

Petition inserted in this "Farm News"

Farm Bureau backs "bottle bill"

A statewide petition drive has been launched to place the question of banning nonreturnable bottles on the November 2 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 and return it by JUNE 1. The petitions may be returned to Michigan Farm Bureau.

The following rules should be observed in circulating the petitions:

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 ANYWHERE within the county. The name of the county must be entered in the space provided at the top of the petition.

All persons signing a given petition must be registered in the designated county.

3. Persons signing the petition should use the signature they employ on any legal document. Women should be careful to not 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, soda water, carbonated natural or mineral water, or other nonalcoholic carbonated drinks, beer, ale, or other malt drinks of any alcoholic content would be required to carry a deposit of at least 10 cents. However, such beverage containers that are certified as reusable by more than one manufacturer will be required to carry a 5c deposit.

Michigan Farm Bureau policy adopted by voting delegates last December strongly supports a petition drive to deal with the

(Continued on page 15)



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.

Iodine toxicity in cows causes symptoms similar to PBB poisoning, MSU study shows

Michigan State University dairy researchers believe they have isolated iodine toxicity as another dairy cow ailment.

"We came across this last December in a herd of 64 Holsteins when invited by a local veterinarian to help solve what appeared to be a nutritional problem. We are currently looking at 26 herds that may be getting too much iodine," says Dr. Donald Hillman, MSU dairy cattle nutrition specialist.

Iodine is fed to cattle in mineral feed supplements to prevent thyroid problems, much in the same manner humans are fed iodine through their table salt intake. But higher levels of iodine are included in mineral and protein supplements to prevent "foot rot" and soft tissue lumpy jaw in cattle. Cattle may get an excessive amount of iodine by an accumulation from several sources. Also, several mineral and salt mixtures on the market provide too much iodine when mixed into the grain ration at rates that farmers normally use, Hillman says.

Hillman explains some of the symptoms shown in cattle apparently having too high an iodine intake include tearing eyes, nasal discharge, bulging eyes, nervousness, and loss of hair. Eventually they become lethargic, have rough hair coats and produce poorly.

Because of the similarity of the symptoms to those attributed to polybrominated biphenyl (PBB), fat biopsies were taken

from 12 cows. No PBB was detected in this first herd. The grain ration was analyzed 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," Hillman says.

He says researchers have had dramatic results in increasing milk production with selected low-productive cattle in two herds. "Thyroprotein, a thyroactive 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," Hillman explains.

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 thyroprotein. Both herds responded similarly in milk production.

Hillman says 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 at 44 weeks in lactation. Milk yield was greatly reduced in comparison with previous lactations.

Rough hair coat, slow lethargic movement, reduced appetite and milk obesity were observed. Calves born from cows dosed with radioiodine, appeared normal at birth but failed to grow normally. One calf weighed only 220 pounds at eight months of age. At 10 months of age, this heifer was fed iodinated casein, a thyroactive compound. The heifer responded in general appearance and growth and at 10 months weighed 460 pounds. Another calf lived only a few hours after birth.

Hypothyroid cows that were nearly dry were fed iodinated casein (Protamone) at the 24th week of lactation. Milk production increased and within three weeks equaled the highest initial level attained during the same lactation.

Cows with damaged thyroids that failed to show evidence of estrus came into heat and were bred after a period of treatment with thyroprotein.

The Tennessee workers noted thyroid iodine uptake, thyroid secretion rate, plasma protein bound iodine, and heart rate were all substantially reduced in the lactating hypothyroid heifers. However, body weight was similar to their twin control heifers.

Other research workers have reported that high levels of iodine aggravate clinical conditions due to infectious or noninfectious insult (such as disease or malnutrition) and that response to routine medical therapy is poor.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



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 outdid themselves as they jawboned with their congressmen at the legislative breakfasts. They were not shy and the discussions were serious 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.

Unions agree to load grain

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.

Allan Grant, speaking before the Texas Farm Bureau State-wide conference for county presidents said, "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."

The agreement follows a complaint filed by the Texas, Kansas and American Farm Bureaus on August 25, 1975 in which they charged the International Longshoremen's Association with a secondary boycott.

Grant said, "The motive of the union leaders in ordering the boycott was not a concern for food prices in the U.S. as they stated publicly, but an insistence on a maritime cargo preference agreement with increased maritime subsidies to be paid by American taxpayers.

"Farmers were being used as political pawns by the Maritime Unions, the AFL-CIO and the U.S. State Department in the Negotiations carried on with the Soviet Union."

State membership status

	NOW	1 YEAR AGO
GOAL:	61,586	61,098
New:	3,878	3,907
Renewals:	56,329	56,943
TOTAL:	60,207	60,850
% of Goal	97.76%	99.59%
Needed for Goal:	1,379	248

DEDICATED DOZEN CLUB

1-300	301-800
1. Kalkaska	1. Mason
2. Iron Range	2. Hiawathaland
3. Benzie	3. Wayne
801-1300	1301-over
1. Oakland	1. Clinton
2. St. Clair	2. Bay
3. Isabella	3. Genesee

DONNA Monkey cage

H. L. Mencken, 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 there is.

One of the reasons for its success is because of groups like our's who pay an annual visit to the monkey cage to check on the monkeyshines taking place inside. And to remind the inhabitants of the cage that we put them there and we have the power to clean out old banana peels and monkeys as well.

It's evident the inhabitants like their cage and they want to stay there and run the circus. Our farmers were treated like the ringmasters they are -- respected, listened to and agreed with.

Trying hard to keep my ob-

jectivity above my prejudice, I'd evaluate our farmers as way above average, compared to other groups who visit the nation's capitol. This wasn't my first experience with the Washington Seminar, but I never cease to be impressed with the 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 can already be chalked 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.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau; President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R. 1; Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R. 1; Administrative Director, Robert Braden, Lansing; Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Max D. Dean; Secretary, William S. Wilkinson.

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Myra Spike named Michigan's "Mother of the Year"

A farm wife from Owosso, mother of six children, and a widely recognized agricultural leader, has been named Michigan's "Mother of the Year." Myra Spike, wife of veterinarian-dairyman Dr. Cyril Spike, received the honor April 13 at Community Auditorium in Northland Center, Southfield, Michigan.

She is now one of 50 state winners who will be considered for the title of "American Mother of the Year." The annual search for Mothers of the Year has been an activity of the American Mothers Committee, Inc., for 35 years to highlight the role of mothers in the home, community, nation and the world.

Dr. and Mrs. Spike have three sons and three daughters, and have lived in Shiawassee County for 30 years. Spike Farms, recognized as one of the most progressive dairy operations in the state, includes an octagon merry-go-round type milking parlor which has attracted visitors from throughout the world. Their innovative systems of management have brought students, dairymen and government officials from many foreign countries to inspect the facilities on the 1200-acre, 700 dairy cattle farm.

In her community, Mrs. Spike has been active in the Cancer Society, the Republican Party, PTA, and in her church, the Salem Lutheran Church of Owosso, where she was a Sunday School

teacher for many years.

Long recognized as an agricultural leader at the local, state, national and international levels, she was a 4-H leader for 25 years, twice-elected president of Michigan's 15,000 Extension Homemakers, a leader in the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau and Michigan Farm Bureau, and the Associated Country Women of the World.

In 1972, Mrs. Spike and her husband were presented with Michigan Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award, based on their many contributions to the agricultural industry. They were the first man and wife "team" ever to receive this honor from the state's largest farm organization.

Twice, she was a delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World meetings, in Norway and Australia, and as an active member of the ACWW has contributed to better nutrition, sanitation and family living throughout the world.

Mrs. Spike, born in River Rouge, Michigan, in 1915, attended Ann Arbor High School and Ypsilanti Normal College. She married Cyril Spike in 1933 and helped with the farm work while he received his veterinarian schooling. Throughout the years, she has been an active member of the family business enterprise and still helps with the farm chores even though she and Dr. Spike are "retired."

All six Spike children are college-trained and have followed their parent's example of community and state involvement and leadership. Two sons, Bill and Tom, are partners in the Spike Farms of Owosso. Another son, Richard of Swartz Creek, is a veterinarian. Daughter Edith (Mrs. William Kettler) and her husband own a farm in Chapin Township, Saginaw County. Daughter Patricia (Mrs. John Talsma) and her husband, also a veterinarian, live on a small farm near Caledonia. Daughter Diann Jenkins is a Home Economist with the Cooperative Extension Service and lives in Gladwin. The Spikes have 21 grandchildren.

Dr. Spike, also a community and agricultural leader, was the recipient of Michigan State University's "Award for Distinguished Service" to the dairy industry.

Qualifications for "Mother of the Year" include evidence by the character and achievements of their children that she is a successful mother, have a sense of responsibility in civic affairs and be active in service for public benefit.

In supporting the nomination of Mrs. Spike, Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, said, "By example, she teaches her children that real caring and concerns make active involvement a necessity, that good citizenship is more than just voting, and



Myra Spike with Julie Spike, youngest of her 21 grandchildren.

that giving of one's times and talents bring rewards of personal growth. Myra Spike has filled this role with enthusiasm, dedication and graciousness. The heritage she gives her children and they, in turn, to her 21 grandchildren, is certain to make our world a better place."

Her nomination was also supported by the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau, the Salem Lutheran Church of Owosso, and the Michigan Association of Extension Homemakers.

The American Mother of the Year will be announced in May.

Presidential primary is on for May 18

The recently publicized "on again" - "off again" Michigan Presidential Primary election will now be held on May 18 following a Supreme Court ruling. The ruling settled the legal issue raised by local government organizations over whether the state or local governments should pay the estimated \$2.5 million cost of the primary. Pending legislative proposals make it uncertain as to exactly where the cost will be borne.

The May 18 presidential primary is required by Michigan law. The primary changes somewhat the traditional political structure of the state to make sure that Michigan's delegations to the national conventions this summer reflect the voters preferences for presidential candidates.

Voters who go to the polls on May 18 must choose between the presidential candidates of one party only. For example, if a voter chooses to vote as a Democrat, he must select among the presidential candidates who are seeking the Democrat Party nomination.

After the presidential primary has been held and the votes are known, the political parties must reflect the sentiments of the voters at their national con-

ventions. If presidential candidate A in the Republican party receives 40 percent of the vote in the state, then 40 percent of the Michigan delegates to the National Republican Convention must support candidate A as their party's nominee for President.

A presidential candidate must receive at least 5 percent of the vote cast for all candidates in his party in order to earn committed delegates. If he receives less than 5 percent, he would get no committed delegates.

Delegates to the national conventions who are committed to a candidate must support him for two ballots unless he drops out of contention or releases his delegates. After the first two ballots are completed, the delegates may switch their support to another candidate.

Presidential candidates are working hard to win delegates in the 30 state primaries which began in February and will conclude in June. Michigan Farm Bureau members should carefully evaluate the presidential candidates as they campaign for the Michigan primary. Following this evaluation, each member should exercise his responsibility to go to the polls on May 18 and vote for his preferred presidential candidate.

Lansing PCA elects new board

Over \$48 million was loaned to central Michigan farmers in 1975 by the Production Credit Association of Lansing according to Arnold K. Musolf, association secretary-manager.

Musolf's financial report was delivered during PCA of Lansing's Annual Stockholders Meeting held at MSU's Kellogg Center in March.

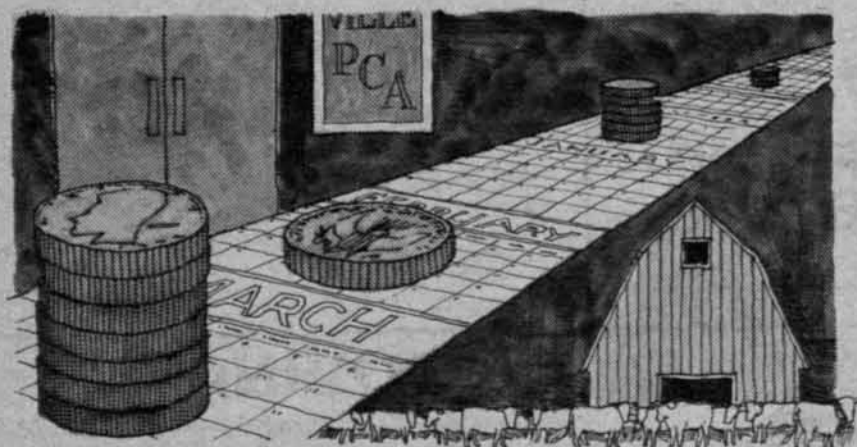
Kennard E. Dysinger of Perry was newly elected to the board of directors and Weldon E. Brown of Sunfield was re-elected to the board by members present at the meeting.

PCA of Lansing has 3,000 farmer members in Eaton, Ingham, Shiawassee, Ionia, Clinton, Barry, Livingston, Genesee and Oakland counties.



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CAPITOL REPORT

Inverted rates and state utilities

Robert E. Smith



Rate Changes by Public Service Commission

A new precedent has been set in Michigan for the 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 CP-\$2.50 and DE-\$2.40. The first 500 kWh will be 3.65c per kWh-CP and 3.6c - DE; 501-1,000 kWh, 3.85c - CP and 3.8c - DE; over 1,000 kWh, the rate will be 4.05c-CP and 4.0c-DE. If a flat rate had been continued, the charge per kWh would have been 3.71c for CP and 3.65c for DE. It will be noted that there is some difference between the two companies' rates, however, these rates translate approximately into the following additional amounts per month that a consumer might pay. Those using 500 kWh per month will pay 76c more under the new inverted rate, while under a flat rate, it would have been \$1.05 more. Some users have an advantage in this case. However, at 1,000 kWh, the in-

verted rate will be approximately \$2.52 more per month compared to \$2.09 under a flat rate. At 1,500 kWh, the inverted rate is \$5.20 more per month, the flat rate \$3.12. At 2,000 kWh, the inverted rate \$8.05, flat rate \$4.18. At 5,000 kWh, the inverted rate will increase the cost to \$13.76 more per month. It will be noted that the inverted rate increases quite rapidly.

The inverted rates to not presently apply to electric water heating as for the most part, water is heated at night, during the off period. The rate is also lower for those using electricity for space heating.

It is said that the new inverted residential rate is "symbolic" or "modest", in that the variation in rates is not very large. The problem is that future rate changes may result in steeply increased rates for those using larger amounts of power, as it is claimed that the "inverted rate" system is intended to discourage the use of electricity by making it more expensive as the use increases. The present 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" decree, pointing out that it may result in an undue increase in the cost of power for agriculture. The letter further stated that: "Only two or three years ago, the cost per unit of electricity decreased as the

use increased. The Public Service Commission then decreed a flat rate system. The cost of electricity to farmers rose considerably. Now with the change to the 'inverted' system, we can anticipate another higher than necessary added cost to food production.

"Modern agriculture has become most dependent upon electricity and, unlike most other segments of the economy, agriculture does not have an opportunity to pass on such added costs. Thus, farmers become greater victims of the spiraling 'cost-price' squeeze'."

The letter also stated that inasmuch as the decision was not anticipated, that the Commission should reconsider its decision and permit reaction by those whom it will affect.

The answer received from Daniel Demlow, Commission Chairman, stated that the purpose of the change was due to "the increasing realization that the State of Michigan must get a handle on its usage of electric energy." He pointed out that new generating plants now require "investments of seven to eight hundred dollars per kilowatt of installed capacity." It is rationalized that if decreased usage can eliminate the building of generating facilities, that money and energy can be saved. The letter said that "additional testimony would not be appropriate at this time." However, it further stated that "it is essential that the needs of the agricultural community be pursued further because it is conceivable that the new approach to pricing will receive even greater attention in the future." The letter invited Farm Bureau to work with 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 utility companies in the state. It is likely that it will be extended to all other companies operating in the state.

The Commission's order also made a major change for commercial and industrial customers by initiating "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 is at the residential rates, some farmers are on the higher commercial rates (where there is no residence, irrigating, etc.). It is not expected that the "time of day" rates will apply to such farmers.

Farm Bureau is presently gathering information to determine the actual economic impact of this system on agriculture. The information will be used to work with the Public Service Commission staff.

Energy and all of its ramifications will become a greater and greater issue. Utility rates are only a part of that issue.

For example, a Federal Energy Administration regulation soon to be published will require every state to cut its total energy use by 5 percent by 1980. This will be difficult to do. As a result of the federal requirements, Governor Milliken has announced the establishment of a new Energy Administration. The purpose is to develop recommendations for a Michigan Energy Act within 45 days, energy goals by July 1, and an energy conservation plan by October 1.

Energy is a serious issue in Michigan as our state must import more than 95 percent of its energy and fuel. There will be several state legislative bills introduced in the near future to carry out conservation measures. These will range from insulation requirements for new and renovated buildings, mandatory lighting conservation standards for public buildings, programs to promote car pooling, changes in building codes, etc., etc. At a recent multi-state Energy Conservation Meeting at which Farm Bureau was represented, numerous proposals were discussed on ways to require energy conservation in agriculture. While energy conservation is necessary, it will also be controversial.

Government Power

One issue closely related to the overall energy problem is the recommendation that the blue ribbon Governor's panel recently made on electrical generation. In an 8-5 vote, the Governor's panel recently made on electrical generation. In an 8-5 vote, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Electric Power Alternatives recommended creation of a Michigan Power Authority, funded by general obligation bonds, to generate and sell power to investor-owned utilities. It was also recommended that the Public Service Commission decide when and if a new generating plant is needed and to determine whether private utilities or the tax-backed power authority should build and operate the generating facilities. It is claimed that the state could finance construction cheaper than private utilities because of its ability to bond at lower rates and its exemption from the federal income tax. This is extremely controversial, especially at a time when the state is in serious financial trouble and is faced with a backlog of construction of public buildings that are clearly its responsibility -- such as penal institutions, educational institutions, etc.

Another energy news item is the approval of a \$220,000 appropriation, (H. 5693, PA 80) to launch a state campaign to convince the federal government to build its Solar Energy Research Institute in Michigan. The institute is scheduled to open in January 1977 to investigate and facilitate the harnessing of solar power for heating and cooling buildings, in converting thermal energy for bio conversion to fuels and in wind energy conversion systems.

Price Later Agreements

H.B. 6122 has been introduced to amend the Farm Produce Storage Act and will be known as the "Grain Dealers Act". Any person in the business of "buying, exchanging, selling or storing farm produce" will be liable to the provisions of the act. Grain dealers will be required to be licensed and to be bonded or to 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:

A. Keep the farm produce or fungible farm produce on hand as his own property.

B. Have farm produce certificates representing equal amounts in values of farm produce as approved by the director.

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

D. Procure a commitment on future selling price of the amount of produce.

These are the key features of the bill. In short, if the legislation passes, farmers using the "price later" arrangement will be protected in a very similar manner to those farmers presently storing grain in a warehouse and receiving a receipt for it.

It has just come to light that farmers in one part of the state apparently have lost more than \$500,000 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 generally consistent from Farm Bureau policy as passed at the Annual Meeting.

Marketing and Bargaining

S.B. 1332 is on the Senate floor and will eliminate the September expiration date in the Marketing and Bargaining Act, PA 344, which can be used by fruit and vegetable growers. This program has been used successfully by the growers of various fruits and vegetables. However, the processor 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 continue its use in the event the Court determines its Constitutionality.

Workers Compensation

This most controversial legislation is still tied up in committees and on the floor of the Senate. A special committee is trying to work out differences between the various approaches. Farm Bureau and MASA have met with representatives of the Departments of Labor and Commerce as well as members of the Legislature to present Farm Bureau's views on the need for a separate agricultural section in any Workers Compensation.

(Continued on page 15)

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NATIONAL NOTES

Estates and beef check-off

Albert A. Almy

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 other efforts have been made to build awareness and support for estate tax reform.

The House Ways and Means Committee began mark-up sessions on H.R. 1793 on April 26. This simply means the Committee is reviewing testimony gathered at public hearings held in March and deciding what changes should be made in the legislation. Hopefully, this will 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 of Representatives has passed H.R. 12572 by a vote of 246 to 33. This bill amends the U.S. Grain Standards Act and is aimed at improving the present system of grain inspection without complete federalization. The bill provides for federal inspection of grain at all export port terminals. The actual in-

spection may be done either by USDA personnel or state agencies delegated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The bill provides that an interior or inland points, the Secretary shall designate the agencies to carry out official inspection services. These agencies may be state or local government authorities or private agencies such as Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce. Farm Bureau supported the passage of H.R. 12572.

Beef Check-Off

House and Senate conferees have approved and sent to the floor H.R. 7656 which would establish authority for a national check-off program to finance beef promotion and research. Farm Bureau supported the original House passed version of H.R. 7656 which provided for registration of beef producers prior to a valid referendum.

However, the Senate deleted the registration and referendum provisions in the House passed bill. The Senate passed the bill with provisions for a weighted vote in the referendum which Farm Bureau policy did not support. The House rejected the Senate version last December and sent it to a Conference Committee to resolve the differences.

After discussions between Farm Bureau representatives and Beef Industry Development Task Force members, it was announced on March 30 that the Task Force would support the

original House passed version.

As approved by the conferees, the bill would provide for beef producers to register by mail or in person at ASCS offices. A national referendum would then be held. In order for the referendum to pass, at least 50 percent of the registered producers must vote and at least two-thirds of those voting must approve the proposed promotion program.

Packer Bonding

The House Agriculture Committee has sent to the full House legislation amending the Packers and Stockyards Act. As reported by the Committee, the bill would (1) require meat packers to post reasonable bonds, (2) authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to seek injunctions against packers believed to be operating while insolvent, (3) require packers to pay for livestock by the close of the business day following the transaction, (4) give producers priority over all other creditors of packers in the event of bankruptcy. The bill includes all of the points called for in Farm Bureau policy except that the Committee rejected a Farm Bureau supported amendment which would have given the Packers and Stockyards Administration the same authority to regulate the poultry industry as they now have for the livestock industry. The poultry 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 a 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 director of a state water pollution control agency. Such designations will be made only after an on-site inspection and written notice is given the feedlot operator. Feedlots with less than 300 animal units are not subject to the permit requirement except where designated on a case by case basis. It is estimated that under these final regulations, only about 3240 feeding operations in the United States will be required to obtain per-

mits. The final regulations closely follow Farm Bureau's recommendations.

Saginaw Port

The Corp of Engineers recently announced plans to award a contract for \$11.5 million to build the Saginaw River Diked Disposal Island Project. This bid is \$5 million under the Corp's original estimate to build the 300-acre island in Saginaw Bay needed to contain the polluted spoils from dredging the river. The Corp now estimates that actual construction of the island will begin either late this month or early May. The island will be built in two sections with the first part to be completed in June 1977 when the actual dredging of the river can be started. The second section of the island will be completed in June 1978 in time to continue with the dredging which should be completed about a year later.

This issue is of importance to Michigan agriculture because sedimentation has filled much of the Saginaw Port shipping channel. This in turn prevents large ocean going vessels bound directly for export destinations from calling at Saginaw. Without the dredging project, farmers stand to lose this important export outlet.

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. Maynard Hogburg, Extension swine specialist, who foresees eventual wide use of the unit in the animal industry.

Developed by researchers at the University of Illinois several years ago, the device is just now gaining popularity.

Here's how it works: The unit bounces high frequency sound waves off the layers of skin, fat,

and lean tissue in the flank area of the sow. If the sow is pregnant, the weight of the intrauterine fluid causes the uterus to sink to the abdominal wall about 30 days after mating, and this registers in the sound wave pattern indicated on the detector's display dial.

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 also enables a producer to control the number of sows farrowing at one time.

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

There's considerable demand for the machine even though it costs from \$1,300 to \$1,665. Some models are portable with rechargeable batteries, and there are several brands available, according to Hogburg.

Despite its initial cost, the detector pays for itself when used properly. "Any herd of over 60 sows can justify the expenditure, and several producers have bought them together to cut costs," he adds.

MFB supports land use bill

The Michigan House Appropriations Committee has voted to postpone discussion on Substitute HB 4234. Substitute HB 4234 is a land use bill sponsored by Rep. Philip Mastin (D-Hazel Park).

Substitute H.B. 4234 is consistent with current Michigan Farm Bureau policy on land use. Contrary to much of the information disseminated by opponents, the bill would not zone or restrict private uses of privately owned land.

If enacted, Substitute H.B. 4234 would create a 9-member State Land Use Commission (SLUC). The Commission would have both

geographic and agricultural representation. It would be responsible for development of a statewide land use plan for consideration and approval or rejection by the Governor and Legislature.

Townships and counties could prepare their own land use plans to identify essential land areas.

Essential land areas would be identified. These areas would include land considered essential for agriculture, forestry, minerals, unique areas such as wetlands, wildlife, etc., and historical preservation. Once identified by local governments

or on an interim basis by the SLUC, utility projects or projects conducted by state and local governments with public monies would be subject to SLUC approval if they occurred within an essential land area. Projects of private persons using private money would not be subject to SLUC approval even if within an essential land area.

In effect, Substitute H.B. 4234 is a sterile planning bill and does not give zoning authority over private uses of private lands. Also, it does not require local governments to implement their land use plans through zoning or any other regulatory device.

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Around the state with Farm Bureau



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.



M. J. Buschlen 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.



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 Popps 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 AFBF 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.



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

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. 1332, the committee voted to report the bill

to the floor of the Senate.

Senator John C. Hertel, chairman (D-Harper Woods), Senator Richard J. Allen (R-Alma) and Senator John R. Otterbacher (D-Grand Rapids) all voted to report the bill out of committee. They were 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 farmers have 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. 1332

were MACMA General Manager Noel Stuckman, 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 association.

Special farm vehicles exempt from registration

Gov. William G. Milliken signed into law HB 4795 (I.E.), amending the Motor Vehicle Code to exempt special farm vehicles used only during harvest operations from registration and title certification 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 identification fee of \$15 will apply only to vehicles

designed and used exclusively for the purpose of transporting farm crops from the field to the place of storage."

The exemption applies to an estimated 2,500 vehicles although the number could be higher since many have been unregistered and unlicensed in the past. The law also may exempt some farmers from the federal use taxes they are now required to pay.

Low cost health plan offered

In action taken at the February meeting, the State Board of

Cook Books Started by Farm Wives

American housewives, today accustomed to obtaining most of their cooking needs from a well-stocked supermarket, would have been dire straits in the Revolutionary period. Today's foods are pre-cooked, convenience packed and almost ready to serve. A far cry from what the colonial housewife faced when mealtime rolled around.

Her menu was seriously limited to what was available locally and this fact is one that has led to the variety of localized specialties placed on the table in various parts of the nation. Sausage and scrapple were Pennsylvania specials; seafood along the Chesapeake Bay; ham in Virginia and lobster stew in New England.

To prepare food was usually an experience in innovation. There were few cookbooks in the colonies. Women who came up with a good recipe carefully kept it recorded and exchanged with other women those which brought them the most compliments from family and friends.

When collections of recipes began to appear in books there were also tips on preserving and salvaging food. Modern housewives, with abundant supplies of low cost food over the years, would find it easier to dispose of food than do what some colonial wives did to save food. A tip in one old cookbook listed this method of saving tainted venison:

"Bury it in the ground in a clean cloth for a whole night and it will take away the corruption, savour and stink."

Those who found sugar an expensive item on the shopping list recently were at least able to find it. It was a scarce item in colonial America. Molasses, too, was expensive and the honey business had not yet developed here. As a result, early Americans were not used to sweet foods as we know them today.

Chopped apples, berries, pulp from near the seeds in squash and pumpkin provided sweetness and a special taste to colonial cakes.

Agri-facts . . .

The farmer always had to contend with the weather. The year without summer was 1816. Ice formed one-half inch thick in May; a three-inch snow fell in June and ice was still one-eighth inch thick in July.

Directors 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 but lower cost Econo 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. For example: 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.

Farm Bureau on the air

The following radio stations carry Accent Agriculture, a 13½ minute public affairs program focusing on the issues and events affecting Michigan farmers and consumers.

WATC Gaylord
WFYC Alma
WMPC Lapeer
WION Ionia
WALM Albion
WKLA Ludington
WTVB Coldwater
WOAP Owosso
WBRN Big Rapids
WABJ Adrian
WCER Charlotte
WCBY Cheboygan
WKPR Kalamazoo
WHGR Houghton Lake
WHFB Benton Harbor
WAGN Menominee
WSTR Sturgis
WSMA Marine City
WKYO Caro
WDOW Dowagiac
WIDG St. Ignace
WCSR Hillsdale
WJPW Rockford
WSOO Sault Ste. Marie
WNIL Niles
WMIC Sandusky
WSMM-FM Sault Ste. Marie
WION Ionia
WJML Petoskey
WLDR Traverse City
WRBJ St. Johns
WLRC White Hall
WPLB Greenville
WTRX Flint
WKNR Battle Creek
WSHN Fremont
WLEW Bad Axe
WCRM Clare

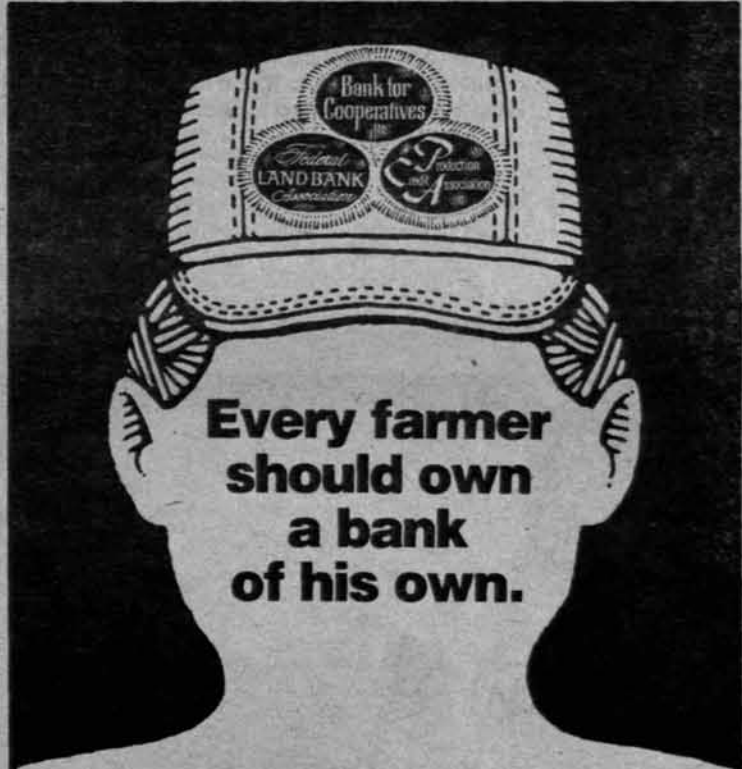
Farm News Today is a 2½ minute program for Michigan farmers heard daily over these stations and the Michigan Farm Radio Network.

WPAG Ann Arbor
WBCM Bay City
WKYO Caro
WCER Charlotte
WCRM Clare
WTVB Coldwater
WDBC Escanaba
WHTC Holland

WPHM Port Huron
WSGW Saginaw
WIDG St. Ignace
WRBJ St. Johns
WSTR Sturgis
WJOR South Haven
WIOS Tawas City
WBMB West Branch
WMIC Sandusky
WCSR Hillsdale
WJML Petoskey
WHMI Howell

Farm News In-Depth is an in-depth report on the issues affecting Michigan farmers. It is a two minute program carried daily.

WCRM Clare
WKAR East Lansing
WFYC Alma
WMAM Marinette
WPAG Ann Arbor
WCER Charlotte
WHAK Rogers City
WKPR Kalamazoo
WLKM Three Rivers
WFUR Grand Rapids
WNIL Niles
WXOX Bay City
WGN Chicago
WWJ Detroit
WLDR-FM Traverse City
WMTE Manistee
WWAM Cadillac
WBCH Hastings
WAOP Otsego
WCEN Mount Pleasant
WDBC Escanaba
WDMJ Marquette
WLRC White Hall
WGHN Grand Haven
WPHM Port Huron
WCMR Elkhart, Ind.
WJBL Holland
WABJ Adrian
WTHM Lapeer
WKZO Kalamazoo
WSGW Saginaw
WHFB Benton Harbor
WPLB Greenville
WHGR Houghton Lake
WKYO Caro
WBMB West Branch
WOAP Owosso
MFRN Milan
WBCM Bay City
WSTR Sturgis
WJCB Gladwin
WVOY Charlevoix



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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 capitol 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 up-date 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.



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 Rottler was interviewed by Booth Newspapers reporter Ron Cordray at the National Press Club.



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



Austin Bowman, Alleghan 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 arrangements with NuVision Optical of Michigan, Inc. to provide members with a Family Group Eye Care Plan at ECONOMIC 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 Optical Service including a complete pair of glasses (lenses and frames) - a complete frame - a pair of half pair of lenses - and contact lenses, Hard or Soft. Parts or repairs are not included,

nor are any Professional Fees.

Those who purchase a complete pair of glasses (frame and lenses) not only will receive the savings, but will receive NuVision Optical's No-Fault Eyeglass Guarantee. This guarantees that for one (1) year, any lens or frame that is broken or damaged will be repaired or replaced free-of-charge. There is no limit as to the number of repairs or replacements under this No-Fault Program during the one (1) year period. The member will receive this No-Fault Eyeglass Guarantee as a service 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.

If you prefer to have a prescription from your own eye doctor, glasses can still be ordered thru NuVision under the Family Plan using your doctor's prescription.

MFB victory

Reform law thrown out

The Michigan Supreme Court has declared Michigan's Political Reform Law, PA 227, to be unconstitutional. Farm Bureau was one of the organizations that provided the necessary funds for challenging this unreasonable legislation.

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

Justices Lindemer, Williams, Mary Coleman, Fitzgerald and Ryan voted to declare the act

unconstitutional. Chief Justice Kavanagh and Justice Levin disagreed.

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

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

HB 6003 signed by governor

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 designation under the Farmland and 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 in return for 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.

mfrn farmers of the week

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Melvin Basel
240 acre Presque Isle County seed potatoe farm - Presque Isle Electric Co-op board - Presque Isle Farm Bureau board - Belknap Twp. treasurer - Mich. Crop Improvement Assn. Board President.



Allan Dutcher
900 acre Shiawassee County Dairy and Crop farm - Owosso Jaycees - Extension Advisory Board - 1974 Outstanding Young Farmer - Sunday School teacher - County Farm Bureau board.



Kenneth Graham
1800 acre Gratiot County cash crop farm - President of B & W Elevator - Mich. Bean Commission member - Serves on Agriculture Advisory Council - Local Church Board.

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

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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 statewide winner of the Freedoms Foundation America & Me essay contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group. (FBIG).

Martha's essay, based on the theme "America & Me," was chosen the best in the state in a competition 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 in July.

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; U.S. Congressman M. Robert Carr; State Senator Earl Nelson; Michigan State University President Clifton Wharton, Jr.; and University of Michigan President Robben Fleming.

In her essay, Martha praised the men who had the courage to sign the Declaration of Independence, risking everything they owned "because they considered liberty as much more important than security."

The second place winner in the state is Christine Wilson, a student at Muir Junior High in Milford, and third place was won by Lynn Lee Mattox, 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.

Winners of the fourth and fifth places, who will each receive a \$100 bond, are Allane Lawrence, Ovid Junior High, Ovid, and Gary Johnson, Malow Junior High, Washington.

The remaining top ten state winners are Mark Duluk, St. Mel School, Dearborn Heights; Tawana Lorick, Donovan North School, Flint; Kim Ferguson, Surline Junior High, West Branch; Shahram Nasserian, John Page Junior High, Madison Heights; and Nikki Tartaglia, 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. Agent participation was also at an all-time high this year, with nearly 100 FBIG agents making award presentations at more than 125 schools.

Started by FBIG in 1968 in conjunction with the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, the annual America & Me contest gives Michigan's young people a chance to seriously consider their roles in America's future.

From its beginning as a Lansing area contest, it has grown into a massive statewide program involving volunteer efforts of FBIG agents and home office employees.

As sponsor of the annual essay contest, FBIG has received the George Washington Medal from the Freedoms Foundation five years in a row.

Each year, the best excerpts from the essays are compiled into booklet form and

distributed to schools, government officials and the public.

Martha's winning essay appears below.

AMERICA & ME by Martha Michael

I'm proud to be an American. I thank God for the privilege of living in America, a land of riches, beauty and - greatest of all - freedom.

Many times we take our nation's freedom for granted. We often forget the high price of freedom and tend to think it is forever insured. And yet, it's not! The lives of many liberty - loving patriots were given 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 British punishment for treason was hanging and those fifty-six men realized this.

Not many Americans realize what was behind each of the signatures on that Declaration of Independence. Many of us think of them as poor soldiers or farmers, working men of low means. But the fact is, that all these men were well educated, and were men of wealth and luxury. Twenty-four of them were lawyers and jurists, nine were owners of large plantations. The rest were all well-to-do in their own particular field. Yet they all signed "their lives, their

fortunes, and their sacred honor" over to their nation.

These fifty-six Americans knew they were risking everything they owned and they all lived up to their pledge. Thomas McKean was forced to move his whole family five times within half a year. Richard Stocton was captured, mistreated, and died at 51 years of age. John Hart was forced to leave his dying wife and thirteen children and for a year he lived in forests and caves. To pay the French fleet, Thomas Nelson, on his own, raised two million dollars, wiping out his entire fortune. Later he told General 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.

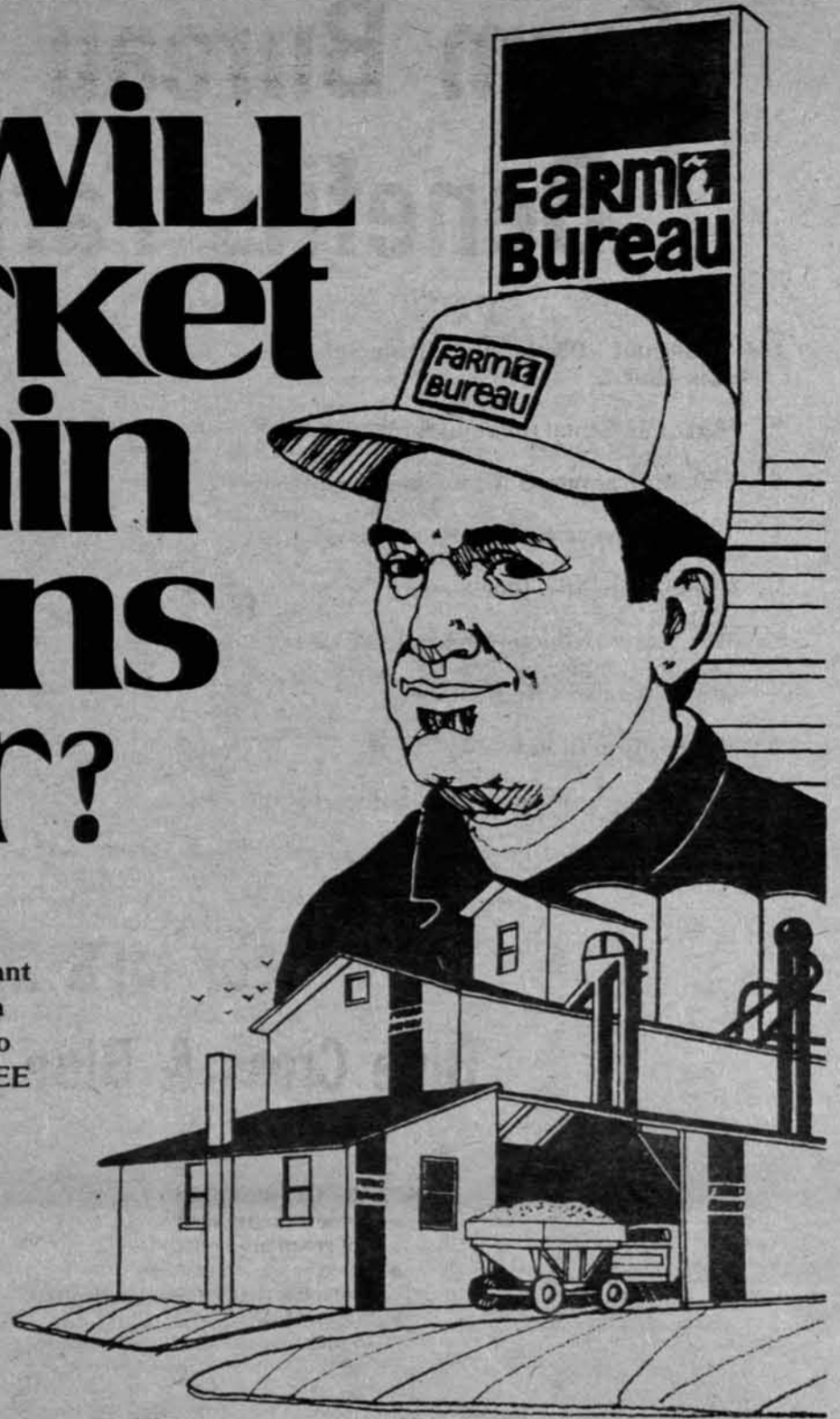
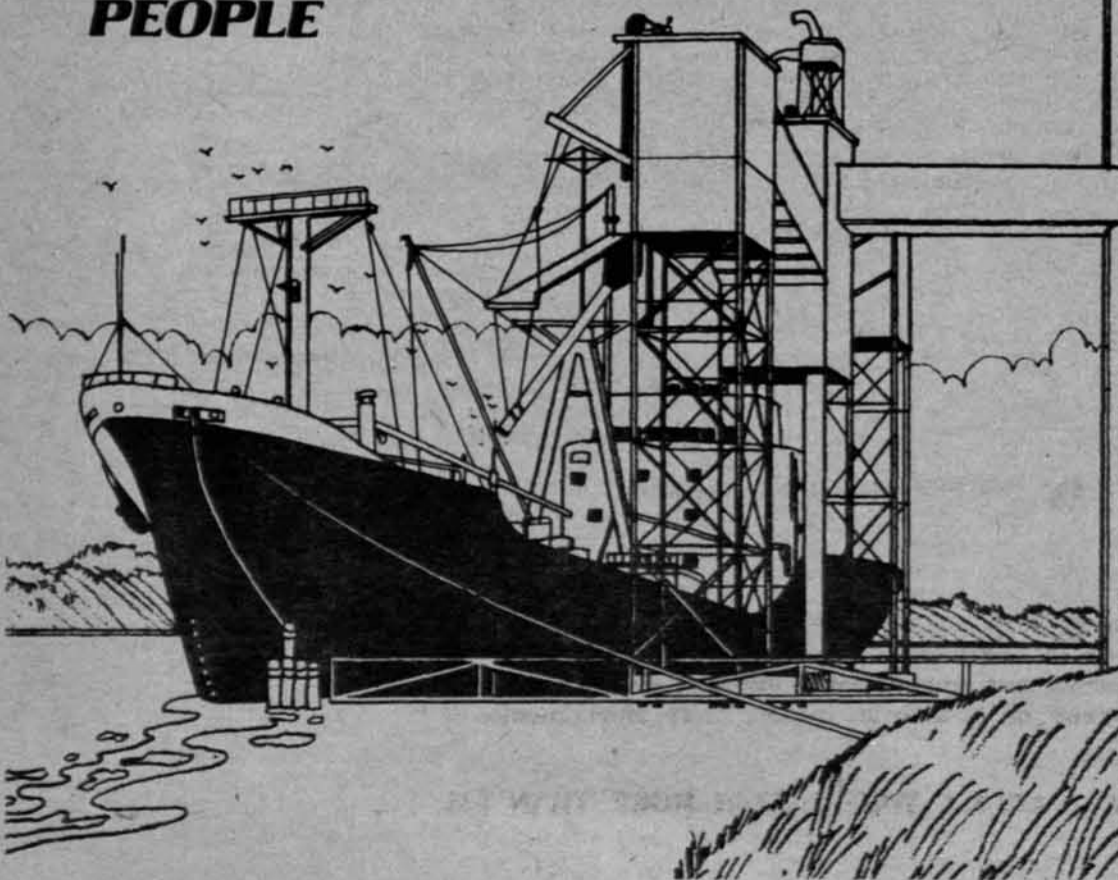
That's where I come in. As an American, I experience this hard-earned freedom every day. Thanks to those faithful men who signed the Declaration of Independence and many thousands more who "mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" for the sake of freedom, I live 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.

Where will you market your grain and beans this year?

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.

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Farm Bureau Mutual Fund - investment service 12. Farm Records Service 13. Farmers Petroleum Co-op. - Stock - \$5.00 purchase certificate 14. Group Purchasing Discount for Power Transmission products. 15. Farm Bureau Services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Egg Marketing b. Fowl Marketing c. Wheat Marketing d. \$5.00 Purchase Certificate 16. Commodity Division Approach <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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!



**Blue Cross
Blue Shield**
of Michigan

Farm Bureau Saves You

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

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?

Michigan Marketing Outlook

DAIRY

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

Utilization of Class 1 milk was 61.40 percent in March, up from 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 cooperatives and Federal Milk Market Orders in the pricing of milk. The critics charge that the coops have become so large as to be able to exert monopolistic force and, combined with federal regulations, are able to "unduly enhance" the price of dairy products.

These issues were addressed at a recent symposium sponsored by the National Milk Producers Federation. In the discussion at this symposium it was pointed out that farmers do have the legal right, under the Capper-Volstead Act, to organize cooperatives to market their products. The cooperatives and the Federal Milk Market Orders 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 cheaper today than ever. In 1940 it took about 20 minutes of work for the average factory worker to buy a half gallon of milk and nearly 30 minutes of work to buy one pound of butter. In 1975 it took only 10 minutes of work to buy the 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 18,700 acres in 1976. This represents a 5 percent increase from a year ago. Michigan however, continues to be the only major production area where acreage is increasing. Prospective acreage for harvest in the U.S. is estimated at 81,400 compared with 88,400 acres in 1975.

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 30c for number 1 grade is too high, the committee and MACMA staff are engaged in extensive negotiations to reach agreement on a price.

**Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director
MDD**

STRAWBERRIES

Michigan's strawberry acreage is expected to decline again in 1976. According to the Michigan crop reporting service harvest is estimated at 2,700 acres, 3 percent lower than last year. Of the major strawberry producing states only California is expected to harvest more acres of strawberries this year. Harvest is underway on the West Coast and will begin in Michigan's southwestern counties around the first of June. Conditions during early and mid spring have been good to excellent stimulating good plant growth. There appears to be little winter damage.

With estimates from Mexico stating that a shortfall of 40-50 million pounds is possible and with practically no carry in of fruit from last year's pack, there is expected to be a lack of strawberries that could continue through all of 1977. According to a recent Food Institute report, "demand is tremendous". This should be good news for strawberry growers as the marketing year begins here in Michigan.

**Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director
MDD**

BEEF

After favorable returns for most of 1975, cattle prices dropped back down into a loss position early this year. A drop of more than \$10 per hundred from mid January saw prices for choice beef dip below the \$35 per hundred mark in mid March. There are probably many reasons that could be listed.

Record cow and non-fed slaughter coupled with a surge in fed cattle marketings, confusion over the new grade standards, consumer adjustment to fed beef after a full year of non-fed marketings to name just a few.

Cattle prices have reached their low level, at least for this year, and have made rapid advances back to a paying proposition. We should see continued strong prices advancing near the \$50 mark by mid summer and continuing relatively strong the rest of the year. There are several positive points that lead to this optimistic view. The cow herds are now beginning to restock which reduces the cow numbers from slaughter and the number of heifers that enter the feed chain; thus, strengthening the livestock markets from feeders all the way through fed cattle marketing.

If, in fact, the consumer is shifting to leaner meat this will mean that cattle will go to market at a lighter weight which will further shorten the supply of beef.

Feel the markets out carefully

on this one and be prepared to alter your feeding programs if necessary. With the economy picking back up and the onset of the steak fry season, I seriously doubt that the consumer will be hood winked into buying something she doesn't want just because the name has been changed.

**Tom Reed
Market Development Division**

CORN

On Friday, April 16th, the U.S.D.A. issued a release on expected plantings that put corn at 82.7 million acres; 6 percent more than last year and 2 percent higher than the January report. At the same time soybean planting intentions dropped 10 percent indicating a present price advantage to corn production.

With total corn stock carryover sharply higher than a year ago, providing adequate old crop corn added to the prospect of a record new crop, downward pressure on prices in the months to follow can be expected.

Tight farmer holding will remain the key support factor in the corn market on a short term but will not have much effect on prices if we, in fact, do see an average yield of corn on more than 82 million acres.

We have seen some increase in export demand in recent weeks which if it continues will help ease the pressure. Another point to keep in mind is that we are a long way from harvest time and a great deal can happen both at home and abroad in an election year that would be impossible to predict at this time.

**Tom Reed
Market Development Division**

Supply



By Greg Sheffield

Report

Spring has come at this writing, middle of April. Spring broke way ahead of normal, all at once, all across the country and Michigan was not left behind. A great rush in demand for fertilizers and application equipment, as predicted, has turned into local shortage situations due to the tremendous job of getting everything to all farmers at once. As usual, farmers who ordered early and took delivery were in the best position to plant early and proceed without supply worries. Some fertilizer manufacturers have moved to higher prices. Farm Bureau has not raised prices back and has sufficient fertilizer and pesticides for its patrons. Over most of the state it is successfully meeting the challenges of delivery to cooperating farmers.

The short lived April trucking strike did take an economic toll and delayed supplies at a crucial time. If you still haven't sufficient fertilizer, your Farm Bureau dealer is your best bet, as Farm Bureau dealer supplies are being replaced as quickly as possible.

Pesticides - We beat the anticipated transportation crunch in the area of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides by getting FBS dealers to take supplies early. Dealers have a

good supply of pesticides. However, this supply won't last and replenishment may be a problem.

Hardware - A steel price hike hit as predicted. On April 1, steel went up about five percent. This will be reflected in fences, livestock equipment, building supplies and other products.

There's still a good supply of mowers, rototillers, garden tractors and a grand array of garden tools for the home gardener at dealers. With the increased popularity of gardening these are again in much demand. Get what you need while the selection is excellent.

Water softeners have become popular with Farm Bureau patrons. The advantages of treated water will not be fully realized until a softener is put in operation.

Buildings made by Farm Bureau Building Centers are taking a spurt. Both commercial and farm buildings, including livestock systems, are handled.

Feeds - The Feed Department's Farmer Feed Meetings have continued with excellent farmer turn outs and many signing up for feed delivery at guaranteed prices, including price advantages if prices drop. These meetings have been popular all across the state.

A Feed and Animal Health Seminar was held with product knowledge being imparted to dealers. Dealers were given information for farmer patrons covering the latest developments in feeds, animal health products and ways for farmers to save time, labor and increase profits.

A new, direct trucking shipment system for dealers has been established. Feeds will be shipped directly to dealers from the Battle Creek Feed Plant with no stops at intermediate points for transfers. This "Peddle Run" idea has been used successfully for other Farm Bureau products.

Cash and Carry Tire Program - Prices have dropped with a new statewide Farmers Petroleum Cash and Carry Tire Program. The new program was inaugurated at a special meeting held for all FPC dealers on March 16. All dealers agreed to an unprecedented system of advertising one price and having uniform low prices on tires throughout the state at all FPC outlets. Promotions will be forthcoming covering the new Cash & Carry advantages. An insert will be run in the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS. The same inserts will be available for dealer use in newspapers, shoppers guides and for mailings, etc. Radio and other promotions will be utilized and

continue to be generated to keep the program moving.

Strikes - The truckers' strike in early April hurt the supply of tires since stocks were already reduced. Rubber workers encouraged by the truckers' success are also planning to strike at this writing.

CF Petroleum Company - The target date for full implementation of the integrated crude-to-refinery - to-dealer-outlets program has been delayed by red tape and federal regulations. The anticipated benefits of the new petroleum refinery purchase will have its impact soon. In the meantime, strategy and blueprint sessions continue and supply channels are being shaped up. The new target date is the end of April for product to start flowing.

New Oil Well - FPC is excited with the new Southern Illinois discovery well that came in. Daily production will be modest, but good reserves are indicated.

New Fuel, Tire, Accessory Stores - The Caro FPC Grand Opening on March 25 was successful. Over \$19,000 worth of supplies were sold. Over 1,500 people attended and new patrons continue to increase business. Emmett's FPC Grand Opening recorded similar success on March 30-31 with new business still coming in steadily.

MFB members to USDA cherry board

Four Michigan Farm Bureau members have been appointed to the USDA's Cherry Administrative Board. The board operates under a federal marketing order for red tart cherries grown in Michigan, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

Appointed as a grower representative from district 3 is Donald Nugent, Frankfort, Mich. with Norman R. Veliguet, Kewadin, Mich. as alternate. Grower representative from district 4 is James W. Dittmer, Ludington, Mich. with Rodney Bull, Bailey, Mich. as alternate.

George Dever, fruit and vegetable official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), said a major function of the board is to analyze supply and demand conditions and recommend to USDA the total quantity of cherries that may be shipped under the marketing order during specified time periods. This helps stabilize supplies and prevent market shortages and gluts.

The board consists of 12 members - six producers and six handlers - with an alternate for 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.

reason is inflation. When loss payments and building repair costs balloon because of inflation, the premiums collected are no longer adequate to pay losses and expenses.

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 putting 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.

The same inflationary 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 replaced 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 \$562. A study of the table below shows how auto repair costs paid by Farm

(Continued on page 15)

Know the law



How wide is too wide when moving farm equipment on public roads? This farm wife found out.

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 wider than 108 inches shall not be moved on the highway between the hours of sunset and sunrise."

Also required in Section 717(f), No vehicle or farm tractor, farm 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 husbandry, farm tractor or special mobile equipment shall be identified with reflective device -- a slow moving vehicle emblem (SMV).



Slow moving vehicle emblems are required on implements and tractors.

Heritage of 76 Tours

July 24 - August 1, 1976
August 14-22, 1976
September 11-18, 1976

(Depart and return from Detroit)

TOUR ITINERARY

Saturday - Fly American Airlines non-stop from Detroit to Boston.

Sunday - Tour of Boston, Bunkerhill, Frigate Constitution, Lexington and Concord.

Monday - Tour to Plymouth, Plymouth Rock, library of John Q. Adams and birthplace of John Hancock.

Tuesday - Fly to Philadelphia to visit the restored buildings and sights of America's birthplace of liberty and freedom. Tour Valley Forge enroute to Arlington, Virginia.

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

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

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

Saturday - Devoted to visiting new Busch Gardens outside Williamsburg.

Sunday - 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 _____

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 taking a bold step toward economic vitality that may serve as a prototype for areas all over the country.

Hanging out a welcome sign for polluters hasn't always been Muskegon County's style. 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 other place to go. 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 stock of natural resources.

Muskegon had a history of environmental degradation. Its thick blanket of pine forest was stripped away during the lumber boom of the last century, and much of the barren land the lumberjacks left behind had neither the topsoil nor the drainage capacity to support a viable agricultural economy. With industrialization came foundries and other heavy industries that mined the sand from the shoreline dunes and poured pollutants into the lakes. Eventually the exploitation of natural resources began to eat away at the foundations of the economy.

Wastewater Management System

Recognizing that physical environment, and particularly the lakes and shorelines, were potentially the county's greatest asset, the choice was made to halt the dumping of wastes into local lakes and watercourses by launching a unique new system of wastewater treatment.

Muskegon county's wastewater irrigation system, which began operation in May, 1973, is not just a super sewer. It is the key to recreational development through cleaner waterways; to agricultural development, through soil enrichment; to industrial development, through aid to firms plagued with ever-higher standard for pollution control.

The hallmark of the Muskegon approach is that it goes beyond conventional secondary treatment, which leaves large doses of viruses, phosphates, and other chemicals in the treated water that is returned to lakes and streams. Muskegon goal is to achieve a third level of treatment, removing 98 to 100 percent of all pollutants in industrial and domestic wastewater. In short, it expects to meet or exceed all present and anticipated water quality standards of the Federal government and the State of Michigan.

The theory behind the wastewater system is that you never really get rid of wastes simply by throwing them away. They remain a part of the environment, affecting other parts for good or ill. If wastes can be relocated to a useful place in the environment, their effect is for the good. Muskegon's goal is to stop dumping wastewater into lakes and rivers, where it is a pollutant, and put it on the land, where it becomes a resource.

How it Works

Here's how the wastewater system works. The county's sewage is collected from 14 municipalities, with some 140,000 residents and 200 industries. The wastewater is treated by two independent subsystems, one serving the Muskegon-Mona Lake area, and another smaller one serving the Whitehall-Montague area.

In the metropolitan area, water is collected from the existing sewer lines by a 13-mile interceptor system. It is then pumped 11 miles inland to the major treatment site, which covers an area of 10,000 acres. At the site, the raw wastes are given the equivalent of convention secondary treatment -- three days of aeratin and mixing in open air biological treatment cells.

The effluent from the cells may take either of two routes. Usually it goes into a settling basin where solids settle out and the process of natural stabilization takes place. But it can also be routed into one of two huge storage lagoons -- each an 850 acre lake -- to be held temporarily until irrigation takes place.

When the liquid is withdrawn from the settling basin or storage lagoon, it is disinfected by chlorination. After the chlorine dosage, the water is clean enough to be suitable for full body contact recreation. Then, it is pumped out to the fields and spray irrigated over 6,000 acres of sandy, formerly unproductive land.

The benefits of irrigation are twofold. First, the nutrients in the wastewater enrich the land. Second, the process of passing through the "living filter" of the soil purifies the water. Nutrients and phosphates are taken up by plants or removed by the soil. Suspended matter and color are removed as the water percolates through the soil. Heavy metals attach themselves to organic matter and clay particles. And viruses are held by the soil long enough to be decomposed into innocuous protein.

The irrigation process is accomplished by 55 rotating spray rigs with radii from 750 to 1400 feet -- roughly four city blocks long. Spray from the rigs is directed downward under low pressure, minimizing loss by evaporation and producing the effect of a gentle rainfall. The time period

of a single rotation can be varied from one to seven days. In periods of heavy rainfall, or during the winter months when the ground is frozen, water can be held in the storage lagoons until it can be used for irrigation.

After irrigation and filtration through the soil, 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 on the site, which might make the soil unfit for cultivation. It also provides quality control by allowing groundwater to leave the management area only at specified points after careful monitoring. The treatment facility is designed to serve the 1992 requirements of the county, with a population of 170,000 persons generating an average flow of 43.4 million gallons per day.

The county has set up a solid waste management system on a part of the wastewater site. The location has special advantages for a sanitary landfill, since its built-in drainage system checks the problem of polluted water seeping through the refuse to contaminate the underground water supply. The solid waste program may eventually be expanded to serve not only Muskegon County, but the whole surrounding region, so that the volume of wastes will be great enough to support a new industry built around resource reclamation.

The possibility of locating a nuclear power facility on the wastewater site has also been studied. If the nuclear plant were built, it would have the option of using the wastewater 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

crop growth and possibly lengthening the growing season. Most important the nuclear part would make it possible to remove power generating facilities from the shorelines, freeing them for other more appropriate uses.

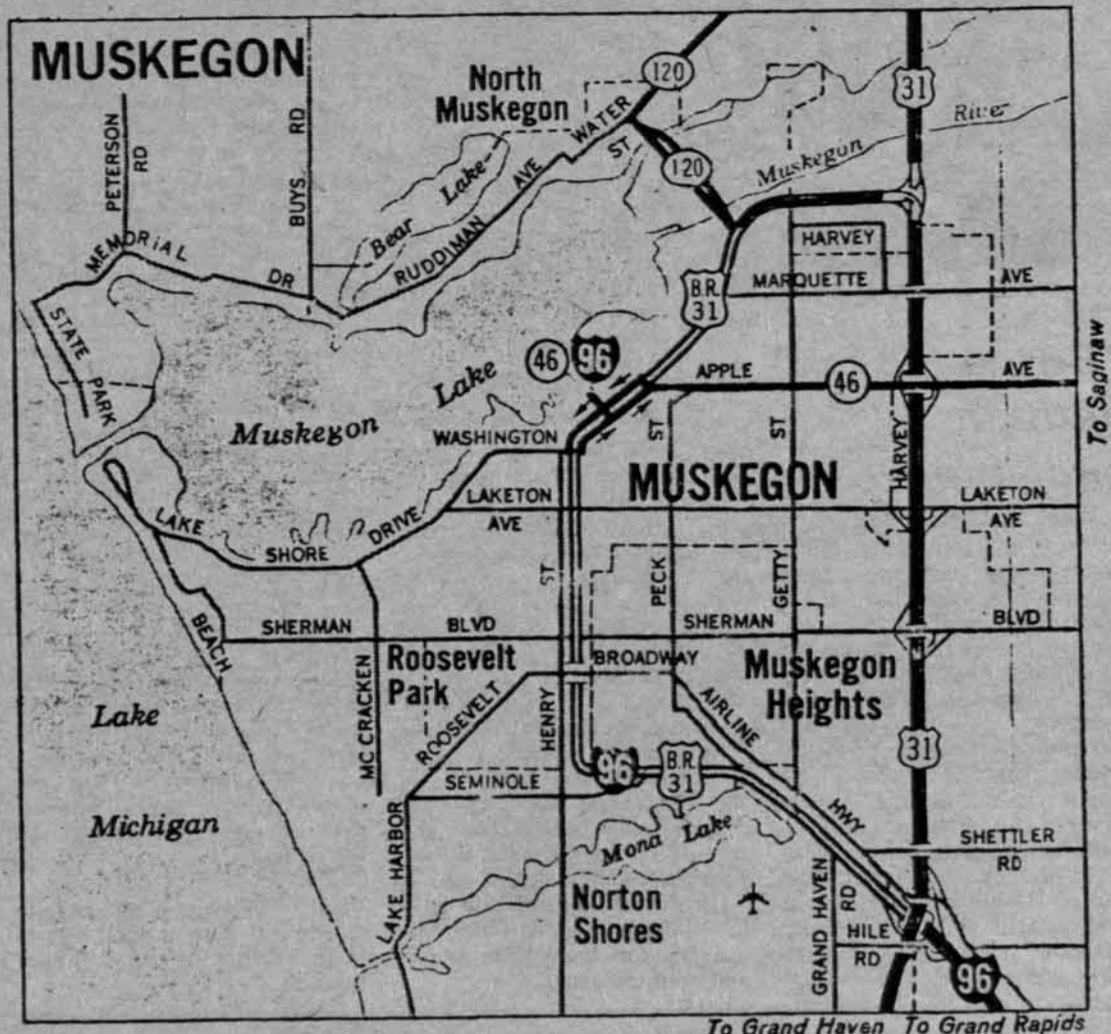
Areawide Waste Management Planning

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 or livestock and crop production. The plan 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. 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.

Whether the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System will offer dramatic new answers to urban waste problems remain 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.



DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES
Manager Member Relations



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.

**FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
GROUP**



Farm Bureau Mutual • Farm Bureau Life • Community Service Insurance