one generation to another, if we are to relieve unnecessary hardships on widows and widowers, and if, at the same time, we are to maintain open space in urban areas.

It is now time for action. At the March meeting of the AFBF Board of Directors we determined to set estate tax reform as the organization’s priority national affairs activity at this time.

Over 100 Senators and Representatives have already sponsored new estate tax legislation with the Farm Bureau’s proposals contained in the Burton - Curtis bill.

The right time is here for passage of this vital legislation. It will only pass, however, if Farm Bureau members take decisive action. The battle is won, but victory is not assured. It will take real effort on the part of all Farm Bureau people at the national, state and county level.

All Farm Bureau members in Michigan, as well as our Farm Bureau Women, Young Farmers and Community Groups should get letters off now to their Representatives and Senators in Washington calling for passage of the Burton - Curtis estate tax bill.

What better way for Farm Bureau people to “build horizons on our heritage” in the bicentennial year than to secure passage of a Federal law that farm owners can pass their farms on to their heirs without fear that the homestead might have to be broken up.

Estate tax reform needed

In spring, while a young man’s fancy turns to thoughts of love - the fancy of women, young or old, turns to thoughts of fashion and housecleaning. In our inflation - laden economy, the latter two are often closely related in many households. A garage sale can be the answer to overflowing closets, attics and cupboards, and to undernourished budgets. The new Spring outfits that emerge this year after a long, cold winter could well be the result of the theory that “one man’s junk is another’s treasure.”

In my determined efforts to greet springtime with proper attire, I had to put some items up for sale that had too much sentimental value attached to be classified as “junk.” One was my wig, which ten years ago was responsible for a temporary transformation - until I became convinced that it wasn’t the “real me.” I couldn’t seem right, somehow, to transfer ownership of that which had been such a part of me, without including some of the helpful hints I’d learned in the past. So, with a pin stuck in its styrofoam head, I attached these instructions, based on my personal experiences:

1. Don’t feel guilty about wearing me. It’s difficult to look guilty and chic at the same time.
2. Don’t leave me sitting on my dresser. A garage sale can be a traumatic experience to discover that I look good on one of those life of open invitation for those life of the country.
3. Wear me on any and every occasion. This is an open invitation for those life of the country.
4. Let’s do something with me! For example, if you say something witty like, “Lost my head stand on your dresser while you’re giving a party. This is an open invitation for those life of the party characters to make with the Big Hilarious Scene. It’s a traumatic experience to discover that I look good on one of them.
5. Don’t let flattery sway your head. This is an open invitation for those life of the country.
6. Beware of pump-handle dancers. Nothing looks funnier than a wig dancing across the room on some guy’s elbow - except you standing there in your stuck-back, flattened down hair looking like a female Yul Brynner.
7. In case of accident, keep your cool. For example, if you get caught on the brush while doing the Limbo, or if someone gives me a playful tug to see if I’m real, just keep your composure, put me back on and say something witty like, “Lost my head there for a minute.” When my wig’s buyer walked out of the garage with her “treasure,” I realized the new house I would buy from the proceeds would never provide me with the adventures that it had. Even though I’d spent several years behind the closet shelf, it was still reassuring to have an extra head - just in case.
8. Maybe that garage sale down the street. -

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS


Established January 13, 1923. Second-class postage paid at Lansing, Michigan and at additional mailing offices.


DIRECTORS: District 1, Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft; District 2, Dean Prophit, Montgomery, R-1; District 3, Andrew Jackson Howell, R-1; District 4, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; District 5, William Spike, Owosso, R-3; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City, R-3; District 7, Donald Nugent, Frankfort, R-1; District 8, Charles Bailey, Schoolcraft; District 9, Larry Devuyst, Ithaca, R-4; District 10, Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1; District 11, Franklin Schwiderson, Dafter.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Warner Frabm, Frankenmuth; James L. Sayre, Battlecreek; Lowell Elsenstein, Blissfield.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. Andrew Jackson Howell, R-4.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS: Tom Atchson, Gaines.

POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to Michigan Farm News, 7313 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

Farm Bureau NEWS

MOVING?

Please! Ever move? Let us know 8
weeks in advance so you won’t miss a single issue of the Michigan Farm News. Attach old label and print new address in space provided. Mail to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.
"Reward Program" pays off

Kenneth Putney (right), receives a $200 reward check from Mike Toussley, Farm Bureau Insurance Group Agency Manager for Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties, while Duane Evans (left center), and Benzie County President Owen Wright look on. Putney received the reward for providing information which led to the arrest and conviction of two persons who had broken into the home of Duane Evans and stolen some clothing.

The payment was made through the Farm Bureau Member Reward Program, sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Group. The plan provides a $200 reward for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of persons committing theft, arson or vandalism to the property of Farm Bureau Members. Putney, who owns and operates a fruit farm near Arcadia, provided information which led to the conviction of two individuals for unarmed robbery, the two, escaped convicts from the Benzie County Jail, had broken into the home of Putney's neighbor, Duane Evans, and stolen some clothing.

Putney and Evans, both members of Benzie County Farm Bureau, feel the Farm Bureau Member Reward Program can be quite instrumental in reducing the incidence of rural crime. "If enough members participate the program can be a real deterrent to crime," Evans commented. Putney is a member of the Benzie County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Window decals and/or signs must be displayed on the subject premises or property at all times of year for the benefit of law enforcement authorities. The Reward Program, as advertised on the two building signs, four window decals for the home and four window decals for vehicles may be purchased for $3.00.

Information regarding theft, arson or vandalism to the property of Farm Bureau members should be immediately reported to local law enforcement authorities.

After information has been reported in authorities, the individuals should make application for the $200 reward by completing a Reward Claim Form. This form, available at all Michigan Farm Bureau County Service Offices, should be forwarded to: Claim Manager, Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, 7273 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan 48904.

The payment was made to two, escaped convicts from the Benzie County Jail, had broken into the home of Putney's neighbor, Duane Evans, and stolen some clothing.

Putney is a member of the Benzie County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Information regarding theft, arson or vandalism to the property of Farm Bureau members should be immediately reported to local law enforcement authorities.

After information has been reported in authorities, the individuals should make application for the $200 reward by completing a Reward Claim Form. This form, available at all Michigan Farm Bureau County Service Offices, should be forwarded to: Claim Manager, Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, 7273 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan 48904.

The payment was made to two, escaped convicts from the Benzie County Jail, had broken into the home of Putney's neighbor, Duane Evans, and stolen some clothing.

Putney is a member of the Benzie County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Information regarding theft, arson or vandalism to the property of Farm Bureau members should be immediately reported to local law enforcement authorities. The Reward Program, as advertised on the two building signs, four window decals for the home and four window decals for vehicles may be purchased for $3.00.

Information regarding theft, arson or vandalism to the property of Farm Bureau members should be immediately reported to local law enforcement authorities. The Reward Program, as advertised on the two building signs, four window decals for the home and four window decals for vehicles may be purchased for $3.00.

Information regarding theft, arson or vandalism to the property of Farm Bureau members should be immediately reported to local law enforcement authorities. The Reward Program, as advertised on the two building signs, four window decals for the home and four window decals for vehicles may be purchased for $3.00.

Information regarding theft, arson or vandalism to the property of Farm Bureau members should be immediately reported to local law enforcement authorities. The Reward Program, as advertised on the two building signs, four window decals for the home and four window decals for vehicles may be purchased for $3.00.
TRANSPORTATION

Governor Milliken's special message on transportation called attention to several transportation problems facing Michigan. He called for a balanced transportation system including roads, railroads, airports, ports, mass transit, bus systems, etc. Some points of information in the message were:

- The rail systems have long been neglected to the point where many freight systems have fallen into bankruptcy. This is equally true for urban transportation systems which have deteriorated. He said PA 327, passed in 1972, was landmark legislation. It raised the gas tax by $0.06 per gallon and at the same time increased the counties' share of total revenues from 34 percent to 35.7 percent of the Motor Vehicle Fund. For the first time, it provided limited revenues (the gal. of the gas tax) for other Than operating assistance programs. Public transportation has been increased in all metropolitan areas. Public transportation has been doubled or tripled in five out-state cities. Dial-a-ride bus services presently serve 28 small and medium-size cities and also some rural areas, carrying more than 1/4 million passengers annually, one-third of whom are over age 61. There are three new state - supported intercity passenger trains. Fourteen cities state-wide are serviced by Amtrak trains. In 1975, the Legislature approved the Transportation Preservation Act, PA 196, which empowers the state to continue and improve freight rail service on nearly one million miles of track but essential rail lines. There will be $233 million of federal participation in an 18-month Rail Preservation Program. More than $60 million in federal matching grants for intercity equipment has been secured since 1972.

The Governor's message recommended several major changes. He pointed out that revenues from gas taxes have either stabilized or declined due to increased fuel usage, and at the same time, inflation has drastically increased highway maintenance costs and construction costs. He proposed that a "total transportation fund", to be called the Michigan Transportation Fund be created and be used to finance all overall "state and local future transportation needs". This would mean that the present Motor Vehicle Fund would be eliminated. Present revenues would be earmarked to "transportation needs which are critical". Present revenues and new revenues from various sources would be put into the fund and distributed to all transportation modes to meet the most pressing requirements at any given time.

The Governor proposed a constitutional amendment to change the name of the State Highway Commission to the State Transportation Commission and to increase the size from the present four-bipartisan membership to 7. He would expand the board and reduce the term of office from four years to three years. He emphasized that local units of the 1978, the registration fees for vehicles, presently based on a percentage of the assessed value or a "state tax". It would apply only to cars and would be a percentage of the assessed value or a "state tax". It is estimated that an additional $80 million would be raised, $10 million to go to local units of government.

A portion of the transportation revenues would support bond programs. There are presently $288 million in highway bonds outstanding, and the present bonding authority permits an additional $988 million. In addition to that, over the next three years, $150 million in bonds would be authorized for public transportation projects and would be authorized for expansion of the critical bridge program. Most of the proposed bond would take place over a ten-year period.

The Governor's message recommended that the state government, particularly county road commissions are falling "far short of their efforts to provide roads and streets adequate to accommodate growth in traffic volumes of traffic". A portion of the 12-page message also dealt with transportation in Southeast Michigan.

Since the message, a committee has been formed along with some subcommittees to study the proposals and make recommendations to the Legislature. Michigan Farm Bureau is represented on the committee.

The major concerns that many, including Farm Bureau, have with the new proposals is that the proposals would create a political fight each year on the equitable allocation and apportioning of the revenues from transportation. This could result from placing all revenues into a "transportation fund" to be allocated each year by the Legislature on recommendation of the State Transportation Commission.

Presently county and rural road authorities are deteriorating faster than they can be maintained and upgraded. Large amounts of additional money are needed to maintain the present level of maintenance and construction. As rural population grows, local roads become more important in order to accommodate additional traffic in transportation of farm commodities, school and special educational transportation, recreational use, etc. Inadequate state funds for local highways would not cover the cost to the old system of funding local roads by property taxes. The Governor's message on transportation called the name of the State Highway Commission to the State Transportation Commission and to increase the size from the present four-bipartisan membership to 7. He would expand the board and reduce the term of office from four years to three years. He emphasized that local units of the present 1978, the registration fees for vehicles, presently based on a percentage of the assessed value or a "state tax". It is estimated that an additional $80 million would be raised, $10 million to go to local units of government. A portion of the transportation revenues would support bond programs. There are presently $288 million in highway bonds outstanding, and the present bonding authority permits an additional $988 million. In addition to that, over the next three years, $150 million in bonds would be authorized for public transportation projects and would be authorized for expansion of the critical bridge program. Most of the proposed bond would take place over a ten-year period.

The Governor's message recommended that the state government, particularly county road commissions are falling "far short of their efforts to provide roads and streets adequate to accommodate growth in traffic volumes of traffic". A portion of the 12-page message also dealt with transportation in Southeast Michigan.

Since the message, a committee has been formed along with some subcommittees to study the proposals and make recommendations to the Legislature. Michigan Farm Bureau is represented on the committee. The major concerns that many, including Farm Bureau, have with the new proposals is that the proposals would create a political fight each year on the equitable allocation and apportioning of the revenues from transportation. This could result from placing all revenues into a "transportation fund" to be allocated each year by the Legislature on recommendation of the State Transportation Commission. Presently county and rural road authorities are deteriorating faster than they can be maintained and upgraded. Large amounts of additional money are needed to maintain the present level of maintenance and construction. As rural population grows, local roads become more important in order to accommodate additional traffic in transportation of farm commodities, school and special educational transportation, recreational use, etc. Inadequate state funds for local highways would not cover the cost to the old system of funding local roads by property taxes.

LARGEST TRANSPORTATION LINES IN AGRICULTURE

The Worker's Compensation law, recognizing the special problems of agriculture. For example, the farm's "worker" is frequently increased as a result of a court case which increased minimum wages. Compensation often times providing a much higher income than benefits the individual is trained. Another serious problem is the high minimum premiums for farmers who have a small payroll. In some cases, premiums have been as high as 20% of the total payroll. An important point is that actual farm wages should be used to determine a fair share of the state-wide average wage. There are numerous other problems considered in an effort to make any new legislation realistic. Another serious labor issue is the effort in both the Senate and House to pass legislation prohibiting the use of aliens. S. 450 would make it a misdemeanor and H. 572 would make it a felony all aliens. Both bills are strongly opposed by Farm Bureau as could result in the harassment of farmers and other employers.

TRESPASSING

S. 145 has already passed the Senate. House Bill 6003, which removes the state below the Bay City - Saginaw area, has not been heard in the House committee. Another's property must have posted or be fenced in order to be considered trespassing. Michigan does not have an adequate trespassing law and the amendment becomes effective. Also, it would prohibit Michigan government unless fully funded by the state and prohibited state government from providing any financial assistance to local government below the proportion in effect at the time the amendment becomes effective. All state and local government must be approved by the voters. The limitation, however, would not apply to taxes required to pay for personal interest on bonds above that line. But agricultural property is protected throughout the state.

FARMLAND AND OPENSPACE PROTECTION

More than 100,000 acres are now approved for contracts. Applications are from nearly 50 counties. It is estimated that the average property tax rate to those farmers that were in the program for 1975 will be $3,000 - $5,000 H.D. 6003, which removed the state from the law the requirement that the State Tax Commission appraise the farmland before it is approved for a contract, has now passed the House. This is now before the Senate and would eliminate a very objectionable part of the law.
AFB's Grant testifies on estate taxes

In the February and March issues of Michigan Farm News, consideration was given to federal estate tax reform legislation before the House Ways and Means Committee. At that time, those articles were written, hearings on the issue had not been held. Shortly thereafter the March issue of Michigan Farm News was published. President, Alan Grant, announced that hearings on federal estate tax reform would be held during the week of March 15.

Because the issue of federal estate tax reform is being given high priority at the levels of the Farm Bureau organization, following is the complete text of President Grant's statement to the House Ways and Means Committee.

We appreciate the opportunity to present Farm Bureau's views on amendments to update and reform the provisions of the Federal Estate Tax Law.

Farm Bureau is the largest general farm organization in the United States with a membership of 2,360,000 members, located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. It is a voluntary, nongovernmental, organization representing farmers and ranchers who produce virtually every agricultural commodity that is grown in the United States. Our membership represents the commercial basis in this country. As a consequence, we have a deep interest in the taxation of estates and gifts that are flowing to families and ranches, including estate taxes, that affect our farmers and ranchers.

Estate tax reform has been a matter of increasing concern to Farm Bureau members for several years. The owners of small farms and ranching are predominantly family enterprises, and farmers and ranchers are deeply interested in the orderly transfer of their businesses to succeeding generations.

The Federal Estate Tax is essentially the same today as it was in 1916. The present rates and schedules were adopted in 1941 and the present specific exemption was set in 1942. Since the basic provisions of the present Estate Tax were adopted, the purchasing power of the dollar has been eroded by inflation, and the size and the value of capital assets on which the Federal Estate Tax is levied have undergone drastic changes. In 1942 the U.S. average value of land and buildings on a family farm or a family ranching unit was $6,100, and very few farmers were worth more than $100,000. The average value of an operating farm unit was only $6,100, and very few farmers were worth more than $100,000. The average value of land and buildings on a family farm or a family ranching unit was $143,000, and the amount of machinery and equipment required on a farm has increased much more than in 1942.

As a result, estate taxes have become a matter of concern to a great many farmers. The impact of the Estate Tax on farmers and ranchers on the estates that consist primarily of efficient, productive commercial farming operations is such that we do not have large amounts of liquid assets that can be used to pay Estate Taxes. These are the same farms and ranches that produce the farm products that have made American agriculture the envy of the world. High Estate Taxes brought on by inflation and estate tax laws out of date in our time are robbing you of your land and your livelihood. If nonfarm uses are making it increasingly difficult for you to keep your family farming businesses to succeeding generations and are making it difficult to keep the land in your family, even if the land is desirable and privately owned open space from many populous urban areas.

When A Farmer or rancher dies, his heirs often find themselves faced with such high Estate Taxes that they are forced to sell the farm or ranch regardless of their desire to keep it in the family. Unfortunately, many families are not aware of their potential Federal Estate Tax liability until after an unexpected death. Thus, farm families often fail to take advantage of the numerous provisions of the Estate and Gift Tax laws that can be used — with the help of proper legal advice — to reduce, or postpone, Estate Taxes.

Our policy with respect to Estate and Gift Tax provisions is summarized in a policy resolution, which was adopted by the American Farm Bureau Federation at its 1976 Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in St. Louis, Missouri last January, as follows:

"Lax enforcement of provisions of the Estate and Gift Tax laws has not been changed materially since 1942. We place a high priority on major amendments to the Estate and Gift Tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. At a minimum, these amendments should include (1) an increase in the specific Estate Tax exemption; (2) a substantial increase in the marital deduction to minimize the effects of the marital deduction; and (3) provisions for basing the value of land and open spaces at levels reflecting their current use rather than their highest possible use.

"Immediate passage of such legislation is necessary if we are to allow farms and small businesses to be passed from one generation to another, if we are to relieve unnecessary hardships on widows and widowers, and if, at the same time, we are to maintain open spaces in urban areas."

To offset the cumulative effect of more than 30 years of inflation and to help check the adverse effects of Estate Taxes on congestion and urban sprawl in the United States, Farm Bureau recommends three changes in the present Federal Estate Tax law for those years before 1942:

(1) Raise the specific Estate Tax exemption from $60,000 to $100,000. This would bring the estate exemption for the inflation which has occurred since 1942, when the $60,000 exemption went into effect. (The consumer price index [1947 equals 100] was 48.8 in 1942 and 161.2 in 1975. This would be equal to an amount of $200,000.)

(2) Raise the maximum marital deduction from 50 percent of the value of the adjusted gross estate passed to a surviving spouse to 100 percent of the value of the adjusted gross estate. This would allow the executor of the estate to make elections for the purpose of reducing the probate partners between husbands and wives, and the special problems of widows or widowers at an early age.

(3) Establish a procedure which would permit the executor of an estate or elect to have land used for farming, woodland, or scenic open space assessed for estate tax purposes on the basis of its current use rather than higher potential uses.

We are grateful to Congressman Burleson and the approximately 100 of their members of The House who have introduced, or cosponsored, bills to carry out these recommendations.

We are well aware that our proposals will be opposed by some people on the grounds of cost to the treasury. We do not think this is a valid argument. Estate and Gift Taxes are a minor percentage of federal revenue. In the fiscal year 1975 (the last year for which final figures are available) federal revenues from Estate and Gift Taxes amounted to only $4.6 billion of the $368.7 billion the federal government received in general revenues (that is, federal revenues from all sources except trust funds). The fact of the matter is that the basic purpose of the Federal Estate Tax is to redistribute wealth rather than to raise revenue.

Our proposal with respect to the specific Estate Tax exemption of $60,000 was justified in 1942, an inflation-free year. Since 1942, the value of land has increased 197.5 percent, and the average estate tax paid on $200,000 is fully justified to adjust for the inflation that has occurred since 1942.

Our proposal with respect to the marital deduction also applies to all estates. This deduction is essentially a device for deferring estate taxes until the death of the surviving spouse. As a matter of equity, we do not think that a tax should be levied on the transfer of property between spouses on the death of a husband or wife; however, we are not recommending a 100 percent marital deduction. The increase which we are proposing is designed to provide estate tax relief for the estates that most need it.

Our proposal with respect to the valuation of farmland, woodland and open space is based, in part, on the present federal estate tax law which provides that farmland, woodland, or scenic open space land to have it assessed on the basis of its current use rather than higher potential uses. These changes are needed," Grant said, "to lift the burden of high federal estate taxes which are forcing some families to sell their farm or ranch regardless of their desire to keep it in the family."

Estate Tax Reform is the subject of discussion here between AFB President Allen Grant (left) and Representative Omar Burleson (D., Tex.), chief sponsor of Farm Bureau's estate tax proposals, at the opening March 15 hearings on the subject by the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington, D.C. As leadoff witness at the hearings, Grant urged increases in the specific estate tax exemption and the marital deduction, plus an option for an executor of an estate with farming, woodland, or scenic open space land to have it assessed on the basis of its current use rather than higher potential uses. Those "changes are needed," Grant said, to "lift the burden of high federal estate taxes which are forcing some families to sell their farm or ranch regardless of their desire to keep it in the family."

NOW AVAILABLE

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU'S BICENTENNIAL PUBLICATION!

- Proud to Be an American?
- Proud to Be a Farmer?

Proud to Be a Farm Bureau Member?

Then you'll want "200 Years of American Agriculture" with beautiful color photos as a Bicentennial keepsake.

Includes the 1975 County Award Winners, too!

On sale following the MFB Annual Banquet Thursday evening December 11 in Grand Rapids and all day Friday, December 12.

Only $1.50 each. Or order by mail (add 50¢ for postage and handling).

LIMITED EDITION! DON'T MISS YOUR COPY!

Send to:

Information and Public Relations Division
Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 960 Lansing, Michigan 48904

(pies of "200 Years of American Agriculture" to:

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________

Make Checks payable to Michigan Farm Bureau
THE AFBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 1975 consists of (left to right, front row) Allen Lauterbach, general counsel and assistant secretary; William H. Broderick, treasurer; Richard W. Owens, secretary; Allan Grant of California, president; Robert Delco of Virginia, vice president; Mrs. Chester Smith of Oklahoma, AFB Women's Committee chairman; Ed Smoak of Florida, AFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee chairman; (second row) J.D. Hays of Alabama; Elmo Hamilton of Utah; James Graugnard of Missouri; Luther E. Stearns of Connecticut; (fourth row) Harry S. Armstrong of Kansas; Hugh M. Arani of Mississippi; H. Emmett Reynolds of Georgia; Frederick Herlinger of California; E.B. Johnson of Missouri; Audrey Vanter, Agricultural Counselor of the South African Embassy, proved to be a discussion stimulator. His description of agriculture within the Republic of South Africa smashed the mental picture of jungles and wild animals. He acknowledged the problems of malnutrition, race issues and political movements occurring in the African Continent.

The Associate Coordinator of the Food for Peace Program of the United States State Department, Daniel Shaughnessy, also spent two days at the conference. He assured the group that strict control is maintained on all food shipped under the Food for Peace Program. Reports of waste, political purposes and pilferage are all investigated and most are returned to marketing channels during years of excess production. Reserve cherries (frozen) are carried to marketing channels during low production years. This helps stabilize supply and prevent market shortages and gluts.

Farmers discuss world affairs

A "Patient Information Booklet" on the Michigan Medical Arbitration Program is available at most hospitals and doctor's offices, or call your County Farm Bureau Secretary.

CRIME

Crime is rising in rural areas faster then in metropolitan cities.

According to the F.B.I., the last three months in 1975 shows an 18 percent increase in rural home burglaries.

Protect your home, out buildings or business against vandalism and burglaries with the world's most effective and inexpensive security system.

Endorsed for use by local and state police departments across the nation.

For further information without obligation, simply call or write:

NOVAR CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION
21700 Greenfield · official office · 102
Oak Park, Michigan 48237
(313) 968-2420

Please provide complete information to:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY COUNTY ZIP

Medical arbitration explained

If you've been to the hospital or visited a doctor for treatment since January of this year you very likely have come in contact with the Michigan Medical Arbitration Program (MMAP). The MMAP is Michigan's answer to the malpractice insurance crisis that has been sweeping the nation in the past year. MMAP is the result of legislation passed last year aimed at heading off the dramatic rise in malpractice insurance rates paid by the physicians.

When you enter the hospital or receive medical treatment from your doctor you may be given the option of signing a form which will commit you to arbitration in the event a malpractice dispute arises.

Arbitration is a substitute for going to court to settle disputes. It is a procedure by which disputing parties have a three-person panel of arbitrators, rather than a judge or jury, hear and make a final decision about the disagreement.

In 1975, the Michigan Legislature passed two laws which offer you the choice between arbitration and the court-jury system to resolve disputes which might arise during the course of health care. Hospitals and doctors may offer the arbitration option as a form of settling health care disputes.

However the decision to select arbitration is entirely yours.

You will receive the same quality care whether or not you choose arbitration.

Also you can revoke the arbitration agreement by written notice within sixty days of the agreement.

When can a farmer talk to a top level State Department official or a member of a foreign embassy? While it doesn't happen often, it did recently in a conference at the campus of Adrian College.

The conference was sponsored by Farmers and World Affairs, Inc. and promoted by the Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State Orange and Michigan Farmers Union.

Those in attendance heard Dr. Robert Stevens, MSU, discuss food production in under-developed countries. These countries need localized research and systems to deliver information. If these, along with technical assistance, can be furnished per capita income will rise and birth rates will probably decrease.

Dr. Aubry Vanter, Agricultural Counselor of the South African Embassy, proved to be a discussion stimulator. His description of agriculture within the Republic of South Africa smashed the mental picture of jungles and wild animals. He acknowledged the problems of malnutrition, race issues and political movements occurring in the African Continent.

The Associate Coordinator of the Food for Peace Program of the United States State Department, Daniel Shaughnessy, also spent two days at the conference. He assured the group that strict control is maintained on all food shipped under the Food for Peace Program. Reports of waste, political purposes and pilferage are all investigated and most donation programs are carried on through voluntary groups such as CARE and CROP.

Farmers and World Affairs, Inc. are exchanged views with resource people. Larry Gould, Lenawee County Farm Bureau President, pointed out that farmers had been neglected as requested by government, only to have embargoes and boycotts imposed by the State Department. He pointed out that farmers are starting to doubt the credibility of government and are buying at retail market and are becoming cautious about producing more food.

With the resource people present, the meetings should be carried to high places in Washington and beyond.

Cherry order renewed

In a referendum conducted March 1 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), red tart cherry growers and handlers in eight states voted to continue the federal marketing order covering the handling of their crop.

George Dever, fruit and vegetable official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), said that more than two-thirds of the producers voting favored continuation of the order. They account for more than 70 percent of the production represented in the voting.

Similarly, half of the processors who handled more than 60 percent of the 1975 processed volume represented favored continuation.

The states covered under the marketing order, Mr. Dever said, are Ohio, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

Provisions of the order, originally effective in 1971, require that a referendum be conducted every five to see if producers and processors want it to remain in effect. Mr. Dever explained that USDA would consider terminating the order if the referendum showed termination was favored by a majority of the growers voting -- either by number of volume of production represented. USDA would also consider termination if a majority of the processors, who processed more than half the volume represented in the referendum, voted in favor of termination.

The red tart cherry marketing order provides for establishment of public and private reserve pools of cherries during years of excess production. Reserve cherries (frozen) are returned to marketing channels during low production years. This helps stabilize supply and prevent market shortages and gluts.

The red tart cherry marketing order provides for establishment of public and private reserve pools of cherries during years of excess production. Reserve cherries (frozen) are returned to marketing channels during low production years. This helps stabilize supply and prevent market shortages and gluts.

Similarly, half of the processors who handled more than 60 percent of the 1975 processed volume represented favored continuation.
WHO'S got a SPECIAL FEED PROGRAM FOR MICHIGAN?

At Farm Bureau Services we offer a total feed service able to assist Michigan farmers in determining proper and profitable feeding programs, as well as solving individual problems.

The Farm Bureau feed team, backed by a staff veterinarian and nutritionist, provides you with the most up-to-date feed information. In cooperation with other farm co-ops, Farm Bureau Services operates 10 research farms where new feeds, feeding techniques and health practices are tested. Recently we installed a Scidata mini-computer, to assist our feed nutritionist in determining the most effective feed formulations for desired production goals.

In addition to these services, Farm Bureau offers a wide variety of excellent feeds, including Liquid Protein Supplement (LPS) which has been widely accepted as a versatile liquid supplement for all types of feeding operations.

Talk to your Farm Bureau feedman now. He'll work up a feed program to fit your particular needs. It's service you can depend on... from the Farm Bureau people.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE
The March ice storm

Dairymen

Check for mastitis

Dairymen whose operations were curtailed by the ice storm which swept central Michigan should check their cows for possible mastitis flareups.

"There is a chance that under those harsh conditions, some cattle did not receive the usual good care given during normal milking routines," says Dr. Roger Mellenberger, Michigan State University dairy specialist. Producers detecting problems should consult their veterinarian.

"It is also possible that some cows may show a 5 to 10 percent decrease in normal production due to the abnormal milking and watering conditions during the storm's aftermath. But they should regain their production level in the next lactation period," Mellenberger says.

First lactation cows and cows that were lactating for more than five months may show a greater decrease in production because of the uneven milkings. Mastitis may appear in two forms -- clinical and subclinical. Clinical mastitis is characterized by abnormal milk appearance. Sub-clinical mastitis is present when the milk appears normal but there is a drop in a cow's milk production level during peak production and there is an increase in the Leucocyte (white blood cell) count of her milk.

Mellenberger reminds producers that mastitis control includes:

- Keeping cows healthy and avoiding unnecessary stress.
- Proper milking system installation and maintenance.
- A good milking routine followed daily.
- Use of an effective teat dip.
- A good dry cow treatment program.

Culturing milk samples or using DHIA's CMT program can help identify infected cows. Consult your veterinarian on antibiotic use; some products are better than others for a particular strain of bacteria.

Withhold all milk of any cow treated with antibiotics for the proper time prescribed. Treated cows that are properly identified will help other people who are milking know which cows have been treated. Reculturing two or three weeks after treatment will identify unresponsive cows that may have to be culled.

Some of the millions of trees damaged by the ice storm which struck central and southeastern Michigan may be salvaged.

"Attempts to save a tree should be made only if a substantial part of the tree remains intact and if it has high value to the property owner. Persons having doubts should consult their local nurseryman or tree surgeon," says Dr. Mel Koelling, Michigan State University Extension forestry specialist.

If a limb is badly split or broken, remove it by making a clean, fresh cut with a fine-toothed saw as close to the branch as possible. Cuts two inches or more in diameter should be coated with orange shellac which, upon drying, is followed by a coat of pine tar or pruning paint to reduce the likelihood of disease and insect infestation. Similarly all broken branch stubs should be removed back to the main trunk or next larger branch and the wound treated.

Some forks which are merely split can be pulled together, bolted, and cables installed on branches above the split. This may require the services of a professional tree service company. All hanging limbs should be removed and the wounds sealed from the standpoint of liability and disease prevention.

"Assuming there is something left to salvage on severely damaged trees, they should be judiciously pruned all the way around to present a balanced appearance. This will reduce the size, but it will encourage a more rapid regrowth and recovery," Koelling says.

This first-aid measure should be followed by a good fertilizer program this spring to help overcome injury and infection of damaged areas. Property owners should consult Extension bulletin 786 for the proper fertilizer program. The publications are available in county Extension offices or the MSU Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 231, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Generally, soft woods, such as silver maple, Chinese elm, are more prone to ice damage because of their branching pattern.

Property owners needing to replace trees should consider species such as white oak, English oak, white ash, and linden, which have a more sturdy branching system.

Nature's power was incredible during the ice storm.

Thousands of utility poles were snapped off at the base by the weight of ice on power lines.
FBS markets new egg product

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. has developed and released Country Queen Hard Cooked Chopped Frozen Eggs.

The announcement was made by Egg Marketing Division Vice President Clyde Springer. Springer says the new egg product, manufactured in the Farm Bureau Egg Distribution and Product Research Center near Grand Rapids, has the highly desirable benefits of indefinite shelf life, high nutritional value and fresh egg taste.

The product is designed for portion-controlled mass feeding. Each 20 lb. case of quick-frozen diced eggs is divided into four 5-lb. bags. The product can be refrigerated - thawed in 45 hours, having been iced at 10 degrees Farenheit. Since the product is used only when needed, there is virtually no waste.

Country Queen Chopped Frozen Hard Cooked Diced Eggs can be used in any recipe calling for diced egg, such as tossed salads, egg salads, potato salads and garnishes.

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

1975 a bad year for property-casualty firms

Last year was a double disaster for the Property-Casualty Industry, according to the Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.).

In 1975 the industry experienced the heaviest underwriting losses in its history, and to make matters worse, investment gains were not high enough to offset the underwriting disaster.

Preliminary I.I.I. estimates place the 1975 statutory underwriting loss at $9.3 billion and policyholders' dividends at $810 million - making a total loss of $94.5 billion. Net investment gain for the year was $1,900 million below the underwriting loss.

But despite the gloomy figures from 1975, the I.I.I. says 1976 could be the year that things start to look better. The optimism stems from two factors: insurance regulators began granting desperately needed rate increases toward the end of 1975, and hopes - for restraints on inflation may be effective in 1976.

Economic setbacks dominated the Property-Casualty business throughout 1975. In fact, 30 companies failed during the first 11 months last year.

Skysrocketing prices and the increasing frequency of mammoth jury awards were blamed for pushing the cost of settling insurance claims out of sight. From 1967 through November 1975, auto repair and maintenance costs increased 81.2 percent; medical care items jumped 73.3 percent; and semi-private hospital rooms rose 147 percent.

During the same period, auto insurance rates increased only 61.1 percent.

Among the items involved in property insurance, house construction costs jumped 91.7 percent; medical care items - including inflation may be effective in 1976.

Peace Corps calling

If you have a degree in agriculture or a strong farming background, you may qualify for a Peace Corps assignment in Latin America, Africa, or Asia. If you have not already applied, now is the time to do so. Some of the summer openings are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ag Mechanics</td>
<td>Malaysia, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agri-Business</td>
<td>Brazil, Dominican Republic, Philippines, Upper Volta, Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crops</td>
<td>Belize, Brazil, Malaysia, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>Brazil, Ecuador, Fiji, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Production</td>
<td>Belize, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Peace Corps Farmer, Rm. 322, 1 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606.
MFB's series of "legislative seminars" was completed in March. At the seminar for the Northeast, Northwest and Upper Peninsula Farm Bureaus Rep. George Prescott, R-Tawas City, (left) and House Minority Leader Dennis Cawthorne, R-Manistee, discuss issues with Mrs. Florence Anderson, Manistee County Farm Bureau president.

MACMA's annual meeting in Grand Rapids drew a good press turnout Feb. 27. WZZM TV interviews MFB President Elton Smith after the business meeting.

Heritage of 76 Tours
July 24 - August 1, 1976
August 14-22, 1976
September 11-18, 1976
(Depart and return from Detroit)
TOUR ITINERARY
Saturday - Fly American Airlines non-stop from Detroit to Boston.
Sunday - Tour of Boston, Bunkerhill, Frigate Constitution, Lexington and Concord.
Monday - Tour to Plymouth, Plymouth Rock, library of John Q. Adams and birthplace of John Hancock.
Tuesday - Fly to Philadelphia to visit the restored buildings and sights of America's birthplace of liberty and freedom. Tour Valley Forge enroute to Arlington, Virginia.
Wednesday - Sightseeing to include government buildings with stop at the Whitehouse and Mt. Vernon.
Thursday - Entire day at leisure for you to visit Smithsonian Institute, Library of Congress, etc.
Friday - Special buses to Williamsburg, Va. Tickets provided for visit to attractions.
Saturday - Devoted to visiting new Busch Gardens outside Williamsburg.
Friday - No plans for morning. Depart in afternoon for Washington, D.C. and flight to Detroit.

COST OF TOUR
$440.24 per person from Detroit.
Cost includes air transportation as outlined based on minimum group 10 rates in effect November 15, 1975, possibly subject to slight change; all transfers; sightseeing; baggage handling for one suitcase per person for entire trip; tips to sightseeing drivers; hotels based on two people sharing twin bedded room. Single room higher. Not included is meals, items of a personal nature such as room service, telephone calls, laundry, etc.

RESERVATION REQUEST
Please enter my reservation for the 1976 Michigan Farm Bureau Bicentennial Tour. Enclosed is my check made out to Hoosier Travel Service, Inc., in the amount of $75.00 deposit for each reservation. I understand I will be billed for the balance of the tour according to the schedule contained in this.

NAME ____________________________________________
ADDRESS _________________________________________
Zip code _______ Telephone ________

Around the state with Farm Bureau

District 3 Farm Bureau Women's chairman Jan McMichael and husband Harold explain the detail of dairy farming to U.S. Representative Robert Carr, D-East Lansing, at a major mall promotion near Lansing.

These city folks enjoyed learning about life on the farm at the Maple Hill Mall promotion sponsored by the Kalamazoo County Women's committee.
**Robert G. Reed joins FBIG as V.P. of Marketing Corp.**

**Effective March 22, Robert G. Reed has assumed responsibilities as Vice President of the Farm Bureau Marketing Corporation and Superintendents of FBIG's executive staff. Reed's appointment, announced by Robert F.J. Wiseman, FBIG's Executive Vice President, fills a position vacated on January 1, 1970, when Henry L. Broxton was appointed to his present position as Insurance Counsel.**

A 28-year veteran of the insurance industry, Reed brings with him extensive experience in the insurance business, including exposure to all phases of the marketing function. For the past 11 years, he has been with Continental Assurance Company. His last eight years were spent as Vice President—Marketing Staff Division, where his responsibilities included Market Research. 

Reed is a graduate of the university's Marketing Program and has been active in the professional affairs of the industry. He is a member of the American Marketing Association and the Michigan Chapter of Sigma Pi, and is a graduate of the Michigan State University Institute of Farm Management.

Reed is married and has two children—a married daughter and a son. 

**Famous Seed Smugglers Sent Home New Crops**

When early statesmen were smuggling seeds back home, planting was done by hand. 

Hidden away in the nooks and corners of history are many examples of how statesmen, farmers, and others worked to improve our land. 

**George Washington**

The Father of American Agriculture. He practiced the seed smuggling business on a grand scale, experimenting with new plants and introducing them to the American farmer. He has been called the real 'Father of the Seed Industry.'

**Benjamin Franklin**

Known as the 'Father of the Philadelphia Museum,' he was also a seed smuggler. He introduced the American farmer to the potato and the plum. Franklin was also a sharp business man, adding a useful plant to his pocket, creating a new market for it.

**Theodore Washington**

Washington was known as the 'Father of the New England Farmer.' He started the practice of planting seeds by the seedling method. He was a strong supporter of the American Revolution and the promotion of agriculture.

**Robert T. Burton**

The 'Father of the Seed Industry' introduced the potato and the plum to the American farmer. He was also known for his experiments with new plants and his promotion of seedsmen.

**Webster's Interest in Agriculture**

Webster was interested in agriculture and his work in the field included the development of new crops and the promotion of seedsmen. He was also known for his experiments with new plants and his promotion of seedsmen.

**The Role of Government in Agriculture**

Government has played a significant role in the development of agriculture, particularly in the promotion of seedsmen. They have worked to improve land, introduce new plants, and support the development of new crops.
Good drainage is crucial

Every Michigan farmer knows that in spite of a fairly long summer for production, there are comparatively few days the soil can be worked.

"Weather is a big factor during the planting season," says Ernest H. Kidder, Michigan State University Extension field drainage specialist.

Generally, Michigan weather conditions in April allow farmers an average of 25 percent of the calendar days to work properly drained fields. In its worst, producers may not get near them until May.

This year weather conditions the last week of February provided a slow snow melt, allowing moisture to replace the soil profile capillary water supply that was removed from the root zone by last year's crops.

"If one of the March weather predictions holds true, we could have an excess of water in our heavier, fine-textured soils. This spells problems in planting, soil water and crop germination unless those soils have good tile drainage systems that are working," Kidder says.

Improved drainage means a 7 to 10 days earlier field work start in each of these months, which could bring 15 to 25 percent of that year's acre bonus from surface field drainage improvements. Where subsurface tile drainage is needed and installed, yield increases of 20 to 30 bushels per acre are common.

"This becomes important - particularly for the producer operating upwards of 2,000 acres of corn, soybeans, or other depressed markets," Kidder says.

 Adequate drainage helps meet essential water requirements for correct water amount, warm, good root depth, and food - that may not be available when a field is flooded during the planted period.

Getting rid of heavy rainfall amounts during harvesting is equally important. Estimates are that approximately 8 to 10 excellent harvest days per month in Michigan are reduced to three years out of 10. But nine years out of 10, producers can expect two days out of 10 per month to be busy.

"Last August's huge rainfall amounts in many areas more than 13 inches, made quitmires out of many areas. In these cases, random ditching may have to be coupled with profile drainage to prevent crop damage," Kidder says.

Producers who have tiled fields should be making checks now to be sure they are working properly. "Depending on soil conditions, tiling systems are serviceable 40 to 50 or more years if they are properly maintained. But farmers should walk lines annually to make sure there is no pooling, that outlets are unobstructed, and ditches do not have a sediment level, or brush and trees interfering with water flow," Kidder says.

Producers considering tiling this year should probably use surface and random ditching, so runoff will go into county drains, rather than areas where flood neighbors.

Take note of drainage areas or ponding exposures so they can be pointed out to the tiling contractor. Objectives for a contractor should be made soon because demand may be quite high in the early part of this month. Supplies are somewhat cheaper and more abundant than they were last year.

Additional tiling information may be obtained from the local county Conservation Office or Soil Conservation Service.

**Many farmers may suffer hearing loss**

Time was when life on the farm was tranquil, but not anymore. Today, substantial numbers of Michigan farmers are losing their hearing to noisy machine operations.

"By age 65, many farmers have hearing loss enough to impair normal social and work patterns of speech," says Dr. Richard G. Pfister, Michigan State University agricultural safety engineer.

Even boys who operated farm equipment while growing up on farms become victims of hearing damage early in life. Too much noise may affect safety and health. It may cause hearing loss, reduce work output and produce errors and accidents.

Hearing damage may come from tractors, harvesters, grain mills, grinders, power saws or other intense sounds such as gun fire, snowmobiles, etc.

"If your ears ring after exposure to loud or prolonged noise, they may have been damaged. Noise-induced hearing loss involves total deafness, and early stages usually don't occur at the threshold level but as the noise increases, it can be reversed and may affect ability to hear speech as a person grows older," Pfister says.

The risk of hearing loss grows with increase in loudness, frequency and length of exposure to noise.

Recent MSU tests indicate that operators of 1970 to 1974 tractor models without cabs may reach their hearing loss levels in two to four hours of continuous tractor operation unless ear protection is worn.

If noise measures can't be cut to safer levels out of big operations should be worn by everyone around the equipment. Though ear protection reduces the intensity of the noise, it won't prevent workers from hearing the noise even when the equipment is functioning, Pfister says.

"The cost and inconvenience of providing ear protection equipment is practically nothing compared to cost and inconvenience of hearing aids, or, still worse, not hearing at all," Pfister says.

In addition to hearing the report of the co-op officers, members heard speakers discussing safety while using dealer’s equipment, the new beef grading standards and a discussion on the use of the futures market.

Directors elected to the Board were incumbents Morris, Young, Buchanan, Jack Conklin, and Lawrence F. Palmrya, replacing the retiring Allen Rush of Lake Orion.

**Summary of tiles needs**

Producers considering tiling should make sure they are working very early. Early tiles will provide a later harvest for farmers that can result in extra earnings.

**For more information**

For more information on the Michigan Farm Bureau Services and the Michigan State University Extension, call your local farm cooperative or county Extension office.

R. H. "Ike" Walton, Brownsville, Texas, retired General Manager of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange, visits with Allen Rush, Lake Orion, prior to a banquet honoring his 39 years of service to the MLSE. In addition, Mr. Rush has served on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, in county Farm Bureau activities, as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and in the Michigan Legislature.

**Good year for Mich. Live Stock Exchange**

Michigan Live Stock Exchange had a successful year in 1975. MLSE President David Morris reported that the cooperative had a total volume of $117.5 million a 23 percent increase over the previous year. The report was made at the annual meeting of the organization held recently in Lansing.

Total volume of livestock also increased. Only one volume of sheep declined.

In addition to hearing the report of the co-op officers, members heard speakers discussing safety while using dealer’s equipment, the new beef grading standards and a discussion on the use of the futures market.

Directors elected to the Board were incumbents Morris, Young, Buchanan, Jack Conklin, and Lawrence F. Palmrya, replacing the retiring Allen Rush of Lake Orion.

**Report**

By Greg Sheffield

**Supply**

**Demand**

**Prices**

**Terms**

**Motor Oils and Greases**

Many Farmers Petroleum dealers are having special booking programs for their hard-to-get large-sized tractor tires. But these are not expected to last long. We urge farmers to have their farm tire and other truck and automobile work done in time for the rush of the coming planting season. Farmers Petroleum dealers are already busy catching up on the farmer servicing needed after a long winter.

**New Dealer Locations**

Both Caro Farmers Petroleum and Emmett Farmers Petroleum recently had Grand Openings to show off their new facilities and locations. If you are near either of these locations you'll benefit from visiting them if you have not already done so.

**New Refinery**

Work crews putting up Farm Bureau buildings for farmers that can result in extra earnings will be show off their new facilities and locations. If you are near either of these locations you'll benefit from visiting them if you have not already done so.
Wittwer calls for more ag research

East Lansing, Mich. - The U.S. Congress must act rapidly on positive legislation to reinvigorate national research in agriculture, food and nutrition, according to Dr. S.H. Wittwer, director of the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station.

Wittwer was recently asked to testify before the House of Representatives Agricultural Committee because of his role as a research administrator and chairman of the National Research Council's Board on Agriculture and Renewable Resources (BARR).

In the published testimony he noted, "We already have hundreds of bills relating to agriculture, food and nutrition. Most of them will never see daylight. What is needed is action, somewhere by somebody, to get some resources to those critical research areas."

Wittwer didn't place all the blame for low national agricultural research priorities at the feet of Congress, however. He noted that lack, or improvement, emphasis on agricultural research in the National Science Foundation Board and the National Academy of Sciences.

He also pointed out that the 1977 executive budget recommendations included funding of $9.5 billion for national defense, $31 billion for energy studies, $3.5 billion for health, education and welfare, but allocated only $2.5 billion for research and give higher priority to national goals and public needs. Wittwer didn't place all the blame for low national agricultural research priorities at the feet of Congress, however. He noted that lack, or improvement, emphasis on agricultural research in the National Science Foundation Board and the National Academy of Sciences.

The Agricultural Committee was considering House Bills 11743 and 11744 which would reorder and rearrange the picture, setting prices for both farmers and consumers.

These changes taking place put farmers in a more difficult bargaining position and also permanently establish minimum prices due to supply and demand conditions. Reserve milk supplies will automatically lead to a shortage which may result in lower prices and eventually in lower production. Continued declining prices have already had the effect of causing dairy farmers to make better control over milk prices was by joining together in cooperatives. The breakdown of those cooperative agreements will have such a large effect on farm milk prices during the depression of the 1930's, drove farmers to turn to the government for help. Federal regulation was needed.

The Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1933 was the first Federal authority for regulation of milk. The Federal Milk Marketing orders, as we know them today, are provided for in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937. Federal Milk Marketing orders are designed to help farmers realize reasonable prices for their milk in relation to the rest of the economy, assist in developing dependable markets for dairy products, and to assure consumers adequate supplies of high-quality milk.

Bernie Bishop, Marketing Specialist, Michigan Farm Bureau

Producers of processing pears in Michigan now have a decision to make. Do I stay in the pear business or not? Michigan Fruit Growers, Inc., one of two pear processors in the state, recently announced that they would no longer purchase pears. The main reason given for this decision was lack of profits for processors or growers. Gerber products of Fremont is the only remaining pear processor in Michigan.

What to do? It is unrealistic to expect Gerbers to take up all the slack just as it is unrealistic to believe the fresh market can profitably absorb this extra pear production which will be looking for a home. Some pear orchards have already been removed, others are scheduled to come out this year. A major problem of devising processing pears to fresh markets is size and quality: milk.

Barnie Bishop, Marketing Specialist, Michigan Farm Bureau

'Our BARR report is more than a shopping list of agricultural, food and nutrition problems with a request of more funding for everything,' he said. 'The lifeblood of the report deals with operational strategies for improved institutional changes and new approaches for funding,' Wittwer said.

Capitol Report

(Collapsed from page 4) bonds or other evidence of indebtedness as authorized in other sections of the Constitution. No state has such a requirement under a similar but more restrictive amendment had failed to pass in California.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors did not take a position on this issue, said a Farm Bureau spokesman. "They are interested in the production which will be looking for a home. Some pear orchards have already been removed, others are scheduled to come out this year. A major problem of devising processing pears to fresh markets is size and quality."

Barnie Bishop, Marketing Specialist, Michigan Farm Bureau

Give your calves the kind of comfortable living conditions they need.

The new CALF LODGE portable nursery building is clean, dry, draft-free environment that's ideal for new replacements and veal calves. With the CALF LODGE, you can eliminate call losses, and at the same time, you'll be cutting labor requirements.

The LODGE is delivered complete with stalls, buckets, electricity. It's that easy. See us now for complete information and prices on the CALF LODGE portable calf nursery.

SEND IN THIS COUPON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

MAIL TO: John Youngs, Mgr., Hardware Dept., Farm Bureau Services, P.O. Box 900, Lansing, Michigan

Name: ____________________________ Address: ____________________________ Telephone: ____________________________

Markets through wholesale outlets, u-pick or roadside markets. But where will the rest go? That's what growers must now decide!

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger
Market Development Division

Many cherry and peach orchards were severely damaged by the ice storm which ravaged through Michigan in early March. Growers in the Grand Rapids and Sparta areas reported extensive damage. Mature cherry trees, 15 years and older, were said to be the worst hit.

Damage to apple and plum trees did not appear to be as much of a problem in most orchards. However, it is possible that damage to buds on some apple trees may not become readily apparent until bloom begins.

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger
Market Development Division
Land use planning

FEDERAL LAND USE LEGISLATURE

Federal land use legislation has been an active issue before Congress since 1970. In general, various bills would have provided federal grants to states for land use planning. While acceptance of the grants would have been required to follow federal criteria in their land use plans. Because of this requirement, Farm Bureau has vigorously opposed federal land use legislation.

In 1974, the House refused to consider a federal land use bill by a narrow 204-211 vote. The most recent action on federal land use legislation occurred in July, 1975, when the House Interior Committee defeated a bill by a 13-23 vote. With the presidential election dominating 1976 political activity, there is little, if any, chance that federal land use legislation will receive further consideration until 1977.

STATE LAND USE LEGISLATURE

State land use legislation has been before the Michigan Legislature since 1972. In 1974, the bill was reported by the House Appropriations Committee. However, if this happened, the County and township land use plans prepared in compliance with the provisions of Substitute H.B. 4234 would have created an 11-member State Land Use Commission (SLUC) with responsibility to prepare a state land use plan. Agriculture would have representation on the SLUC. There would also be geographic representation.

Development of the state land use plan would provide extensive opportunity for local involvement. Counties would be given first option to prepare their own land use plan. If a county chose this option, it would have 3 years to submit its own land use plan for incorporation into the county plan. Townships could prepare their own plans for inclusion in the county plan.

The land use plans prepared by townships and counties would be required to identify "essential lands" which includes land considered necessary to provide for long-range needs for production of foods and fiber. The SLUC would develop criteria for identifying "essential lands" by those counties and townships desiring to prepare their own land use plans. Provisions for citizen input and public preparation of the land use plan are included in Substitute H.B. 4234.

County and township land use plans prepared in compliance with the provisions of Substitute H.B. 4234 and rules of the SLUC would automatically be included in the state land use plan. If a county did not choose to prepare its own land use plan, the county could request that the appropriate Regional Planning Commission to develop a plan for the county. However, if this happened, the County Board of Commissioners could reject the plan prepared by the Regional Planning Commission.

Upon final approval of the state land use plan, the SLUC would have superior authority to approve or reject proposed utility construction projects and construction projects under a state agency, local government or public corporation which is financially assisted by a public or private corporation which is financially assisted by a public activity, there is little, if any, chance that federal land use legislation will receive further consideration until 1977.

Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires each state to designate appropriate agencies to study water quality problems and prepare and implement plans to control pollution sources. Plans prepared under Section 208 must meet all applicable federal or state water quality standards and control in- and land resource base materials and maintaining liaison with the Office of Land Use, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, to develop recommendations which agencies designating the Upper Peninsula are expected to be made soon.

Each of the 11 Regional Planning Commissions in the Lower Peninsula have been designated to prepare Section 208 plans for their respective geographic jurisdictions. Agency designations covering the Upper Peninsula are expected to be made soon.

Most of the Regional Planning Commissions are well underway towards finalizing their Section 208 planning programs. Citizen advisory groups have been established by most of the Regions. Farm Bureau members are serving on most of these advisory groups.

The possibilities Section 208 provides for controls, including land use requirements, aimed at erosion, manure disposal and fertilizer nutrients should not be overlooked. Agricultural uses of land will receive through study during this planning process.

At least one region has received a consultants report suggesting an inventory of cropping practices, fall plowing, agricultural drains and fertilizer and pesticide use. The report also suggests that in addition to land use requirements consideration should be given to a tax on fertilizers and pesticides - apparently to discourage their use.

Section 208 plans must be completed by June 30, 1977.

Changes Proposed in County, Township and City Village Zoning Acts

Governor Milliken in his 1975 State of the State Message charged the Office of Land Use, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, to develop recommendations which would improve Michigan's zoning enabling acts.

Currently, three zoning enabling acts are used predominately by local units of government. These are the County Rural Zoning Act of 1943, Township Rural Zoning Act of 1945, and City-Village Zone Enabling Act of 1923.

With the assistance of an 18-member advisory committee composed of individuals from throughout Michigan with experience in local zoning, the Office of Land Use completed and submitted its report to the Governor on December 5, 1975.

The report emphasizes the belief that local units of government can respond to the land use needs of their citizens if effective zoning tools are available. The report contains many specific proposals for immediate consideration by the Legislature to correct provisions in the current laws which impede effective local zoning. The report also recommends enactment of a single local zoning enabling act to replace the three separate acts that now exist.

Office of Land Use

Early in 1973, Governor Milliken issued an Executive Order consolidating and transferring land use and environmental functions to the Department of Natural Resources. The Department then established the Office of Land Use (OLU) to administer the land use function.

The OLU is composed of 6 individuals with Karl Hasford serving as Chief. The staff members work primarily in administration of P.A. 116, providing local zoning and planning assistance, development of land classification and land resource base materials and maintaining liaison with local land use interests such as Soil Conservation Districts, Extension Service and many others.

The OLU operates under a strong policy of local involvement in land use planning and zoning. Several citizen advisory committees have been created to work with the OLU in preparing recommendations to help local government be more effective in dealing with land use problems. Michigan Farm Bureau and the OLU have developed a sound working relationship as it relates to local involvement and the importance of maintaining agricultural land.

AREAWIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires each state to designate appropriate agencies to study water quality problems and prepare and implement plans to control pollution sources. Plans prepared under Section 208 must identify, if appropriate, agriculturally related nonpoint sources of pollution, including runoff from manure disposal areas and from land used for livestock and crop production. The plans must also set forth procedures and methods, including land use requirements to control to the extent feasible such sources.

Each of the 11 Regional Planning Commissions in the Lower Peninsula have been designated to prepare Section 208 plans for their respective geographic jurisdictions. Agency designations covering the Upper Peninsula are expected to be made soon.

Most of the Regional Planning Commissions are well under way towards finalizing their Section 208 planning programs. Citizen advisory groups have been established by most of the Regions. Farm Bureau members are serving on most of these advisory groups.

The possibilities Section 208 provides for controls, including land use requirements, aimed at erosion, manure disposal and fertilizer nutrients should not be overlooked. Agricultural uses of land will receive through study during this planning process.

At least one region has received a consultants report suggesting an inventory of cropping practices, fall plowing, agricultural drains and fertilizer and pesticide use. The report also suggests that in addition to land use requirements consideration should be given to a tax on fertilizers and pesticides - apparently to discourage their use.

Section 208 plans must be completed by June 30, 1977.
Memorial workers go to Nashville

Membership workers from nine counties went to Nashville in March. Campaign managers from Chippewa, Clinton, Gratiot, and Mason were awarded free trips because their counties had made goal by March 1.

Vincent Rappette, Farm Bureau Insurance agent from Paw Paw, MI, was awarded a free trip for he and his wife. He wrote that no other agent in the state had during the month of February, May, August, and November.

MFB's staff met with professors from MSU's Agricultural Economics Center. President of the Center, Elton Smith explained 1976 Farm Bureau policy during the meeting and led a general discussion on the subject.
ONE YEAR'S INSURANCE COVERAGE ON ANY OF THESE TRUCKS

HOW YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR THIS LOW RATE
For any of over 50 1974 and 1975 Trucks
If you are a Farm Bureau member over 26 years of age, and a full-time farmer insuring two or more cars with Farm Bureau Mutual.

COVERAGE OF THE POLICY
You get all NO-FAULT auto insurance coverages which are required by law, plus $100 deductible collision protection and full coverage comprehensive insurance.

1975 CHEVY
Blazer C-10, 2 wheel drive
Suburban C-10, 6 cylinder
Van 110" wheel base
Van 125" wheel base, all models
Sportvan 8 cylinder, all models
Pickup C-20, all models except 8' Crew Cab (I)
Pickup C-30, all models except Fleetside Crew Cab (I)
Pickup K-10, 6 cylinder, all models

1975 DODGE
Ramcharger, 2 wheel drive
Van, 8 cylinder, except B300 Maxivan
Van, 8 cylinder, except B200, B300 Maxivans
Pickup D100, 115" wheel base, 6 cylinder and 8 cylinder
Pickup D100, 131" wheel base, 6 cylinder and 8 cylinder, all models
Pickup D100, 135" wheel base, 6 and 8 cylinder, all models
Pickup D100, 149" wheel base, 6 cylinder and 8 cylinder, all models
Pickup D200, 135" wheel base, 6 cylinder and 8 cylinder, all models

1975 FORD
Pickup F100, 4 x 4
Pickup F100, 138.8" wheel base, all models
Pickup F100, 155" wheel base, all models
Pickup F150, 133.5" wheel base, all models except Chassis Cab (G)
Pickup F150, 138.8" wheel base, all models
Pickup F150, 155" wheel base, all models
Pickup F250, 138" wheel base, all models except 4 x 4
Pickup F250, 138.8" wheel base, Chassis Cab
Pickup F250, 155" wheel base, Chassis Cab

1974-75 GMC (con’t)
Pickup, C-2500
Vandura, 8 cylinder, G-2500
Vandura, 6 and 8 cylinder, G-3500

1975 INTERNATIONAL
Scout, 2 wheel drive travel top
Pickup 150, 8 cylinder, all models except 4 x 4
Pickup 200, 132" wheel base, all models except 4 x 4
Pickup 200, 158" wheel base, all models

1975 JEEP
CS, 6 cylinder, all models
Jeep Truck, 6 cylinder, all models

1975 PLYMOUTH
Trailduster PD100, all models
Voyager, 6 cylinder, 109" wheel base

1975 TOYOTA
Pickup, all models

1974 CHEVY
Suburban C-10, 2 wheel drive
Sportsvan G-30, 125" wheel base
Pickup K-20, all models
Pickup C-20, 8' Crew Cab

1974 DODGE
Pickup W100, 133" wheel base, Club Cab
Pickup W100, 149" wheel base, Club Cab
Pickup W100, 131" wheel base, all models except Chassis Cab (G)
Pickup D200, 165" wheel base, Crew Cab, all models
Pickup D200, 165" wheel base, all models

1974 JEEP
Cherokee, all models except Cherokee 'S'

If your truck is older, it costs less to insure.

ANOTHER MEMBER BENEFIT – We don’t think there’s anything quite like this offer anywhere else – and it’s only for Farm Bureau Members.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP
Farm Bureau Mutual • Farm Bureau Life • Community Service Insurance