

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.

This 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 sub-

mitted in this matter. The Michigan Department of Labor has exceeded its statutory authority under the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act in 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.

Milliken/MFB leaders meet



Farm Bureau leaders met with Gov. William Milliken to present him with the official Farm Bureau policies for 1976 and to discuss with him those areas of concern to farmers throughout the state of Michigan. Some of the broad areas discussed included taxation, especially the new study on property tax that Gov. Milliken has initiated; Single Business Tax; inheritance tax and other tax matters. Numerous labor issues were discussed, as were issues on marketing, tran-

sportation, environment, land use program, electrical energy problems, and rural development issues and various budget matters of importance to farmers.

Shown with the Governor are (from left) Ronald Nelson, MFB Local Affairs Specialist; Robert Smith, MFB Legislative Counsel; Dean Pridgeon, MFB Vice President; Elton Smith, MFB President; Robert Braden, MFB Administrative Director; Albert Almy, MFB Public Affairs Director.

(Photo by Marcia Ditchie)

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

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A call to action

Estate tax reform needed

An issue of 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 heart-break 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:

Laws covering the taxation of estates and gifts have 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 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 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.

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 Bureson - 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 underway 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 Bureson - Curtis estate tax bill.

What better way for Farm Bureau people to "build horizons on our heritage" in the bicentennial year than to secure legislation that would insure that family farmers can pass their farms on to their heirs without fear that the homestead might have to be broken up.

STATE STATUS

	3-18-76 <u>NOW</u>	3-19-75 <u>1 YEAR AGO</u>
GOAL:	61,586	61,098
New:	3,196	3,563
Renewals:	56,031	56,774
TOTAL:	59,227	60,337
% of Goal:	96.16%	98.75%
Needed for Goal:	2,359	761

DEDICATED DOZEN CLUB

<u>1-300</u>		<u>301-800</u>	
1. Kalkaska		1. Mason	
2. Iron Range		2. Hiawathaland	
3. Benzie		3.	
<u>801-1300</u>		<u>1301-Over</u>	
1.		1. Clinton	
2.		2. Bay	
3.		3. Genesee	

DONNA

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 house-cleaning. In our inflation-ridden economy, the latter two are often closely related in many households. A garage sale can be the answer to overloaded 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 spring properly attired, 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." It didn'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 about wigs. 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. If you look guilty, people will begin to wonder what you're hiding under that lovely coiffure -- a goofed-up dye job that turned your hair green instead of champagne beige? -- a shaved head for penance? -- a home permanent that made you look like Phyllis Diller?
2. Don't leave me sitting on 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.

3. Don't let flattery swell your head. This will cause uncomfortable pressure from the skull cap and relief will come only when someone says, "My dear, it makes you look so much older." Most wigs are flattering, and there's no doubt you'll receive lots of compliments. Just take them graciously because a swelled head under a wig is terribly painful!

4. 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 slicked-back, flattened down hair looking like a female Yul Brynner.

5. In case of accident, keep your cool! For example, if you get me caught on the broom handle 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 blouse I would buy from the proceeds would never provide me with the adventures that it had. Even thought it had spent several years on the closet shelf, it was still reassuring to have an extra head -- just in case.

Maybe that garage sale down the street...

Today--It Pays

Don't Forget -- Renew Your Farm Bureau Membership

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904.



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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 County of Membership _____



\$200 to Benzie farmer

"Reward Program" pays off

One of the newer benefit programs available to Michigan Farm Bureau members proved its worth last month with the payment of a \$200 reward to Kenneth Putney of Benzie County.

The payment was made through the Farm Bureau Member Reward Program, sponsored jointly 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 the time of loss to qualify for the reward program. Decals and signs are available for purchase through all Michigan Farm Bureau County Service Offices. A Reward Program kit, containing 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 to authorities, the individual(s) should make application for the \$200 reward by completing a Reward Claim form. This form, available at all Michigan Farm Bureau County Offices and Farm Bureau Insurance Group Area Service Offices, should be forwarded to:

Claim Manager
Farm Bureau Mutual
Insurance Company
7373 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing, Michigan 48904



Kenneth Putney (right), receives a \$200 reward check from Mike Tousley, 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.

"Feeder of the year"

A \$1000 prize awaits the winner of Farm Bureau Services' Feeder of the Year Award program, according to Donald Shepard, manager of the FBS Feed Department.

Also there will be \$35 Farm Bureau memberships awarded to county winners and \$100 prizes given to district winners.

Any feeder who is a full time farmer and a Farm Bureau member who uses Farm Bureau Feed is eligible to enter. Applicants must be nominated by either a Farm Bureau Community Group or a County Farm Bureau.

"The Feeder of the Year" competition is sponsored by

Farm Bureau Services to recognize agricultural feeding excellence, expert farm management and outstanding agricultural leadership," says Shepard.

Winner of the first annual "Feeder of the Year Award" was Allan Shepard, a dairy farmer from Calhoun County. Shepard was presented his award by FBS Executive Vice President Donald R. Armstrong during Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting kickoff luncheon this past December in Grand Rapids.

Applications are available at County Farm Bureau offices and should be turned in to those offices by June 1.

Mich. farm receipts down in 1975

Cash receipts from farm marketings in Michigan decreased to about 1.70 billion dollars in 1975 reports the Michigan Crop Reporting Service, Michigan Department of Agriculture. This 4 percent decline from the 1974 record high of almost 1.75 billion dollars ended a six year period of rising receipts to Michigan farmers. Only three months in 1975 (May, September, and November) showed income above those reported in the preceding year.

For the third straight year, crops brought more money to farms than did livestock and livestock products. In 1975, about

56 percent of farm receipts were from crop items. However, cash receipts for crops were off 9 percent from a year earlier, farmers sales of crops totaled \$950 million, compared with \$1,050 million in 1974. April, May, and November were the only months with receipts that exceeded those reported in 1974.

In 1975, livestock and livestock product marketings amounted to \$732 million, 4 percent above the 1974 total of \$707 million. Receipts during the year started out below 1974 for livestock producers, but from May through December receipts exceeded those of comparable months in 1974.

mfrn farmers of the week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Kenneth Bull
900 acre Muskegon County fruit farm + Chairman of board of Grant Community Hospital + Former board member of MFB + Mich. State Cherry Commission.



Thomas Atherton
130 head Genesee County dairy partnership + Chairman, MFB Young Farmers Committee. + Pres. of County Holstein Assoc. + Ten years service as 4-H leader.



Mike Bowman
630 acre Kent County dairy farm + 1975 MFB Distinguished Young Farmer+

Karl & Norman Ewald
1000 acres Tuscola County cash crop farm + Active in civil affairs + On local school board + Involved in Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations.



Cash flow planning can actually help you make more money.

You probably have times when you need a lot of cash...and times when you have lots of cash coming in. But the two just never seem to come together at the right time! □ But when you know your farm's *cash flow*, you have a better idea of *when* you'll need a loan and how *much* you'll need to borrow. And you'll get the money in hand when you can do the most with it...which might even include *taking some discounts* that'll help cover the interest. □ Cash flow planning is important. See us...and we'll help you start.

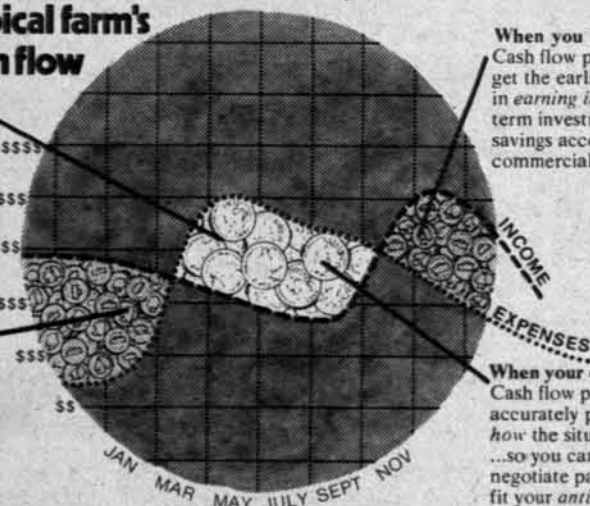
Typical farm's cash flow

When your cash is short:
Cash flow planning lets you precisely time your borrowing...not too early and not too late...so you can get *volume-purchase prices* and take prompt payment *discounts*—sometimes more than enough to *pay the interest* on your loan.

When you have extra cash:
Cash flow planning lets you pay up loans at *earliest possible date* to help keep interest to a *minimum*.

When you have extra cash:
Cash flow planning lets you get the earliest possible start in *earning interest* from short-term investments such as savings accounts, bonds, or commercial paper.

When your cash is short:
Cash flow planning lets you accurately predict *when and how* the situation will change...so you can confidently negotiate payment terms to fit your *anticipated cash flow*.



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**Production Credit Associations
of Michigan**

Farming is everybody's bread & butter

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith



Transportation, labor, milk hauling

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 \$86 million per year 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 (1/2 a gal. of the gas tax) for other transportation modes. The Legislature passed PA 195 in 1975 to provide General Fund appropriations to finance operating assistance programs. Public transportation has been improved in nine metropolitan areas. Public transportation has 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 1/2 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 Amtrac 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 thousand miles of bankrupt but essential rail lines. There will be \$23 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 1973.

The Governor's message recommended several major changes. He pointed out that revenues from gas taxes have either stabilized or declined due to lower 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 requirements". This would mean that the present Motor Vehicle Fund would be eliminated. Presently those revenues are earmarked for county, municipal and state highway purposes. 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 bi-partisan members to five bi-partisan members and reduce the term of office from four years to three years. He proposed that beginning in 1978, the registration fees for vehicles, presently based on weight, be changed to a "value tax". It would apply only to cars and would be a percentage of the value of the automobile. It is estimated that an additional \$80 million would be raised, \$10 million of which would go to local units of government.

A portion of the transportation revenues would support bonding 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. \$75 million would also be authorized for expansion of the critical bridge program. Most of the proposed bonding would take place over a ten-year period.

The Governor's message recognized that local units of government, particularly county road commissions are falling "farther and farther behind in their efforts to provide roads and streets adequate to accommodate steadily increasing 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.

One of the major concerns that many, including Farm Bureau, have with the new proposals is that there could be a major political fight each year on the equitable allocation and appropriation of funds to each mode of transportation. This could result from placing all revenues into one Transportation Fund to be allocated each year by the Legislature on recommendation of the Transportation Commission.

Presently county and rural roads are deteriorating faster than they can be maintained and up-graded. Large amounts of additional monies 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 including transportation of farm commodities, school and special education transportation, recreational use, etc., etc. Inadequate state funds for local highways may result in a return to the old system of funding local roads by property taxes.

LABOR

Negotiations within the Legislature are in progress on proposals for a new Worker's Compensation bill. Substitute S. 181, now on the Senate floor, does little to solve some of the abuses that occur under Worker's Compensation. Under this proposal, there would be no exemptions except to those who have less than a \$250 payroll per quarter. It is also estimated it would increase premiums to farmers as much as 2 1/2 times. The Worker's Compensation issue is extremely complicated. Farm Bureau is attempting to include a special section in the law, recognizing the special problems of agriculture. For example, farm premiums have increased as a result of a court case which increased minimum payments under Worker's Compensation often times providing a much higher income from benefits than the individual earned. Another serious problem is the high minimum premiums for farmers who have a rather small payroll. In some cases, premiums have been as high as the total payroll. Another important point is that actual farm wages should be used to determine farm benefits rather than the state-wide average wage. There are numerous other problems that are being 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 hiring of illegal aliens. S. 450 would make it a misdemeanor and H. 5872 would require an employer to determine an employee's legal status. If an illegal alien were hired, the employer would be subject to a \$1,000 fine and six month in prison. Interestingly enough, other federal state laws protecting civil rights prohibit an employer from asking such personal questions. Both bills are strongly opposed by Farm Bureau as either could result in the harassment of farmers and other employers.

TRESPASSING

S. 145 has already passed the Senate. Major changes are made in the Horton Trespass Law. It requires that any person on another's property must have written permission. It also provides that enforcement agencies, police, etc. can arrest a trespasser with a warrant. Further, it makes it very clear that farmland does not have to be posted or be fenced in order to be protected from trespassers. There are presently some differences in the bill on other types of land between the area of the state below the Bay City - Muskegon line and those areas

above that line. But agricultural would be equally protected throughout the state.

FARMLAND AND OPENSOURCE PRESERVATION (PA 116)

More than 100,000 acres are now approved for contracts under this legislation. Applications are from nearly 50 counties. It is estimated that the average property tax rebate to those farmers that were in the program for 1975 will be \$2,000 - \$3,000. H.B. 6003, which removes 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.

MILK HAULING

H.B. 5855 has now passed in the House of Representatives and is in the Senate. It clarifies the present law to assure the exemption of milk haulers from MPSC regulations and restrictions. This is the same as the exemption presently in effect for other agricultural commodities.

SPECIAL FARM TRUCKS

H.B. 4795, which carries out another Farm Bureau policy, would exempt certain farm trucks from the regular registration fees, replacing them with a \$15 flat rate permit. This would be only for those farm trucks that are used for only very limited periods during the year for "transporting farm crops from the fields where produced to place of storage". For example, producers of fruits, vegetables, sugar beets, etc., may have extra trucks that are not used in a regular manner and are only used for a limited time during the entire year for this purpose. The bill passed the House last year and is now on the Senate floor for consideration. If passed, this legislation will be helpful in solving the problem created by the Federal Truck Use Tax.

PETITION DRIVE

A group known as Taxpayers United which includes many legislators, is circulating again this year a petition to put on the ballot in November a Constitutional Amendment that would limit state spending to 8.3 percent of total personal income. Any revenues exceeding that amount would be refunded to taxpayers on a pro rata basis. Spending could exceed that amount only by a declaration of emergency by the Governor and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for one year. The amendment would further prohibit state mandated programs on local units of government unless fully funded by the state and prohibited reducing state revenues to local units of government below the proportion in effect at the time the amendment becomes effective. Also, it would prohibit local government from levying new taxes or increasing existing tax rates unless approved by the voters. The limitation, however, would not apply to taxes required to pay principal and interest on

(Continued on page 13)

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. & FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

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9%	15 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
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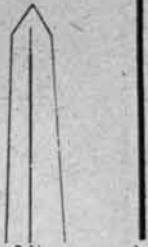
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NATIONAL NOTES

AFBF's Grant testifies on estate taxes

Albert A. Almy



In the February and March issues of Michigan Farm News, considerable attention was given to federal estate tax reform legislation before the House Ways and Means Committee. At the time those articles were written, hearings on the issue had not been scheduled. However, shortly after the March issue of Michigan Farm News was published, Congressman Al Ullman, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee, announced that hearings on federal estate tax reform would be held during the week of March 15.

When the hearings began on March 15, American Farm Bureau President, Alan Grant, was the lead-off witness.

Because the issue of federal estate tax reform is being given high priority at all 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 2,505,258 families in 49 states and Puerto Rico. It is a voluntary, nongovernmental, organization representing farmers and ranchers who produce virtually every agricultural commodity that is produced on a commercial basis in this country. As a consequence, we have a deep interest in all federal taxes, including estate taxes, that affect our farmers and ranchers.

Estate taxes have been a matter of increasing concern to Farm Bureau members for several years. Farming 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 the 1940's. The last significant change, the addition of the marital deduction, was made in 1948. The present rates and schedules were adopted in 1941 and the present specific exemption went into effect 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 an economic farming unit have undergone drastic changes. In 1942 the U.S. average value of land and buildings per operating farm unit was only \$6,100, and very few farmers were affected by the Federal Estate Tax. In March 1975 the average value of land and buildings per operating farm unit was \$143,000, and the amount of machinery and equipment required to operate a farm was much greater than in 1942. As a result, estate taxes have become a matter of deep concern to a great many farmers.

The impact of the Estate Tax on farmers is greatest on the estates that consist primarily of efficient, productive commercial farming operations and thus do not have large amounts of liquid

assets that can be used to pay Estate Taxes. These are the farms that produce the bulk of the farm products that have made American agriculture the envy of most of the rest of the world. High Estate Taxes brought on by inflation and estate appraisals based on the market value of farmland for nonfarm uses are making it increasingly difficult for farmers to transfer family farming businesses to succeeding generations and are threatening to eliminate farming and desirable privately-owned open space from many populous 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 Taxes was summarized in a policy resolution, which was adopted by the voting delegates of the Member State Farm Bureaus at the 1976 Annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in St. Louis, Missouri last January, as follows:

"Laws covering the taxation of estates and gifts have 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 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 'widow's 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 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 populous areas, Farm Bureau recommends three changes in the present Federal Estate Tax law as follows:

(1) Raise the specific Estate Tax exemption from \$60,000 to \$200,000. This would adjust the estate exemption for the inflation which has occurred since 1942, when the \$60,000 exemption went into effect. (The consumer price index (1967 equals 100) was 48.8 in 1942 and 161.2 in 1975. This means the purchasing power of \$1.00 in

1975 was about equal to the purchasing power of 30 cents in 1942, and \$60,000 divided by .30 equals \$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 \$100,000 plus 50 percent of the total value of the adjusted gross estate. This would recognize the importance of partnerships between husbands and wives, and the special problems of wives who are widowed 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 relatively minor source 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, or 2.5 percent of the \$187.5 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 would apply to all estates. If a specific Estate Tax exemption of \$60,000 was justified in 1942, an increase in this exemption to \$200,000 is fully justified to adjust for the inflation that has occurred since 1942.

Our proposal with respect to the marital deduction also would apply to all estates. This deduction is essentially a device for deferring estate taxes until the death of a 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 a measure of relief for the estates that most need it.

Our proposal with respect to the valuation of farmland, woodland and open space would apply only to estates that own such land; however, we believe that it would serve the public interest by helping to maintain open space in urban areas without extensive public expenditures for land acquisition and maintenance. We would like to stress the fact that this proposal would be optional rather than mandatory. If an executor elected to have an estate assessed at its value for farming purposes, the land in the estate

would be required to remain in farming or ranching for a period of five years. If such land is sold for a nonfarm use in less than five years an additional tax based on the higher use value would be assessed and collected. We are recommending that the recapture period be limited to five years because a longer period could create a hardship by clouding title to the land in an estate and thereby impairing its collateral value.

We also would like to point out that one effect of having land

valued on the basis of its current use - rather than a higher market value - would be to increase the amount of capital gains that would be realized and subject to taxation if the property should subsequently be sold for more than its current use value.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our views on this important matter, and we urge that you take prompt and favorable action on our proposals, so that remedial legislation can be passed by the 94th Congress.



ESTATE TAX REFORM is the subject of discussion here between AFBF President Allan 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. "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."



NOW AVAILABLE

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- Proud to Be a Farmer?
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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).

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THE AFBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 1976 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 Delano of Virginia, vice president; Mrs. Chester Smith of Oklahoma, AFB Women's Committee chairman; Ed Smoak of Florida, AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee chairman; (second row) J.D. Hays of Alabama; Elmo Hamilton of Utah; James Graugnard of Louisiana; Richard McGuire of New York; George Doup of Indiana; A.W. Langenegger of New Mexico; Carroll G. Wilson of Minnesota;

Harold B. Steele of Illinois; Cecil Miller, Jr., of Arizona; Dean Kleckner of Iowa; (third row) Elton R. Smith of Michigan; Morris Bowman of Arkansas; Paul Nay of West Virginia; John Junior Armstrong of Kansas; Hugh M. Arant of Mississippi; H. Emmett Reynolds of Georgia; Frederick Heringer of California; C.R. Johnston of Missouri; Luther E. Stearns of Connecticut; (fourth row) Harry S. Bell of South Carolina; Dave Flitner of Wyoming; Benjamin Blackmore of Maine; Bernard Harkness of Montana; and J. Robert Wade of Kentucky.

Cherry order renewed

In a referendum conducted March 1-10 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, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

Provisions of the order, originally effective in 1971, require that a referendum be conducted every five years 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 such action.

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

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.

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 than 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 _____

Farmers discuss world affairs

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 on the campus of Adrian College. The conference was sponsored by Farmers and World Affairs, Inc. and promoted by the Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State Grange and Michigan Farmers Union.

Those in attendance heard Dr. Robert Stevens, MSU, discuss food production in underdeveloped 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 Counsellor 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 Shaughnessey, 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 at the conference

exchanged views with resource people. Larry Gould, Lenawee County Farm Bureau President, pointed out that farmers had produced 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 becoming cautious about producing more food.

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



Farm Bureau members discuss ideas with David Shaughnessey, Associate Coordinator of the U. S. Food for Peace Program. Ted Landis, Calhoun County, makes a point to others at the table, Robert Tefft, Washtenaw, Howard Ebenhoe, Saginaw, Mr. Shaughnessey, and Myron Bishop, Calhoun.

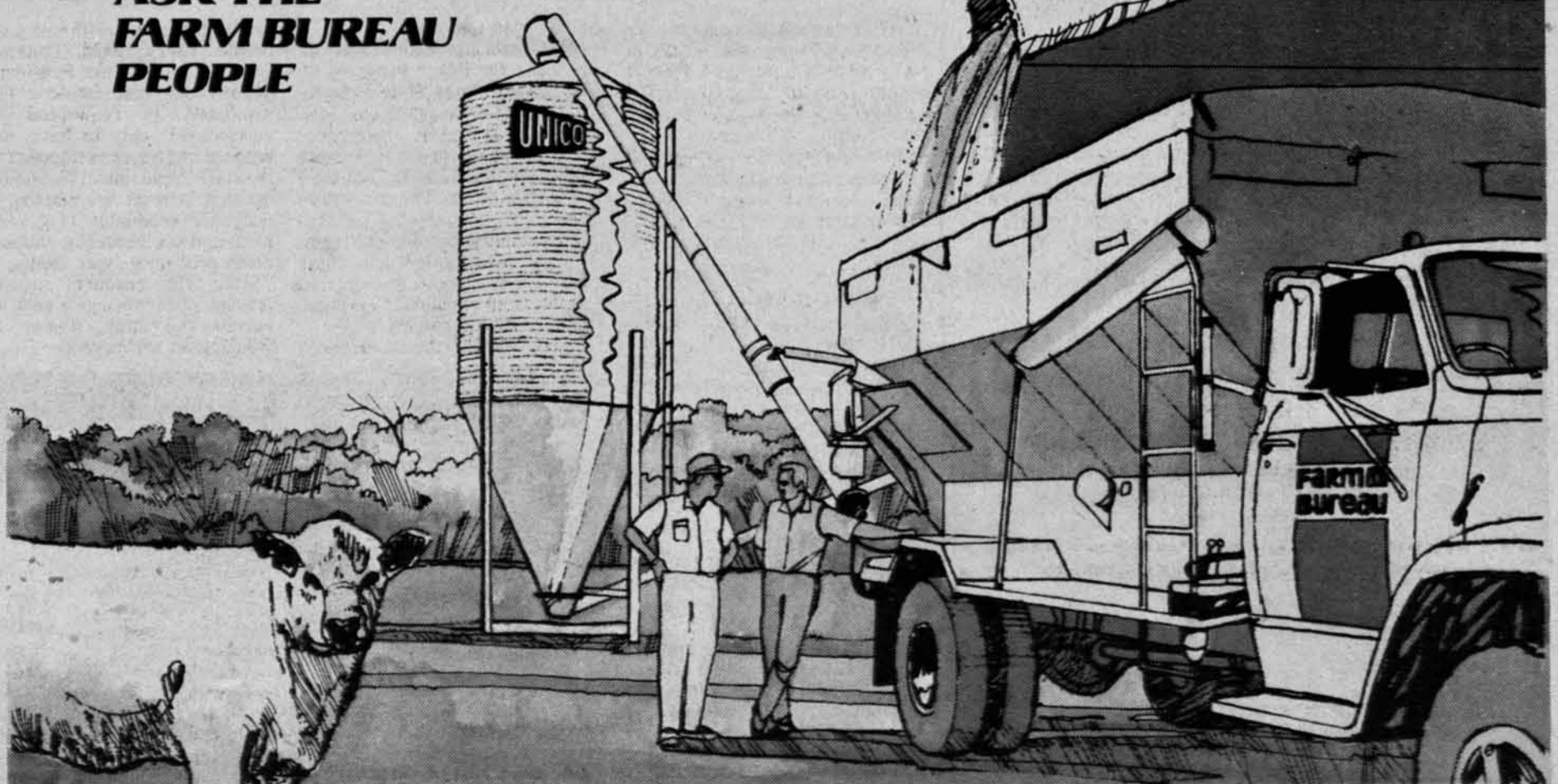
WHO'S got a SPECIAL FEED Program FOR michigan?

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.

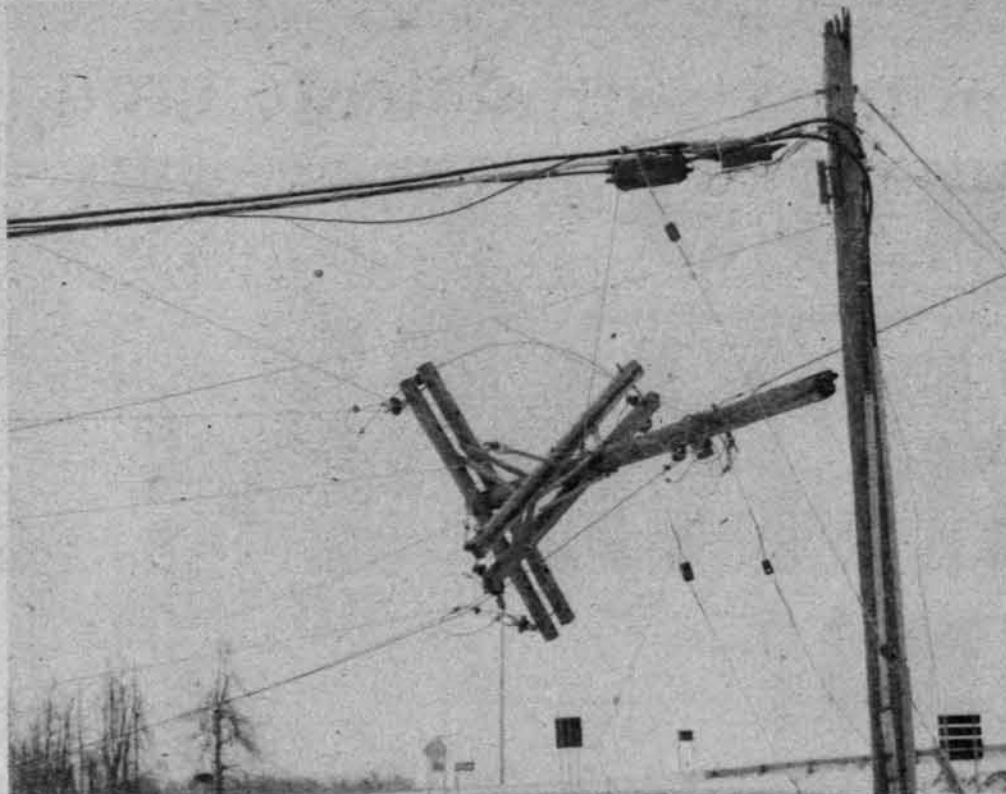
The Farm Bureau feed team, backed by a staff veterinarian and nutritionist, provides you with the most up-to-date feed information. In cooperation with other farm co-ops, Farm Bureau Services operates 10 research farms where new feeds, feeding techniques and health practices are tested. Recently we installed 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



Nature's power was incredible during the 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.



Thousands of utility poles were snapped off at the base by the weight of ice on power lines.



Gratiot County Farm Bureau President Eric Bailey found his C.B. radio a vital communications link.



Ithaca was typical of towns across the ice storm belt. There was plenty of clean up work to do.

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 com-

pany. 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.

Doug Carpenter is looking for ways to solve problems. Dale Norton wants decision making in a partnership to be less complicated. Bill Pridgeon doesn't plan on terminating the learning process even though he has his college degree.

For these and other reasons these men and other members of family farm partnerships in Branch County got together recently in Coldwater and went back to college for a day.

They were participating in Michigan Farm Bureau's new college credit seminar program. The seminars are being held wherever 15 or 20 farmers choose to gather with a desire to strengthen their management skills.

Under the direction and instruction of MFB's training director Jesse Taggart, the college seminars are currently available in three subjects; meeting techniques, communication techniques and problem-solving - decision-making. The Branch County seminar was on problem-solving - decision-making.

Eighteen farmers representing partnerships in hog, dairy and cash crop operations attended the Coldwater seminar. The participants spent a full day of intensive training in order to earn their college credit. The earned credit was only of secondary importance to Roland Norton however.

"We learned to look beyond the obvious in solving management problems," says Norton. "Basing judgements on facts and not assumptions was an important concept taught today," he added.

"We are teaching a decision-making system that gets farmers to ask questions and look at all sides of a problem," comments training director Taggart.

"We are taking these seminars to the country because farm people haven't had the same opportunity city folks have had in taking advantage of continued adult education," Taggart adds.

The cost of each seminar is \$8.50 for Farm Bureau members with non-members welcome at a cost of \$25 per seminar. These costs cover instruction, materials and credit.

Dairyman Stanly Preston feels communication has been a real challenge in his partnership with sons Keith and Glenn. "This seminar has given us some good direction on how to smooth out some of those problems," claims Preston.

In Farm Bureau seminar

Farmers earn college credit



College students for a day, Branch County farmers solve typical management problems during MFB sponsored college credit seminar on "problem solving and decision-making."

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 refrigerator-thawed in 48 hours, having been stored at -10 degrees Fahrenheit. Since the product is used only when needed, there is virtually no waste.

Country Queen Quick 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 \$3.9 billion and policyholders' dividends at \$610 million - making a total loss of \$4.5 billion. Net investment gain for the year was \$300 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 hoped - 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.

Skyrocketing 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 maintenance and repairs rose 91.9 percent and overall construction costs jumped 91.7 percent during this period. At the same time, property insurance premiums increased only 35.1 percent.

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:

- Ag Mechanics: Malaysia, Philippines
- Agri-Business: Brazil, Dominican Republic, Philippines, Upper Volta, Yemen
- Crops: Belize, Brazil, Malaysia, Philippines
- Livestock: Brazil, Ecuador, Fiji, Philippines
- Vegetable Production: Belize, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines

Contact Peace Corps Farmer, Rm. 322, 1 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606.

Q and A

Question: When is the township annual meeting, and what is the purpose?

Answer: By law the Township Annual Meeting is scheduled for the Saturday preceding the first Monday in April, which this year falls on April 3. The law also requires that the meeting be held between the hours of 1 and 8 P.M. Notice as to exact time and location of the meeting are posted or published in the paper of general circulation.

The main purpose of the meeting is to allow the qualified electors who are residents of the township to review and make recommendations on the budget. Also, salaries of township officers may be reviewed and voted on at the annual meeting.

Other business matters of general concern may also be discussed at the annual meeting. Residents of a township who are genuinely concerned about issues should attend the township annual meeting. This is their opportunity and responsibility to have their voice heard in local government.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend to have your voice heard and questions answered on Saturday, April 3.

Around the state with Farm Bureau



District 5 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.



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 Smitsonian 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 William-sburg.

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 _____



Soybean growers belonging to MFB's Soybean Division listened to a wide range of speakers at the Division's annual Soybean Day activities in Lansing, March 16. Marketing ideas and current research were among topics covered at the meeting.



These city folks enjoyed learning about life on the farm at the Maple Hill Mall promotion sponsored by the Kalamazoo County Women's committee.

Distinguished Service Awards

MSU names inventor, farmer, banker

An inventor, a beef producer and an Upper Peninsula bank official received Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Distinguished Service Awards.

The awards, a highlight of MSU's 61st annual Farmers' Week, went to David Friday, president, Friday Tractor Co., Hartford; Milton J. Brown, beef producer, Mt. Pleasant and Herbert W. Corey, president, Bank of Stephenson.

The presentations were made by Dr. Jacob A. Hofer, acting dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, during the President's Luncheon at Kellogg Center, Wednesday (March 24).

The honor is bestowed to persons who have made outstanding contributions to their state and community. More than 70 persons have been accorded the award since the program began in 1954.

Candidates are recommended by county Cooperative Extension Service agents throughout Michigan. Finalists are chosen

by a rotating panel of three MSU department chairmen.

Past awardees have included agricultural producers, farm newspaper and magazine editors, radio personalities, agribusinessmen and a legislator.

Friday is well known for his inventions and manufacture of fruit harvesting equipment used by growers throughout the nation and overseas. He is probably best known for development of the mechanical cherry picker which has had a decided impact upon the cherry industry.

Other significant contributions to the industry include the Friday tractor, a low silhouette unit allowing movement through orchards without damaging fruit trees; the strawberry wiggle hoe, mechanical pruning aids and pruning buckets for tree fruit, bulk fruit handling equipment and his latest - the mechanical apple harvester.

Brown and his brother, Chester, co-own a 900-acre farm which produces up to 1,300

beef cattle per year. He is past president of the Michigan Livestock Exchange and served as a member of the National Livestock Producers Association Board of Directors. He was a member of the USDA Cattle Advisory Committee from 1970-71 and was an agricultural representative to the Federal Energy Commission during 1973-74.

Currently, he serves as a member of the board of directors of the National Livestock Feeders Association and as a member of the executive committee of the Michigan Cattle Feeders Association. He also is the chairman of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, a position held since the establishment of the commission in 1973.

In 1974, he was presented the "Minuteman Award" by Governor Milliken for his service to Michigan and agriculture.

Corey started as a high school graduate with the Bank of Stephenson in 1929, of

which he is now president. Under his leadership, it has developed an image as the agricultural bank of Menominee County, supporting the fishing, timber and livestock industries of that area.

Corey has a reputation of getting many producers started in their operations and is a staunch supporter of MSU Extension programs throughout the U.P.

He has been mayor of Stephenson 36 years, secretary to the local board of education 38 years, life member of the Stephenson Methodist Church, serving as trustee for more than 40 years.

He is a 1952 graduate of the Central States School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. He was presented the 1970 "Man of the Year" award by the Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce and received the Distinguished Service Award from WAGN Radio Station in 1970. He is a 1974 recipient of the FFA Distinguished Service Award.

Watch for the dogs!

FBIG risk engineer helps farm owners feel safe

They're sometimes mistaken for tax assessors and they get attacked by dogs, but each year Farm Bureau Insurance Group's risk engineers make thousands of Michigan farmers and homeowners feel a little bit more safe.

"You might call us the eyes of the company," says Francis Bust, one of the company's six Personal Lines risk engineers. "We make safety surveys of buildings and homes insured by the company and help eliminate any hazards."

The Risk Engineering Section was formed in 1964 with the philosophy that much loss of life and property could be prevented if safety hazards were removed from an insured's property.

"In a way, we have as much interest in an insured's farm building as the owner does," Bust explained. "We let the insured know we're looking after him and that we care about him."

A risk engineer makes about 2,000 calls a year, most of them to farms. Insured buildings are surveyed for a variety of potential hazards, from faulty wiring to rickety steps.

And while he keeps his trained eyes open for hazards, the risk engineer also figures the approximate value of the structure. With this information, he can determine if the

building is overinsured or underinsured.

"I often make recommendations that more insurance be added if I believe it necessary," Bust said. "And by the same token, I'll recommend less insurance if I see that a structure is overinsured."

Although newly written business is given top priority, property insured under older policies is re-surveyed every few years. These periodic checks not only help eliminate safety hazards, but also keep the company abreast of any changes in a building's value that might require adjustments in insurance coverage.

"For example," Bust said, "I've run into cases of insurance being carried on buildings that have been torn down."

Sometimes, at the first introduction, the owner may mistake the risk engineer for a tax assessor. But being the professional he is, the risk engineer knows how to deal with people.

"Once the insured knows we're there for his benefit, there's never any problem," explains Bust, whose territory covers the counties of Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, Shiawassee, Hillsdale, Jackson, Livingston and Gratiot.

Although a risk engineer is diplomatic at handling people, it's a different story with dogs.

"I've learned how to use my clipboard as a weapon

against dogs," Francis said. "I'm never sure when a dog may come charging at me. In fact, I have a little crack in my clipboard from the time I was forced to hit a beagle with it."

FBIG's six risk engineers cover the entire state, a task that keeps them constantly on the move.

Bust, who has been with FBIG longer than any other employee, joined FBIG when the company first started in 1949. Before that, he was an employee of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Famous Seed Smugglers Sent Home New Crops



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

Hidden away in the nooks and crannies of history are unique ways in which early statesmen worked to improve American agriculture.

Here are just a few such instances.

George Washington, the Father of His Country, could just as easily been called the Father of American Agriculture. A constant champion of his first profession of farming, he personally used the best of his stylish coach mares at Mt. Vernon and "royal jacks" received from foreign dignitaries to breed a stronger strain of mule to lessen the manual burden of the Colonial farmer.

Scientist-statesman Thomas Jefferson, using mathematical principles, wrote a treatise on the form of the mold-board, calculating the exact shape and size and especially the curvature to lessen friction in plowing. His goal was to try and design an ideal shape that would work in all soils.

Another plow designer was Daniel Webster. He even went so far as to build a rather crude, cumbersome model of a plow.

Webster's interest in agriculture went much farther. Many efforts were tried in Massachusetts to get the state to sponsor a model farm where the latest agricultural

practices could be on display. But each attempt was defeated. So, Webster dipped into his own pocket, created such a farm and left it to future New England farmers.

Benjamin Franklin, during his many foreign travels to drum up support for the American cause in the Revolution, started the practice of secretly sending new seeds back home for American farmers to try.

This practice was followed by the federal government for many years and President John Adams, before sending a new consul off to a foreign land, reminded each of his duty to send home new seeds and plants.

But likely the best of these seed-smuggling statesmen was Jefferson. An aristocrat to the core and impeccable dresser, he'd fill his coat pockets with new seeds that foreign governments so jealously guarded for their own agricultural interests.

In Northern Italy, he risked the death penalty to smuggle seeds of upland rice back to South Carolina.

He summed up his actions in this way:

"The greatest service which can be rendered to any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."

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 a member 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, 1976, when Howard Brown 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, Manpower

Development, Advertising and Sales Promotion, Agency Administration and Product Development. In his new position, Reed will have many of the same responsibilities.

Prior to 1967 Reed had entered the insurance business as a multiple-line agent, then joined Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company, finally moving into their home office where he worked with recruiting and training, and subsequently, all sales development.

A graduate of Kalamazoo College with a B.A. in Political Science and Economics, Reed has been extremely active in the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association, serving on many of that organization's committees.

Reed is married and has two children - a married daughter who is a law student, and a son majoring in Pre-Law at Columbia University. We're sure that a real Farm Bureau welcome is waiting for both he and his wife Lory who will be moving to Lansing in the near future.



Robert G. Reed (right), newly appointed Vice President - Marketing, chats with Robert F.J. Wiseman, FBIG's, Executive Vice President. A veteran insurance executive, Reed will direct the operations of nearly 400 agents and outstate employees.

Check your tiling

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 but adequate soil drainage is important in meeting planting time goals," 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 poorly drained soils. At 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 warm-up 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 a 15 bushel per acre bonus from surface field drainage improvements. Where subsurface or 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, in years of depressed markets," Kidder says.

Adequate drainage helps meet essential plant needs -- air, correct water amount, warmth,

good root depth, and food -- that may not be available when a field is flooded for an extended period.

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

"Last August's huge rainfall amounts, in many areas more than 13 inches, made quagmires out of many acres. 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 are no potholes, that outlets are unobstructed, and ditches do not have a sediment level, or brush and trees hindering water flow," Kidder says.

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

Take note of depression areas or ponding expanses so they can be pointed out to the tiling contractor. "Arrangements for a contractor should be made soon because demand may be quite high this year. Supplies are somewhat cheaper and more abundant than they were last year," Kidder says.

Additional tiling information may be obtained from the local county Extension 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 from noisy machine operations.

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

Even boys who operated farm equipment while growing up on farms began showing hearing damage early in life. Too much noise may affect safety and health. It can be fatiguing, reduce work output and produce errors and accidents.

Hearing damage may come from tractors, harvesters, grain mills, grain dryers, chain saws, 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 rarely involves total deafness, and early

stages usually don't occur at the lower frequencies. But loss can't be reversed and may affect ability to hear speech as a person grows older."

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

Recent MSU tests indicate that operators of 1970 to 1974 tractor models without cabs may reach excessive 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 safe levels, hearing protection should be worn by everyone around the equipment. Though ear protection reduces the intensity of the noise, it won't prevent workmen from hearing conversation or how 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.

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 an increase in volume of \$17.5 million 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 the volume of sheep declined.

In addition to hearing the reports of the co-op officers, members heard speakers discuss the outlook for feeder cattle, 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 Sill, Gaines and Lawrence Fisher, Palmyra, replacing the retiring Allen Rush of Lake Orion.



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 Rush for his 39 years service to 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.

Supply



By Greg Sheffield

Report

GENERAL - There is plenty of material around for all farm supply needs at Farm Bureau stores. A great demand all at once is expected at all dealerships.

Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum dealers are all set for patron business with fertilizer, pesticides and tire changing equipment ready to go. If the service you get is an important aspect in your farming decisions, it is well to call on your Farm Bureau dealer now and line up your needs. Most farmers will, of course, have done so by now.

FERTILIZERS - Farmers held back on taking fertilizers to the middle of March hoping that prices would come down from already sharply reduced levels. Farm Bureau Services thus has been using the strategy of doing all that's possible to make sure fertilizer delivery and replacement takes place as it is withdrawn by farmers for planting.

PESTICIDES - Farm Bureau dealers now have excellent supplies and several choices of quality brands of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. Dealers are ready to help you with tailor-made programs for your field or orchard. Once we are into the rush season, filling orders may prove difficult.

SEEDS - Seed oats deliveries are complete now and we are now handling the soybeans and navy beans you've ordered. We can still take business if you order promptly. Seed marketing in mid-March, along with fertilizers, was exceptionally quiet. A fair forage seed business is expected for summer forage crops such as hybrid sorghum and sudans.

HARDWARE - At present most hardware items are readily available at Farm Bureau Services' dealers. However, lead time for dealer orders for wire

products, stock equipment and steel products have been lengthened to as much as four weeks. It will pay to make sure your dealer's stock is not all spoken for so he can order more for you. The price increases for steel are now effective March 15th.

Portable lodge buildings for raising calves and swine are receiving much response. The built-in features of these portable buildings allow economies in labor savings that make this new idea worthy of your consideration. Ask your Farm Bureau lodge dealers or the Lansing office for the important details.

Work crews putting up Farm Bureau buildings are lined up now for sometime ahead, but orders are still being taken. Get an estimate on that building you may have been putting off. With the building season upon us there's no time to lose. Mortgage money is much more plentiful at present and lumber prices are increasing.

Supplies are good on garden tools. Mowers and tillers are moving out from dealers to gardeners looking toward good selections and low prices from abundant inventories. If sales come near to previous years, these supplies will not last for long.

Twine, too, is in good supply after reaching lows in prices. However, even though its early prices are starting to move up again and quality twine at low prices may not be around this harvest season.

FEEDS - Farmer meetings with numerous co-operative dealers have been well attended with farmers signing up for dealer feed delivery programs. These unique Farm Bureau programs offer farmers guaranteed price assurances to protect them against rising

prices. At the same time, farmers are able to take advantage of possible lower market conditions in the future. This program enables dealers to reward farmers for their loyalty with both long and short term tangible benefits.

Animal health products are in a continuing good supply at competitive prices.

TIRES - Farmers Petroleum dealers now have supplies of the harder-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 automotive 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. Dual wheels are available for getting into fields in wet weather.

MOTOR OILS AND GREASES - Many Farmers Petroleum dealers are having special booking programs for their farmers that can result in excellent savings on motor oils and greases. Call your dealer for his proposition.

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 is progressing on the newly purchased refinery, managed by CF Industries, Petroleum Division. Farmers will benefit from this new plant as fuel will be getting into Michigan through Farmers Petroleum to where its most needed. Farmers Petroleum now owns a refinery in East Chicago, Indiana, along with CF Industries and eight other regional cooperatives.

Michigan Marketing Outlook

Marketing the nations agricultural products has long been a real challenge to the American farmers. Milk and dairy products have been no exception. In fact, the marketing and pricing of milk may well be the most complicated system of all agricultural products.

Because it is so complicated, the milk pricing system is not very widely understood, even by the dairymen who produce our milk supply.

At one time, individual dairy farmers delivered their milk to the front door of homes in nearby towns. The price was established by a simple agreement between the dairyman and his customer. As the number of dairy farmers declined and they became more removed from the final consumer, other marketing methods

began to develop. Distributors and wholesalers entered the picture, setting prices for both farmers and consumers.

These changes taking place put farmers in a more difficult bargaining position and also caused fluctuations in milk prices due to supply and demand conditions. Reserve milk supplies in a competitive market tends to result in lower prices and eventually in lower production. Continued declines in production lead to shortage which result in an upward pressure on the price.

The first organized efforts that dairy farmers made to better their control over milk prices was by joining together in cooperatives. The breakdown of those cooperative agreements and the collapse of farm milk prices during the depression of

the 1930's, drove farmers to turn to the government for help. Local and state regulations were established and were partially effective in stabilizing prices. In market areas where part of the milk was shipped from one state to another, 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 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 Canners, 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 diverting processing pears to fresh markets is size and quality. There will be limited opportunity for some pears from good young orchards to penetrate fresh

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

Wittwer calls for more ag research

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- The U.S. Congress must act rapidly on positive legislation to rejuvenate 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 roles 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 into these critical research areas."

Wittwer didn't place all the blame for low national agricultural research priorities at the feet of Congress, however. He noted lack of, or improperly placed, emphasis on agricultural research in the National Science Foundation, the National Science 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, \$3 billion for energy studies, \$3.5 billion for space programs, and \$2.5 billion for health, education and welfare, but allocated only half a billion dollars for research on our food supply.

The Agricultural Committee was considering House Bills 11743 and 11744 which would reorder the current system of funding and administering agricultural research and give higher priorities to research and development in agricultural science areas.

Speaking in favor of the new legislation, Wittwer said, "Food is now being recognized as a major asset and resource for the nation. It is a possible instrument for peace in international diplomacy. Never has one nation had such a monopoly on food!" Wittwer urged even greater attention to national agricultural

research priorities than that provided by House Bills 11743 and 11744. The bills would implement some of the major recommendations in a recent BARR report to President Ford on boosting national food production.

"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 managing agricultural research in the United States -- including organizational prerequisites institutional changes and new approaches for funding."

"There is an urgent need for establishing national goals and policies in agriculture, food and nutrition research and for an improved institutional framework for reporting, observing and managing the wide range of U.S. research activities relating to food," Wittwer said.

Capitol Report

(Continued from page 4)

bonds or other evidence of indebtedness as authorized in other sections of the Constitution. No state has such a requirement. A similar but more restrictive amendment failed to pass in California.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors did not take a position pro or con on this issue but did take action to provide the petitions to Community Groups, county Farm Bureau offices and to those attending the many meetings that are held by Farm Bureau around the State. In the meantime, there will be further study of the implications of such a Constitutional limitation. One question that some raise is whether such a limitation might result in more dependence on property taxes at the local level in the event costs continue to rise and revenues returned to local governments and schools remain the same.

Any person wishing copies of the petition along with additional information, can secure them at their county Farm Bureau office or write: Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, MI 48904.

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

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P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan

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Farm Bureau
 FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

An issue for the '70's

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 19-23 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 LEGISLATION

State land use legislation has been before the Michigan Legislature since 1972. In 1974, the bill was reported by the House Towns and Counties Committee. However, the House, by a narrow 1-vote margin, sent the bill to the Appropriations Committee where it died.

In 1975, a substantially revised state land use bill (Substitute H.B. 4234) was reported by the House Urban Affairs Committee. It was sent directly to the Appropriations Committee where it is now awaiting consideration. The projected annual cost of administering the bill is \$400,000.

Substitute H.B. 4234 would create 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 hearings during 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 SLUC could request 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 preparation of the state land use plan, the SLUC would be required to hold public hearings. A copy of the plan and hearing record would then be submitted to the Governor for approval or rejection. If rejected, it would be sent back to the SLUC for revision. If approved, the plan would be submitted to the Legislature for approval or rejection. If approved by the Legislature, the state land use plan would remain in effect until revised or superseded.

Prior to the adoption of the state land use plan, the SLUC would have interim authority to approve or reject proposed utility construction projects and construction projects under taken by a state agency, local government or public corporation which is financially assisted by a federal or a state grant and which occur within "essential lands" only as designated by the state land use plan. The SLUC would have no authority to become involved with activities carried out within "essential lands" by private individuals or property owners if public funds were not involved.

Although Substitute H.B. 4234 is in reality a "sterile" land use planning bill because there is no authority to implement the plan except as cited in the preceding paragraph, it is consistent with Michigan Farm Bureau land use policy. This policy was unanimously approved by the 521 voting delegates at the 1975 MFB Annual Meeting. The House Appropriations Committee has completed hearings on Substitute H.B. 4234 and will likely have acted on the bill by the time this article is published.

FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ACT -P.A. 116

During the 1974 session of the Michigan Legislature, the Farmland and Open Space preservation Act was enacted. Regulations to implement the Act were finalized in mid-1975 by the office of Land Use, Department of Natural Resources.

The act allows a farmer to enter into a development rights agreement with the state for a 10-year period. In



DISCUSSION TOPIC

return for keeping his land in agriculture during this period, the farmer may claim as a credit on his Michigan Income Tax the amount by which property taxes on the farmland covered by the agreement exceed 7 percent of his household income.

As of February 27, 1976, the Office of Land Use had received 640 applications approved by units of local government. These applications represented over 100,000 acres of farmland in 46 counties. Over 300 of the farms submitted applications in time to be eligible to claim a credit on their 1975 Michigan Income Tax return. In terms of acreage covered by P.A. 116 applications the top five counties are: Lenawee with over 13,800 acres, Clinton with over 12,000 acres, Ingham with over 11,000 acres, Jackson with over 6,000 acres and Saginaw with over 5,000 acres.

AREAWIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires each state to designate appropriate agencies to study area 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.

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 1943, and City-Village Zone Enabling Act of 1921.

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 an 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 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.

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1975 CHEVY

Blazer C-10, 2 wheel drive
 Suburban C-10, 6 cylinder
 Van 110" wheel base
 Van 125" wheel base, all models
 Sportsvan 6 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, 6 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 and 8 cylinder, all models
 Pickup D100, 133" wheel base, 6 and 8 cylinder, all models
 Pickup D100, 149" wheel base, 6 and 8 cylinder, all models
 Pickup D200, 131" wheel base, 6 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" 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, 133" 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

Sprint, 6 and 8 cylinder
 Jimmy, 4 wheel drive
 Suburban, C-1500
 Pickup, C-3500

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, 149" wheel base, Crew Cab, all models
 Pickup D200, 165" wheel base, Crew Cab, all models
 Pickup W200, 131" wheel base, all models

1974 JEEP

Cherokee, all models except Cherokee 'S'

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