A statewide petition drive has been launched to place the question of banning nonreturnable bottles on the November ballot for voters to decide. This drive is being led by Michigan United Conservation Clubs with strong support from several statewide organizations including Michigan Farm Bureau.

A COPY OF THE PETITION IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE OF MICHIGAN FARM NEWS. Farm Bureau members are encouraged to circulate the petition(s) as widely as possible.

The following rules should be observed in circulating the petition:

1. The circulator must be a registered voter in Michigan. The circulator should not sign or date the certificate until after circulating the petition.

2. The petition may be circulated to any person who is not a member of the designated county. The name of the county must be entered in the space provided at the top of the petition.

3. Persons signing the petition should use the signature they employ on any legal document. Women should be careful not to sign as "Mrs. John Doe."

4. All petitions are valid even if not completely filled with signatures. Read instructions on the petition carefully before circulating.

If placed on the ballot and approved by voters, beverage containers used for soft drinks, and found to contain 20 parts per million (ppm) iodine, and a bulk sample of milk contained more than five times the normal amount of iodine. Blood thyroxine levels indicated that both the cows and calves were suffering from hypothyroidism. Hillman says, "Several of the herds checked were shown to have four to five times the normal amount of iodine in the milk than they should have had."

He says researchers have had dramatic results in increasing milk production with selected low-productive cattle in two herds. "Thyroxine, a thyroid active compound, was added to the ration in the amount of 10 to 15 grams daily. The cows doubled in milk production from 18 pounds of milk daily to 36 pounds of milk daily."

"Two cows in the first herd producing 29 and 31 pounds of milk daily, increased to over 60 pounds daily, within a week after receiving hypothyroidism. Hillman said that in both herds there was a history of having fed 75 to 150 milligrams (mg) of iodine daily for a year or longer. "High levels of iodine had not been fed for a period of six months prior to our experiment. The evidence suggests that those cows suffering from hypothyroidism, could respond to an exogenous source of thyroxine," he adds.

Using 14 cows from problem herds and eight normal cows from the MSU herd, researchers used thyrotrophic releasing hormone (TRH) to determine how the thyroid and pituitary glands responded to stimulation. Problem cows had higher baseline levels of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) and lower levels of thyroxine in their blood than control cows.

Also, after stimulation with TRH, problem cows produced exaggerated concentrations of TSH in their blood, and lower levels of thyroxine than control cows.

"This indicates that the thyroid glands were not functioning normally," says Dr. Edward M. Convey, a research physiologist in the Department of Dairy Science at MSU, who cooperated in the experiment.

The researchers are currently conducting similar experiments in other herds to confirm these findings.

Hillman says that symptoms of hypothyroidism in cattle have been reported by research workers in Tennessee.

They were able to induce hypothyroidism in dairy cattle by oral dosing with radioactive iodine. Initial milk yields of cows with damaged thyroids averaged 76 percent of the control group and declined to 26 percent of the control group 44 weeks in lactation. Milk yield was greatly reduced in comparison with previous lactations.

It was an early spring in lower Michigan with record breaking temperatures and the state's farmers were where they wanted to be -- in the fields. A late April cold snap put a damper on much of the enthusiasm, especially in fruit growing country.
On Washington trip

Members are standouts

Once again it has been my privilege to attend a Washington Legislative Seminar sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women. This year's seminar was an outstanding success in all areas. Each year as the Farm Bureau legislative leaders go to Washington there are issues of concern to farmers. Issues which need to be discussed with our senators and representatives. As the legislative leaders went to the nation's capital this year the matter of estate tax reform was on the front burner and our members came prepared. They had facts, figures and examples at their fingertips. And they used this information well as they visited with their congressmen and talked with the news media.

The news media coverage at the Lansing airport was most gratifying. Reporters from newspapers and radio stations were there as well as camera crews and news broadcasters from several TV stations. They wanted to know the details of the estate tax reform issue and the members gave them the answers. Farm Bureau members and their concern for estate tax reform became featured items on the evening news in central Michigan.

Once in Washington the legislative leaders outlined themselves as they jawboned with their congressmen at the legislative breakfasts. They were not shy and the disputations were brisk and issue oriented. A good part of Michigan's congressional delegation now knows from first hand knowledge how farmers feel on today's crucial issues.

With farmers a small minority of the population today, it is vital that all farmers become informed on the issues and communicate with their congressmen at both the state and national levels. Farmers also need to become involved in their local government bodies. Without such personal commitment we cannot hope to get a fair shake in the legislatures. With it we can be heard.

The annual Farm Bureau Washington Legislative Seminar is one successful example of how concerned farm people working together can be heard in today's complex political world.

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DEDICATED DOZEN CLUB

1-300  301-800
1. Kalkaska  1. Mason
2. Iron Range  2. Hiawathaland

801-1300  1301-over
1. Oakland  1. Clinton
2. St. Clair  2. Bay
3. Isabella  3. Genesee

The agreement follows a complaint filed by the Texas, Kansas and American Farm Bureau on August 25, 1973 in which they charged the International Longshoremen's Association with a secondary boycott.

Allan Grant, speaking before the Texas Farm Bureau State-wide conference for county Farm Bureau members stated: "The unions involved have signed the agreement whereby they agree to cease and desist from engaging in similar work stoppages in the future. The agreement empowers the NLRB to obtain a court of appeals decree incorporating the cease and desist portions of the agreement."

A settlement agreement between the Maritime Unions involved in last fall's Boycott of American Grain bound for the Soviet Union and the National Labor Relations Board was announced recently by the President of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

DONNA

Monkey cage

H. L. Meneck, one of my journalistic heroes, once described democracy as "the art and science of running the circus from inside the monkey cage."

Having just visited Washington, D.C. with 100 Michigan Farm Bureau members, I can say that's a pretty apt description. But history has proven that, with all its faults, our form of government is still the best the world has ever seen. Our mission with very special dedication to purpose displayed by our county and state Legislative Leaders and how articulate they are in their person-to-person communications with Congressmen. To them, this annual trek is not a sight-seeing tour, but a very special mission with very special responsibilities. And they put all the knowledge, experience and commitment they have into making that mission successful.

The degree of their success will be determined in the days ahead in the halls of Congress. But one success we can already chalk up - our lawmakers in Washington are aware that farmer-voters "back home" care about what's going on in their country's capital.

That's what democracy is all about.
Myra Spike named Michigan's "Mother of the Year"

Myra Spike, named Michigan's "Mother of the Year" by the American Mothers Association, is an active community leader. She has been involved in various organizations and activities, including the American Mothers Organization, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the American Legion. She has also been involved in the Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and the American Diabetes Association. In addition to her community involvement, she is a successful businesswoman and has been a leader in the dairy industry. Myra Spike is a true role model for women everywhere and is an inspiration to all who know her.
Rate Changes by Public Service Commission

A new precedent has been set in Michigan when rates that are charged by electric utilities to their residential customers. The Michigan Public Service Commission recently announced new rate decisions for the Detroit Edison Company and the Consumers Power Company. One of the unexpected provisions of the decision was the initiation of the "inverted rate system". Briefly, this means that the cost per unit of electrical power will rise with increased use of power.

According to the Public Service Commission, the new rates for Consumers Power (CP) and Detroit Edison (DE) are as follows: The service charge will be $2.50 and DE-$2.46. The first 500 kWh will be $3.65 per kWh-CP and 3.6c - DE; 501-1,000 kWh- 3.5c - CP and 3.6c - DE; over 1,000 kWh, the rate will be 4.0c-CP and 4.0c-DE. If a flat rate had been continued, the charge per kWh would have been 3.7c for CP and 3.6c for DE. It will be noted that there is some difference between the two companies' rates, however, these rates translate approximately

The inverted rates are only a part of that issue.

The Commission’s order also made a major change for commercial and industrial customers by introducing "time of day" rates. This means that, power used between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. would be at a higher rate than power used during the off-peak hours. While most farmers’ electric power consumption is higher during the off-peak hours, some farmers are on the higher commercial rates (where there is no requirement to report daily usage). It is expected that the "time of day" rates will apply to such farmers

The implementation of the new inverted rate system is intended to discourage the use of electricity by making it more expensive as the use increases. The current variations obviously are not large enough to force cuts in electrical use.

Farm Bureau sent a letter to members of the Public Service Commission indicating concern with the "inverted rate" system decisions. The letter said that the "inverted rate" system is intended to discourage the use of electricity by making it more expensive as the use increases.

The letter invited Farm Bureau members to contact the Public Service Commission staff to provide a "reasonable means for recognizing the concern of farmers".

The "inverted rate" system for residential customers has now been mandated for the two major Michigan electric utilities throughout the state. It is likely that it will be extended to all other companies operating within the state. The Commission's order also made a major change for commercial and industrial customers by introducing "time of day" rates. This means that, power used between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. would be at a higher rate than power used during the off-peak hours. While most farmers’ electric power consumption is higher during the off-peak hours, some farmers are on the higher commercial rates (where there is no requirement to report daily usage). It is expected that the "time of day" rates will apply to such farmers.

## Michigan Farm Bureau’s Bicentennial Publication

- **Proud to Be an American?**
- **Proud to Be a Farmer?**
- **Proud to Be a Farm Member?**

Then you’ll want “200 Years of American Agriculture” with beautiful color photos as a Bicentennial keepsake.

Includes the 1975 County Award Winners, too.

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On sale following the MFB Annual Banquet Thursdays’ evening December 11 in Grand Rapids and all day Friday, December 12. Only $1.00 each. Or order by mail (add $50 for postage and handling).

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

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**Price Later Agreements**

H.B. 6122 has been introduced to amend the Farm Produce Merger Act to permit the transfer of the "Grain Dealers Act". Any person in the business of "buying, exchanging, storing or selling farm produce" will be liable to the provisions of the act. Grain dealers will be required to be licensed and to maintain books and records. If they have assets or a letter of credit for no less than $20,000. Any grain dealer issuing "price later" agreements must satisfy one of the following:

- Keep the farm produce on hand at his own property.
- Have farm produce certificates representing equal amounts in values of farm produce as approved by the director.
- Have an irrevocable letter of credit or money in escrow to cover the amount of the agreement.
- Procure a commitment on future selling price of the amount of the agreement.

These are the key features of the bill. In short, if the legislation passes, farm marketing will be further limited. A "price later" arrangement will be protected in a very similar manner as currently is the case for presently storing grain in a warehouse and receiving a purchase order.

It has just come to light that farmers in one part of the state apparently have lost more than $600,000 due to grain transactions with a trucking firm. Presently farmers who choose to sell grain in this manner take great risks and have no protection. The provisions of H.B. 6122 are specifically designed to protect the farmer and the Farm Bureau policy as passed at the Annual Meeting.

**Marketing and Bargaining**

The Market Floor will and will eliminate the September expiration date in the Marketing Act (H.B. 334), which can be used by fruit and vegetable growers. This program has been successfully by the growers of various fruits and vegetables. However, the program groups groups have challenged the act at every court level. The act is now awaiting a Supreme Court decision as to whether all its provisions are Constitutional. Elimination of the expiration date in the act will eliminate its use in the event the Court determines its Constitutionality.

**Workers Compensation**

The recent reversal legislation is still tied up in committees and on the floor of the Legislature. The Senate committee is trying to work out differences between the various approaches. Farm Bureau and MASA have met with the Department of Labor and Commerce as well as members of the House of Representatives Farm Bureau’s views on the need for a separate agricultural section in any Writers Compensation.
The subject of federal estate tax reform continues to be a top legislative goal of Farm Bureau. This column has been devoted almost entirely to estate tax legislation in recent weeks. In addition, numerous speeches, reports and articles have recently been made to build awareness and support for estate tax reform.

The House Ways and Means Committee began mark-up sessions on H.R. 4537 on March 16, but it did not take too long and the Committee can report a bill to the House for a vote.

H. R. 1793 would substantially increase the present 35-year old standard and marital deductions to reflect 1976 economic values rather than those of 1942. Also, the bill would provide heirs an option for appraisal of the farm estate at its agricultural use value rather than the present potential value.

Grain Inspection

The House Ways and Means Committee has approved and sent to the floor H.R. 7656 which would establish authority for a national elevator inspection program, and grain inspectors to be employees of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The bill was sent to the House Committee on Agriculture on March 16. The Senate bill, S. 2627, is substantially the same as the House bill.

Grain Inspection

The House Committee on Agriculture, which has jurisdiction over grain inspection, has not acted on H.R. 7656. The Senate has not acted on S. 2627.

Swine pregnancy detection

Sonar on the farm

Michigan State University swine researchers are experimenting with a unit, similar to sonar, which takes the guesswork out of sow pregnancy checks.

"Properly used, these ultrasonic detectors are about 98 percent accurate," says Dr. E. Maynard Hogburg, Extension swine specialist, who foresees a future where these methods and equipment give "confidence that the sow is pregnant, that sow culls can be made and that the nonpregnant can be isolated before, saving the breeder about $20 per sow in feed costs."

This means swine pregnancy can be determined much earlier, which increases efficiency in swine breeding operations. The nonpregnant sow can be culled from the herd much earlier than before, saving the breeder about $20 per sow in feed costs.

The unit may be used as an early indicator of reproductive problems in the herd, and guarantees pregnancy in gilts and sows to be sold. It is adaptable to the sow, to control the number of sows farrowing at one time.

This detector also determines back fat and loin thickness in swine and beef cattle.

In order for sonar to work, the animal must stand still for the machine even though it costs from $1,300 to $1,450. Some models include rechargeable batteries, and there are several brands available, according to Mr. Hogburg.

Despite its initial cost, the detector pays for itself when used properly. Against the $300 price per year, "the producer can justify the expenditure, and several producers have decided to see how they can come out ahead on feed costs," he adds.

MFB supports land use bill

The Michigan House Agriculture Appropriations Committee has voted to postpone discussion of Substitute HB 4234. Substitute HB 4241 is the current House bill which is supported by Rep. Philip Malm (D-Hazel Park).

Substitute HB 4241 is consistent with current Michigan Farm Bureau policy on land use. Congressional approval of the Senate version last December did not result in a bill because the House Committee did not have sufficient time to consider the bill. The House Ways and Means Committee rejected a Farm Bureau policy amendment to substitute HB 4234 which would have given the PACKERS the power to regulate the pork industry as they now have for the poultry industry. The pork industry is currently under jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission which has shown little interest in discharging this responsibility.

EPA Feedlot Permit Program

EPA has issued final regulations establishing feedlot permit requirements. These regulations were required by the Federal District Court order issued last year. The regulations require that feedlots with 1000 or more animal units must obtain a permit if pollutants are discharged into navigable waters. Feedlots with less than 1000 animal units but more than 300 are required to obtain a permit if pollutants are discharged through a manmade conveyance or into waters that pass through or come in direct contact with animals in the confined area. Other feedlots in the 300 to 1000 unit category may be required to obtain a permit if designated by EPA or the direction of a state or water pollution control agency. Such designations will be made only after an on-site investigation and written notice is given the feedlot operator. Feedlots with less than 300 animal units may be exempt from the permit requirement except where designated on a case by case basis. It is estimated that under these final regulations, only about 3420 feeding operations in the United States will be required to obtain permits.

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

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

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Around the state with Farm Bureau

M. J. Buschle of MASA points out trends in farm labor to Barry County group during series of special meetings held around the state on farm labor and government regulations.

Members of the Feeder Pig Operations Committee attending were (clockwise from top) Bill Haas, MACMA; Ken Warner; Ken Bredahl; Matt McConnell; George Portice; and Murray Turnipseed, Chairman.

Elmer and Rachel Michell were plenty happy at the Osceola County victory party. They are county membership chairmen.

St. Clair County Farm Bureau held a grand opening in April of their new county office and FBS outlet. Shown from left are Carl Tice, county FBS manager; Carl McCormick, county president; Ron Popp, county FPC manager; and Jim Cronin, county membership chairman.

Group purchasing in coming to MFB. Attending a recent Safemark product orientation meeting in Lansing are (from left) MFB staffers Jesse Taggart, Gene Greenawalt, James Wickizer, general manager of AFBE Service Co., James Paulson of Electric Storage Battery Co. and Chuck Burkett, MFB director of field operation.

The Safemark group purchasing concept was introduced to county executive committees at the April series of cabinet meetings. The time table will be for explanation of the program starting at May county board meetings, followed by the appointment of county group purchasing committees. This process will be followed by obtaining potential dealers located by marketing area, with the plan that these dealers be established and maintaining an inventory by September first.

The success of this program depends on the participation of the county membership, the involvement and dedication of the county committees, and the selection of the local dealers who serve the members. Serving members only with the best quality merchandise at the best possible price is the goal of the Safemark group purchasing program.
Senate committee approves bill to continue P.A. 344

A bill that will allow the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344) to be extended beyond its September 1, 1976 expiration date was reported out of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee April 14. After hearing two hours of testimony from supporters and opponents of S.B. 1323, the committee voted to report the bill to the floor of the Senate.

Senator John C. Hertel, chairman (D-Harbor Springs), Senator Herbert W. (R-Alma) and Senator John R. Otterbacher (D-Grand Rapids) all voted to approve the bill out of committee. The only members of the five-man committee present. Speaking in support of the bill, MFB Legislative Counsel Al Almy pointed out that P.A. 344 recognizes the need and right for farmers to organize for marketing and bargaining purposes.

"Farmers have just as much need for marketing and bargaining legislation today as they did in 1972 when P.A. 344 was first passed by the legislature," Almy said.

Also testifying in support of S.B. 1323 were MACMA General Manager Noel Stickman, Harry Foster, manager of Michigan Asparagus Growers and Tom Butler, manager of Michigan Processing Apple Growers.

Over 50 farm people ignored ideal spring plowing and planting weather to attend the hearing.

Chief opposition came from processors and canners and their associations.

Special farm vehicles exempt from registration

Gov. William G. Milliken signed into law HB 4796 (I.E.), amending the Motor Vehicle Code to exempt special farm vehicles used only during harvest operations from registration and the current requirements.

"This new law eliminates the need for farmers to pay expensive registration costs for trucks used only a few weeks each year," Milliken said. "The special low cost health care plan to be provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan.

In action taken at the February meeting, the State Board of Agriculture Marketing and Bargaining approved the offering of a new lower cost health care plan to be provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan.

A special open period in July will enable eligible members to choose between the present level of coverage and the more limited benefit plan. The effective date of the new program, for those signing up in July, will be August 20, 1976. Lower rates are achieved by the subscriber sharing in the cost of services when they are utilized. A member would pay 30 percent of each hospital admission for each person on the contract up to a maximum of $600.00. For professional services a subscriber would pay 30 percent of the Blue Shield customary and reasonable fee paid to the doctor for his services.

A complete comparison of the benefits of the present and new plan will appear in the June issue of the Farm News.
The Washington legislative seminar

by Marcia Ditchie
Farm News photographer

For the 16th consecutive year, a selected group of Michigan Farm Bureau members traveled to Washington, D.C. to discuss Farm Bureau policies and some current issues before Congress with Michigan's Congressional delegation. As part of the 1976 Washington Legislative Seminar, 45 county leaders were chosen by their counties as "Legislative Leaders" who spent March 29-April 1 in the nation's capital discussing such key issues as estate tax reform, food stamp reform and export controls.

Prior to leaving Lansing's Capitol City Airport, a news conference was held with local news media to explain Farm Bureau's support of the Burleson-Curtis Bill which would update the provisions in the current federal estate tax law.

Once in Washington, the Legislative Leaders itinerary for meeting with their Congressmen included the Republican and Democratic breakfasts.

One of the key issues discussed at the breakfasts by the Legislative Leaders and the Congressmen was estate tax reform which would provide vital revisions needed if family farms are to survive. The leaders stressed the need for raising the estate tax exemption from $60,000 to $200,000 and pointed out that the last revision in the exemption clause was made in 1942. Michigan Congressmen who are sponsoring the bill include Guy VanderJagt (R-Muskegon), Garry Brown (R-Schoolcraft), Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor), Ed Hutchinson (R-St. Joseph), James O'Hara (D-Utica), Robert Traxler (D-Bay City), and Elford A. Cederberg (R-Alma).

Congressmen attending the two breakfasts were Senator Robert Griffin and Congressmen Guy VanderJagt, Edward Hutchinson, Philip Ruppe, Elford Cederberg, Garry Brown, William Broomfield, James O'Hara, Robert Traxler and Robert Carr. Representatives from Senator Philip Hart, and Congressmen Marvin Esch, Donald Riegle, and Richard Vander Veen's offices also attended.

The legislative leaders also visited Congressional offices, sat in on various committee hearings and visited with U.S. Department of Agriculture officials, including Secretary Butz.

The four-day seminar provided Michigan farmers with the opportunity to meet with their Congressional representatives on a personal basis to discuss issues which are of importance to farmers at the grass-roots level and provide a continuation of Michigan Farm Bureau's policy development and policy execution process.

The Washington Legislative Seminar is sponsored each year by Farm Bureau Women to make possible this contact between Michigan farmers and their elected representatives.

WILX-TV Lansing-Jackson interviewed Ingham County's Jan McMichael on the estate tax reform legislation at Capitol City airport before departing for Washington.

The news media was watching as MFB members took off for the nation's capital.

Secretary Butz and MFB President Elton Smith confer at USDA.

Young Farmer vice chairman Bob Rottier was interviewed by Booth Newspapers reporter Ron Cordray at the National Press Club.

Austin Bowman, Allegan County (left) discusses the issues with Rep. Bob Traxler (D-Bay City).
Family eye care plan available to MFB members

Michigan Farm Bureau has made an arrangement with NuVision Optical of Michigan, Inc. to provide members with a Family Group Eye Care Plan at ECONOMICAL RATES. To be eligible to receive the benefits of this program, the member must present the enclosed membership card when visiting a NuVision Optical office.

This program offers a Complete Eye Exam (diagnosis of the complete pair of glasses (lenses and frames) - a complete frame - a pair of half pair of lenses - and frames) - a complete pair of glasses (frame and lenses) - not only will you receive the savings, but will receive NuVision Optical's No-Fault Eyeglass Guarantee. This guarantee ensures that for (1) one year, any lens or frame that is broken or damaged will be repaired or replaced free-of-charge. There is no limit to the number of repairs or replacements under this No-Fault Program during the (1) one year period. The member must have this No-Fault Eyeglass Guarantee at the time of purchase from NuVision Optical at no charge.

Professional optometrists are on duty to provide members with eye examinations, including inter-ocular pressure test for patients thirty-five (35) years of age and over. A phone call to the office nearest you can provide you with an appointment at your convenience, without delay or waiting in the office. NuVision offices are open evenings and Saturdays.

You are eligible to have a prescription from your own eye doctor, glasses can still be ordered through the "Family Plan" using your doctor's prescription.

MFB victory Reform law thrown out

The Michigan Supreme Court has declared Michigan's Political Reform Act of 1976 to be unconstitutional. Farm Bureau was one of the organizations that provided the necessary funds to challenge this unreasonable legislation.

It threatened the extension of individual rights as it required, among other things, financial disclosure of any person and their spouses' conflicts of public life, including school boards, township and county offices, zoning boards, etc. The Court ruled that the conflicts with the Michigan Constitutional requirement that "no law shall embrace more than one subject".

Justices Lindemier, Williams, Mary and Ryan voted to declare the act unconstitutional. Chief Justice Kavanagh and Justice Levin dissented.

The act was passed last year after Common Cause, its chief spokesperson, threatened to take a version of it to the people via initiative petitions. It was replaced another year later, during the prior year dealing primarily with ethics and conflicts.

That statute, which may now become law, deals almost entirely with the campaign contribution disclosure requirements, and does not cover the controversial personal financial disclosure issues which were expected that four separate bills will be introduced to re-enact the statute which has been declared unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Kavanagh and Justice Levin dissented.

Gov. William G. Milliken signed into law HB 6003, removing the requirement that the State Tax Commission perform an on-site appraisal of farmland requested for joint farmland development rights agreements with the State. The law also modifies the Open Space Preservation Act.

The 1974 law, designed to limit development of approved farmlands to farm operations, allows farm owners to apply for joint farmland development rights agreements with the state for returns in income tax credits. Budget constraints and a heavy workload have meant that field inspectors have been unable to perform their duties within the 60-day limit set in the act. The new law will speed up administration of the act.

In Freedoms Foundation essay contest

Livingston County youth is state winner

Martha Michael, of Pinckney, an eighth grader at Pinckney Middle School, has been named one of the Freedoms Foundation America & Me essay contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group and FBIG. Martha's essay, based on the theme "America & Me," was chosen the best in the state. Involving nearly 6,000 eighth graders from 318 Michigan schools.

As the top state winner, Martha, 14, will be awarded a $500 savings bond from Farm Bureau Insurance Group and her school will be presented with a U.S. flag. She will also be featured in a Bicentennial program on the Michigan Farm Radio Network.

Martha's essay survived three levels of judging to make it to the top. The final selection was made by a panel of high level dignitaries, headed by Governor William Milliken.

Other members of the judging panel were Secretary of State Richard Austin; Senator Earl Nelson, Michigan State Senate; Secretary of State Richard Austin; and Governor William Milliken.

The second place winner in the state competition was another Livingston County student, Christine Wilson, a student at Muir Junior High in Milford, and third place was won by Lynn Lee Matton, an eighth grader at Holy Childhood Boarding School in Harbor Springs. Christine will receive $250 in savings bonds and Lynn will be awarded a $100 bond.

From the top ten state winners are Mark Dukub, St. Me School, Dearborn Heights; Tawana Lorick, Donovan North Junior High, Flint; Kim Ferguson, Surtle Junior High, West Branch; Shabana Nath, John Page Junior High, Madison Heights; and Nikki Taggart, Alcona High School, Lincoln. Each of these five wins a $50 bond.

The number of students participating in the 1976 America & Me essay contest was the highest in the contest's history. Student participation was also at an all-time high this year, with nearly 100 FBIG agents giving in return for the freedom we enjoy today. No one knows the significance of that last sentence of the Declaration of Independence until he has given much thought to its character. "... with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor." Then at the bottom of that document, fifty-six names appear. Not many Americans realize the effect of those signatures, kept silent for six months. The nation was hanging and those fifty-six men realized this.

Not many Americans realize what was behind each of the signatures on that document. Fifty-six men who, in this struggle for freedom, thought to its character. "... with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor." Then at the bottom of that document, fifty-six names appear. Not many Americans realize the effect of those signatures, kept silent for six months. The nation was hanging and those fifty-six men realized this.

The new law will speed up administration of the act.

Newell Rawlings 500 acre Macomb County dairy farm - Top producing herd in Macomb County

Kenneth Graham 1800 acres St. Clair County cash crop farm - President of B & W Elevator - Mich. Bean Commission member

Robert Nasserian, John Page Junior High, Washington to fire on his own home which was occupied by Cornwallis. Nelson died bankrupt and was buried in an unmarked grave. John Hancock, one of the wealthiest men in New England, stood outside Boston one night and said, "Burn, Boston, though it makes John Hancock a beggar, if the public good requires it." These men knew what it was to sacrifice for Freedom's sake. Because they considered liberty so much more important than security, Freedom was born.

That's where I come in. As an American, I experience this hard-earned freedom every day. Thanks to those faithful men who signed the Declaration of Independence and many thousands more who "mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" for the sake of freedom, I live in a country where Freedom reigns, AMERICA! I owe a lot to those men who fought for freedom two hundred years ago. The only way I can say "thank you" is to do all I can to KEEP America free.
Fluctuations in today's market make this question more important than ever to farmers. The Michigan Elevator Exchange (MEE), a division of Farm Bureau Services, provides marketing services to over 100 country elevators. When you market your crops at a MEE member elevator, you'll benefit from the resources that provide marketing knowledge and locate the most advantageous prices anywhere in the world.

The country elevators that we represent are in the best position to help the farmer gain fair market prices. MEE can reduce marketing cost, since we are owned by and for Michigan Farmers. The larger the percentage of production that farmers control, the more respect they will have. This gains better prices in both the domestic and foreign markets. Stop in and see your local MEE member elevator today. He is working for you.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE
Farm Bureau Membership
Benefits Farm Families

SERVICE TO MEMBERS ONLY

1. Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance
   (Excludes Auto)
2. Hertz Car Rental (discount program)
3. $50.00 Guaranteed Arrest Bond Certificate
4. Travel Tours to Foreign Countries
5. Group Blue Cross-Blue Shield
6. Milk Check Deduction Program - Blue Cross-Blue Shield
7. Group Member Life Insurance
8. Mutual Auto Insurance
9. Workman's Compensation - Safety Group - Dividends
10. M.A.S.A. - Labor information and employment service
11. Farm Bureau Mutual Fund - investment service
12. Farm Records Service
13. Farmers Petroleum Co-op. - Stock - $5.00 purchase certificate
15. Farm Bureau Services
   a. Egg Marketing
   b. Fowl Marketing
   c. Wheat Marketing
   d. $5.00 Purchase Certificate
16. Commodity Division Approach
   a. Soybeans
   b. Commodity Listing Service according to members' needs (hay, dairy, etc.)

For MFB Members
Blue Cross & Blue Shield Coverage

OUTLINE OF BENEFITS
- If you're under age 65 . . . . .
  full group protection!
- If you're 65 or older . . . . .
  protection to complement Medicare
- Master Medical . . . . .
  to pick up many additional charges!

Farm Bureau Saves You

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit Description</th>
<th>Sample Farm Savings</th>
<th>Your Farm Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan gas tax refund</td>
<td>$360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9c per gallon x 4,000 gallons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal gas tax refund</td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4c per gallon x 4,000 gallons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm truck license</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,000 lb. truck x $1 per 100 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm wagon license</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 wagons @ $7.80 per wagon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales tax exemption</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4% sales tax x $20,000 farm input</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeal of farm personal property tax</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% of value of personal property x local millage rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax relief for households and farms - limits property tax to 3½% of household income, with refund up to $1,200</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$3,423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus exemption from tax assessment for growing crops; transportation legislation; marketing and bargaining legislation; amendments to labor laws; increase of livestock indemnity payments; tax appropriations for livestock and crop research; program to limit property taxes for farm land to seven percent of household income, and amendments to environmental regulations.

ADD 'EM UP FOR YOUR FARM — AREN'T THEY WORTH MORE THAN $35 MEMBERSHIP DUES?
Dairy

A strong butter and cheese market has resulted in the M-W series price for manufactured milk being at $8.60 for the month of March. This strong market and upturn in the M-W price was somewhat of a surprise to many dairy leaders who had expected the price to drop somewhat near the support level of $8.13.

Utilization of Class I milk was 62.4 percent for March, 59.79 percent during February. Production continues to show an increase of 1.5 percent over a year ago.

Milk and dairy food prices have been receiving a lot of attention in the past few weeks. Consumer groups, the Justice Department, the Federal Trade Commission, and the President’s Council on Wage and Price Stability have all been critical of the role of the cooperative in not being able to exert monopolistic force and, combined with federal regulations, are calling for “enforcement” or “enhance” the price of dairy products.

These issues were addressed at a recent symposium sponsored by the National Milk Producers Federation. In the discussion on this theme, it was pointed out that farmers do have the legal right, under the Capper-Volstead Act, to cooperate and sell their milk to market their products. The cooperatives and the Federal Milk Market Order have worked to benefit both the dairy farmer and the consumer by assuring the farmer a market for his milk at reasonable prices and by assuring the consumer an adequate supply of pure and wholesome milk and dairy products.

In comparison to income, milk and butter have actually become more important in the past few years. In 1960 it took about 20 minutes of work for the average factory worker to buy the daily egg ration, but today it now takes nearly 30 minutes of work to buy one pound of butter. In 1975 it took nearly 40 minutes of work to buy a half gallon of milk and less than 13 minutes to buy the pound of butter.

Bernie Bishop
Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

Asparagus

Harvest here in Michigan is expected to begin in early May. The state’s asparagus growers are expected to harvest about 40 million pounds in 1976. This represents a 5 percent increase from a year ago. Michigan harvest is expected to equal the major production area where acreage is increasing.

Proactive acreage for harvest in the U.S. is estimated at 81,400 acres in 1976.

Inventory figures as of March 1st show substantially reduced carry-in stocks compared with a year earlier. Prices are strengthening in most areas of the country. Although some processors here believe the Asparagus Growers Marketing Committee’s price of 30¢ for number 1 grade is too high, the committee and MACMA staff are engaged in extensive negotiation to reach agreement on a price.

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director
MDD

Strawberries

Michigan’s strawberry acreage is expected to decline slightly this year from 12,700 acres. 3 percent lower than last year. Of the major strawberry producing areas, only southeast Michigan is expected to harvest more acres of strawberries this year. Har-

Tom Reed
Market Development Division

Corn

On Friday, April 16th, the USDA’s Crop Reporting Board released its expected plantings that put corn at 22.7 million acres; 6 percent percent higher than the January report. At the same time soybean and wheat plantings remained at nearly the same level as the January report.

If the market holds the same level of soybean and wheat plantings, then we can see a very full market for corn production.

With total corn stock receiving a very favorable a crop potential and a very favorable a production potential, then we can see a very full market for corn production.

Asparagus Growers Marketing Committee - The Asparagus Growers Marketing Committee (AGMC) conducts an annual educational seminar for growers, processors, and buyers. The seminar is held for all FPC dealers on March 30-31 with over 100 dealers attending.

By Greg Sheffield
Senior Editor Research
and Animal Health

Tom Reed
Market Development Division

MFB members to USDA cherry board

Four Michigan Farm Bureau members have been appointed to the USDA’s Cherry Industry Administrative Committee which operates under a federal marketing order for red tart cherries. The committee operates under a federal marketing order for red tart cherries.

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Three members -- six producers and six processors -- will be appointed to the board.

The board consists of 12 members -- six producers and six processors. The board will include six members each. The marketing order, Mr. Dever explained, specifies a three-year term of office, with terms of one-third the members expiring each year.
**FBIG explains why**

**Farm insurance rate is going up**

Just about every insurance company operating in Michigan — including Farm Bureau Insurance Group — is being forced to raise farm insurance rates.

Why the increase? The major reason is inflation. When loss payments and building repair costs ballooned because of inflation, the premiums collected are no longer adequate to pay losses and expenses. The situation is worsened by the fact that inflation has hit the building industry harder than most of the economy. For example, the Government’s Index of Wholesale Prices shows that the cost of construction materials increased 57 percent from January 1971 to January 1976. The cost for lumber alone increased 86 percent during this period.

These factors, coupled with heavy windstorm losses in 1975, are forcing FBIG and insurance companies throughout Michigan to raise rates for farm insurance. FBIG, the largest farm insurer in the state, will raise rates for its Farmowners insurance. But the amount of increase will vary in individual cases. Despite the increase, farmers will have the chance to reduce their Farmowners premiums by assuming a greater part of a loss through higher deductibles.

Throughout the property insurance industry, losses are mounting and the squeeze on insurance companies, leaving no alternative but to raise rates to meet future claims and expenses. But along with the bad news of inflation, FBIG has some good news about its Farmowners program. As a new addition to Farmowners coverage, farmers will now have the opportunity to add coverage that will pay for farm equipment rental when a farmer’s machinery becomes inoperable for reasons specified in the policy.

Farmowners insurance factors that are driving up farm insurance rates are also forcing companies to increase auto rates. Like almost every insurance company in the nation, FBIG will be increasing rates for auto insurance because of skyrocketing automobile part and repair costs.

Consider this: The cost to fix an automobile that cost $4,500 new would exceed $20,000 if it were repaired piece by piece through repair shops. Another fact: Among the parts most commonly damaged in a collision are bumpers, grills and fenders. From 1971 to mid-1975, the price of these parts jumped more than 60 percent.

In December 1972, the average cost per collision paid by Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance was $322. In other words, this was the company’s cost on the average, to repair an automobile after an accident.

By June 1975, this average cost had risen to $962. A study of the table below shows how auto repair costs paid by Farm Bureau increased.

(Continued on page 15)

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**Know the law**

**Q.** Recently, I was stopped for moving equipment which was over width. I must move my equipment — What can I do?

**A.** The Michigan Vehicle Code in Section 717(b) states, "The total outside width of a farm tractor or any farm implement or machinery shall not exceed 186 inches. Any agricultural implement or machinery shall extend beyond the centerline of any state trucking highway except when legally authorized by law.

There are provisions for obtaining a permit to transport over size or weight vehicles. Section 725 authorizes issuance of permits by the State Highway Department or County Road Commission for movement of vehicles in excess of size or weight limitations.

Section 688(g) also requires that when operated on the highway, every vehicle which has a maximum potential of 25 mph, implement of hubandry, farm tractor or special mobile equipment shall be identified with reflective device — a slow moving vehicle emblem (SMV).

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**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. Visit Valley Forge enroute to Arlington, Virginia.

Wednesday: Sightseeing to include government buildings with stop at the Whitehouse and Mt. Vernon.

Thursday: Entire day at leisure for you to visit Smithsonian Institute, Library of Congress, etc.

Friday: Special buses to Williamsburg, Va. Tickets provided for visit to attractions.

Saturday: Devoted to visiting new Busch Gardens outside Williamsburg.

Sunday: No plans for morning. Depart in afternoon for Washington, D.C. and flight to Detroit.

COST OF TOUR

$540.24 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 persons 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_
Showcase in Muskegon

Waste management planning

For the last few years national attention has been focused on a shoreline region of western Michigan where Muskegon County is located. This is a bold step toward the goal of protecting the environment and the natural lakeshore that may serve as a prototype for areas all over the country.

When I first visited the area, I was struck by the contrast between the beauty of the lakes and the rundown condition of the surrounding areas. The residents were proud of their natural resources, but they were also acutely aware of the need to protect them.

Muskegon had a history of environmental degradation. The thick blanket of pine forest was stripped away during the lumber boom of the last century, and much of the vitality that may serve as a prototype for areas all over the country. In fact, only a few years ago the county was facing an uphill battle to accommodate the sewage produced by homes and industries already located there, and residents watched sadly as the lakes where they had swum and fished as children were poisoned by wastes that had no place to go into. Now that has changed. Facing up to the fact that a neglected environment can precipitate economic decline, Muskegon county has begun to fight back against the forces undermining its rich endowment of natural resources.

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Recognizing that this region was not only a unique and valuable place but a place where we could learn from the mistakes of the past, Muskegon's goal is to achieve a third level of treatment. This is done through the Muskegon Irrigation Project, which uses natural processes to treat wastewater and return it to the environment.

The heart of the project is a unique system of wastewater treatment that utilizes natural processes to purify the water. The wastewater is collected from municipal and industrial sources and then treated through a series of natural processes, including sedimentation, filtration, and a living filter system. The treated water is then returned to the lakes, rivers, and streams, where it becomes part of the natural ecosystem.

One of the key benefits of this system is that it is cost-effective. The irrigation process is accomplished by 55 rotating spray rigs with radii from 750 to 1400 feet - roughly four city blocks long. The spray from the rigs is directed downward where it will settle out and the process of natural stabilization takes place. But it can also be routed into one of two huge sewage storage basins as cooling ponds instead of, or in conjunction with, the usual cooling towers, which are very costly to construct. The waste heat might even be used to warm the irrigation water, increasing the rate of evaporation and possibly lengthening the growing season.

The benefits of irrigation are twofold. First, the water is collected in underground drainage pipes, monitored to check its quality, and discharged to the surface water of the county. The drainage system prevents waterlogging and the drainage system checks the problem of polluted water quality in their areas. Public participation is required.

Each of the 11 Regional Planning commissions in the Lower Peninsula have been designated to prepare Section 308 plans for their respective geographic jurisdictions. Public participation is required.

At the last annual meeting the voting delegates urged Farm Bureau members to participate in any discussions, public hearings and exert influence to whatever extent possible regarding this planning process which can greatly affect agriculture.

Areawide Waste Management Planning

Section 308 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 308 must identify, if appropriate, agriculturally related nonpoint sources of pollution, including runoff from manure disposal areas and from land used for livestock and populations in ponds. The plan must also set forth procedures and methods, including land use requirements, to control to the extent feasible such sources.

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Whether the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System will offer dramatic new answers to urban waste problems remains to be seen. However, it is a start and all engaged in agriculture should take an active role in helping to determine the policies governing water quality in their areas.
Van Buren is first with 1976 queen

Mrs. Warren (Dawn) Wilkinson, 15, of Fenelton was selected as the Van Buren County Farm Bureau Queen on April 3 at the Van Buren County Farm Bureau in Lake Paul. About 100 people attended the event.

Miss Patricia D'Angelo, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James D'Angelo, of Bangor was selected as first runner-up.

Dawn will now go on and represent Van Buren County at the Michigan Farm Bureau Queen contest in December in Grand Rapids.

Insurance rate

(Continued from page 13)
Bureau members have jumped every month since 1971.

AVERAGE COST
PUBLICATION PAID BY FFB

December 1972 $322
January 1973 636
February 1973 428
March 1973 603
April 1973 603
May 1973 656

FBIG, which insures more than 160,000 vehicles, is experiencing the same rates as the rest of the insurance industry, but despite this, FBIG's rates are lower than those of the company, with other companies.

Local FBIG agents will have to determine future rate changes for both Farmowners and auto insurance.


FOR SALE: Cedar Posts 2" x 10" tops 8' long. Each 25.00. South of Manistee.

FOR SALE: Polled bull 18 months. half Charolais • For sale polled or horned. Contact Richard Keinath. 5718 Hart Road. Vassar. Michigan 48889. Phone 517-749-3213.


FOR SALE: Used truck with large like new grain bowl. Also, four wood wagon wheels. Contact Robert Pardue. 517-547-7173. evenings.


SURVIVE THE ENERGY CRUNCH Burn less, Save more! Thermostats. Circulators available now. Kradar Electric 616-253-4321.

SURVIVE THE ENERGY CRUNCH Burn less, Save more! Thermostats. Circulators available now. Kradar Electric 616-253-4321.


FOR SALE: 1971 5C-5400 Chain Loader R.O.P. S. with 180 ft. hauled. 144 hrs. new condition. Call before 7 a.m. or after 8 p.m. Auger 8" • very good condition. Also. 500 bales mixed Bulls. 2 years old. Also helpers and yearlings. B 233131 N UI M' 56073.


CHAROLAIS - For sale polled or horned. Also, green pos. Free mailer. 781-00. Hub's Service. 3855 Hopps Rd. Ionia. Michigan 48846.


FOR SALE: 7 ft. 16" x 16" beans at 80.00. Contact Bob E. Keinath. 517-749-3213. Mysterious.


MISC ELLAN EOUS OFFICE CALLS ,
Don Gridley. Box 201, Stockbridge. Michigan 49285.

FARM EQUIMENT

FOR SALE: 1975 Case 504 Dredge Loader R.O.P.S. with 95.000, hrs. new condition. Contact before 7 a.m. or after 8 p.m.

FOR SALE: 1972 Case 504 Dredge Loader R.O.P.S. with 95.000, hrs. new condition. Contact before 7 a.m. or after 8 p.m.

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NOW YOU CAN AFFORD MORE LIFE INSURANCE THAN YOU THOUGHT!

Announcing new Whole Life Insurance with Extra Protection Which We Call PROTECTION PLUS from Farm Bureau Life

The new Protection Plus Policy with the Extra Protection Option* designed to provide you with a minimum of $30,000 worth of life insurance protection. The kind of sound coverage you want for your family and your estate — the secure kind of protection you need these days.

Now, with Protection Plus, you can close the gap between the amount of life insurance you need and the amount you feel you can afford. Because, the Extra Protection Option makes the Protection Plus Policy different from most other types of whole life insurance. And that's a big plus — for you and your family!

Your First Policy?
Consider Protection Plus. Even if you're just starting out, you may be able to afford much more life insurance than you thought. For example, if you're in your early twenties you could pay less than $30 per month and have $30,000 worth of protection.

Building an Estate?
With Protection Plus you can create an immediate and guaranteed estate for your family — one which assures the kind of substantial protection you want for them if something should happen to you. You get more protection and cash value for estate planning with a Protection Plus Policy.

Your Farm Bureau agent will be glad to answer all your questions and show you how Protection Plus can work for you. Contact your Farm Bureau agent today . . . listed in the Yellow Pages.

*Dividends are based on current scale and are neither estimates or guarantees for the future. If dividends are reduced or not paid in the future, it may cause a reduction or elimination of the supplemental coverage.