

Referendum called

Soybean growers to vote

A referendum on a proposed Michigan Soybean Promotion and Development program will be conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture June 14 through 30.

B. Dale Ball, MDA director, said the proposed program, if approved, would provide for advertising and promotion, research, projects to expand markets, and market information. Administrative costs would be limited to not more than 15 percent of net income, and an exemption clause would be provided. Producers would be

assessed one-half cent per bushel to finance the program.

A public hearing was held by MDA April 12, after more than 300 soybean producers signed a petition requesting adoption of a program, according to Ball.

Ballots will be mailed to the state's approximately 5,400 soybean producers, whose 1975 crop was about 17 million bushels. Ballots will also be available in the department's Lansing office and in Extension offices of soybean producing counties.

Grain marketing meet planned

The Second Annual Grain Marketing Seminar sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau will be held on June 29, 1976 at the Hilton Inn, Lansing.

The seminar is designed to help you in making management decisions in marketing which give you the best possible prices.

Among the topics to be discussed are: Market Analysis and Market Outlook; Grading and Inspection Changes and How They Will Affect You;

Agricultural Finance -- How To Work With Your Banker in Making Marketing Decisions.

This promises to be an interesting and educational Marketing Seminar. We are looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, June 29th. The seminar will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Cost of the noon lunch will be \$4.00. Please make reservations thru your County Secretary or by calling Michigan Farm Bureau, phone (517) 485-8121.

On the way to Valley Forge



Michigan's official bicentennial covered wagon way to Valley Forge, Pa. There it will participate in passed through rural Eaton County in May on its the nation's birthday celebration July 4.

MEE Saginaw terminal to be operational by mid-July

The major Michigan Elevator Exchange Saginaw terminal is scheduled to be back in operation by mid-July.

This 2,000,000-bu. complex located on the Saginaw River was put out of action January 22 by a blast and fire, but work already is underway to restore this important agri-business facility for Michigan farmers.

While work on the main head house remains to be started, a new loading and unloading leg is being installed adjacent to the storage silos, enabling the terminal to begin accepting self-unloading trucks about July 10.

The new leg, equipped with connecting belts to move grain into most of the storage silos, will tower 60 feet above the bin level.

Also scheduled for simultaneous

completion are repairs to the terminal dryers which suffered some damage in the January blast.

The new installation will re-open more than 1,000,000-bu. of terminal facilities for use during the current harvest year.

Although conceived initially as an emergency measure, the new loading leg will be kept intact even after repairs are completed to the main head house. Thus, in the future, the added loading and unloading facilities will provide auxiliary services during periods of peak terminal activity.

When the new leg is completed, the terminal will be able to load grain and bean trains but renovation of facilities to load ships from the river side will have to wait until later.

The new leg will have the capacity

of handling 10,000-bu. per hour.

Structural engineers have examined foundations and basic structural strength of the area where the head house was located. This tower was virtually torn apart by the January explosion and the remnant walls had to be demolished in the interests of safety.

Plans call for rebuilding the head house as soon as the engineering analysis is completed and new designs are drafted. The head house area contains the central controls for grain moving equipment servicing the multiple silo bins. Very little of the original equipment could be salvaged following the tragic explosion and fire.

Meanwhile, work is progressing on the 2,000,000-bu. addition to the Michigan Elevator Exchange's Ottawa

Lake terminal near Toledo. This addition will increase grain handling facilities by 50 per cent at Ottawa Lake.

While the Saginaw MEE terminal has been out of action, the reserve facilities serving farmers at Ottawa Lake have witnessed a sharp increase in activity.

During April, for example, some 1,050 inbound truckloads of grain were received at Ottawa Lake and 150 truckloads were outbound.

The importance of both terminals to Michigan agriculture has long been recognized for their value in the marketing system. Because of this Michigan Elevator Exchange is moving rapidly to improve and expand these grain and bean handling facilities to serve Michigan farmers as the 1976 harvest season nears.

It's spreading again

Look out for the govt. umbrella

It's a popular notion today, it seems, that the average citizen does not have the intelligence to save himself from being bilked, deceived or malnourished. And so he must come under the ever-expanding umbrella of "protection" provided by federal and state government regulatory agencies.

The thought of some Great Protector in Washington and another in Lansing -- watching over our health, safety, environment, economy, etc. -- may be comforting, but let's not be lulled into complacency. The cost of being wrapped in the mythical Great Protector's "security blanket" is high -- in terms of money, loss of freedom, and a strangulation of our competitive private enterprise system.

Currently under consideration here in Michigan is legislation designed to -- once again -- "protect" consumers, this time against insurance companies and their high premiums. HB 6175 is known as the Assessment Bill, because it would assess Michigan insurance companies a tax, based on their premium incomes, for the operation of the State Insurance Bureau, the government agency which regulates the insurance industry. The Insurance Bureau is now financed from the state's general fund and triennial examination fees, paid by the insurance companies. Under the proposed legislation, Michigan insurance companies would carry the full load of financing the agency which "polices" them.

Sound reasonable? To many consumers and legislators, it probably does. But let's take a closer look at how it affects you -- the farmer, the Farm Bureau member, the consumer. This "harmless" looking piece of legislation, and other related bills (regulating health care plans, dental care corporations, etc. -- all by the Insurance Bureau) would impose a "hidden tax" on you, regardless of where you buy your insurance.

Consumers who expect protection from higher premium rates through this legislation will be disappointed. It's a simple economic fact of life -- the assessment imposed on the insurance companies to finance the Bureau will -- camouflaged or hidden or indirect -- come out of YOUR pocketbook.

In addition to the economic concerns is the fact that it

means more regulations, more intrusion of government into the operations of private businesses. How long can our private enterprise system -- the system which has made this young nation of ours the envy of the world -- survive in the face of continuing interference of government regulatory agencies in businesses? The over-regulation of business (including agriculture) by state and federal agencies is strangling efficient operations, at a cost of billions of dollars to consumers, and represents a very real attack on our proven economic system.

This proposed legislation also opens the door to another growing bureaucracy. Government agencies -- state or federal -- have one common characteristic -- an almost unlimited potential for growth. We have no reason to believe the Insurance Bureau would be an exception to the rule. It takes a big budget and lots of highly-paid personnel to "protect" consumers. And remember -- consumer protection programs are not something you voluntarily sign up for; you shall be protected -- like it or not -- and you shall pay for it!

Farm Bureau members have expressed their concern, through policy, about the growing power of regulatory agencies and have asked that they be brought under control. Let's take this opportunity to execute this policy and, at the same time, reaffirm our basic belief in the private enterprise system.

First, express your concern on HB 6175 to your state representative, pointing out some of the underlying dangers of this legislation which he may not have considered. Right now, he may be of the conviction that what's good for the consumer (voter) is good for him. You'll be doing him a favor by explaining that this legislation is NOT good for the consumer. You might remind him, too, that as a farmer, YOU are a part of one of the state's largest consumer groups.

Secondly, you can talk to other consumers who may not realize that there is no such thing as a "free lunch," that they will pay for a "protection" that is highly questionable. Tell them: "Do not ask for what you will wish you had not got," something which happens so often when consumers demand -- and get -- "protection" and, too late, discover they have to pay for it.

PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN



MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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OSHA calls for new "Field sanitation" rules

New "field sanitation" regulations have been proposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that, if adopted, would require farmers who use field labor to place toilet and hand washing facilities within a five minute walk of each employee.

According to the proposed regulations one toilet and hand washing facility per 40 workers must be provided, except where four or less workers are in a field, in which case transportation must be provided to the facilities.

M. J. Buschlen, manager of Michigan Agricultural Services Association, suggests that in-

terested persons with comments, objections or suggested changes to the proposed regulations should write to:

U.S. Department of Labor
OSHA Docket Officer
Docket No. S-307
Room N 3620

3rd and Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20210

Buschlen advises those who write to OSHA to be explicit and specific about how this regulation might affect your operation. "Polite, friendly, businesslike comments will receive the most consideration," says Buschlen.

Those who intend to write must do so by July 6.

Farm News editor to go to Michigan Farmer

Jim Phillips, editor of the Michigan Farm News for the past two years, will be leaving the Michigan Farm Bureau June 4 to become assistant editor for the Michigan Farmer magazine.

In announcing Phillips' resignation, Larry R. Ewing, Director of Information and Public Relations, said: "Jim has

made many contributions toward improvement of the Michigan Farm News and I'm sure members throughout the state join me in wishing him success in his new position."

A new Farm News editor will be announced in the near future, Ewing said.

DONNA

Marshmallow me

June Dairy Month has lost a lot of its fanfare, on the simple premise that EVERY month should be dairy month. Good thinking -- but I still think it's appropriate for that wondrous animal -- the cow -- to have its own month, a time to consider how much better our life is because of her. It's the actual cow, more than all the good things she produces, that receives my honors. I'm a marshmallow where all animals are concerned, but the cow is something special.

Animals know, instinctively, when they're dealing with a marshmallow, and act or react accordingly. When I was a toddler on our ranch in South Dakota, I sneaked away from the watchful eye of my mother to explore the corral. When she found me, I was petting the hind leg of a horse which had the reputation of being a dangerous bucking bronco. The bravest cow poke on the ranch wouldn't have chanced approaching this feisty animal from the rear, but the horse stood patiently as the two-year-old towhead patted the "nice horsey."

My marshmallow attitude toward animals was a real problem for my parents. When we moved from the South Dakota ranch to a small Michigan farm, it got worse. Every animal on the farm was a pet, with a name to fit its particular personality. To eat them would be like cannibalism; I mean, what would Dale Evans do without Roy Rogers if we ate him for Sunday dinner? Every time we had chicken, I'd run out

to the barnyard to see if Red and Rosie and Tiny were still there to confirm my mother's assurances that our main dish did not come from our farm.

It was a traumatic experience for me when we sold the stock and moved to town. When the farmer who bought our chickens came to pick them up, we were one short on the count. A suspicious mother finally located Red, adjusting comfortably to habitation in my bedroom, making a cozy nest out of my bed pillow. Red went to another home, along with her brothers and sisters, and I worried for many months about her welfare. Her new owner didn't seem to take seriously my instructions for the care and feeding of this very special chicken. I'm afraid Red missed her usual breakfasts of oatmeal with milk and brown sugar.

Through the years, I have been taken advantage of by numerous cats and dogs and hamsters, not only my own but those of friends and neighbors and strangers. They spread the word in the animal Kingdom, I think. "Hey, there's a marshmallow living in that house. All you have to do is roll your big brown eyes and she'll give you the food off her plate and let you sit on the davenport."

It's the eyes that do it, I'm sure, and that brings me back to my topic, the cow. There's something about the way a cow looks at you, like you're the most interesting person in the whole wide world.

(Cont. on page 13)

MOVING?

Planning to move? Let us know 8 weeks in advance so you won't miss a single issue of the Michigan Farm News. Attach old label and

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

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City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
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Proper Soil Stewardship Was Gradual Development on Farms



When white men learned from the Indians about corn, they also learned the Indian custom of planting corn seed with dead fish. The decaying fish, or sometimes just fish heads, would provide a measure of soil fertility for the corn plants which were to become a mainstay of New World agriculture.

The Indians taught the early settlers to bury the fish, then plant the corn seed in a small circle surrounding them. Presumably, the settlers also learned from the Indians how to keep their dogs from digging the fish out of the ground. For 40 days after planting time, Indian dogs had to get around on three legs. Each dog would have one forepaw tied to his neck so he couldn't possibly dig in the cornfields.

Soil husbandry, though, was not a mainstay of Indian, or of early American agricul-

ture. The early settlers were notoriously land hungry. And they wanted not just land, but cleared, open fields to be plowed and planted.

Taking their cue once again from the Indians, the settlers soon learned that it wasn't necessary to chop trees down to clear a field. It was only necessary to girdle them by chopping through the bark all the way around the trunks. Thus the trees died. Whole forests were destroyed in this abused manner, and well into the 19th century, travelers could ride from the Atlantic to Missouri through endless miles of arboreal cemeteries.

But it was the beginning of American agriculture. With the trees dead, no leaves formed on the branches. Sunlight could reach into the rich humus of the forest floor, which yielded a bounty of grain and vegetables and grass for livestock.

While this method of land clearing is a modern conservationist's nightmare, it would be hard to fault the early settlers for their lack of foresight. America was land rich and labor poor. The first farmers saw no need to laboriously clear the land by felling trees and hauling them away. When the fields of one area wore out, there were always fertile fields available farther west, at a few dollars an acre.

Only the thrifty and industrious Pennsylvania Dutch, who scorned girdling, cleared the land clean - even to stump pulling - the first season. They were also the only group of settlers who made good use of the animal manure which was and is an inevitable by-

product of farming.

Visitors from Europe, where cow and horse dung were properly valued, were appalled at the waste of this valuable resource in America. A huge stockbarn on the estate of General Phylip Schuyler, by New York's Hudson River, was built so that the animal droppings fell through the floor to the ground below. From there, the spring rains washed the wastes directly into the Hudson river.

An English farmer visiting Ohio in the early 1800's wrote with astonishment in his journal, "I dare say the Inn we put up in does not tumble into the water less than 300 loads of horse dung every year."

Even with all this mismanagement and waste, though, some American farmers were beginning to adopt the practices that would help change the young nation into the world's most abundant food producer. Crop rotation was beginning to gain favor in the long settled regions, thanks partly to the introduction of clover by the Reverend Jared Eliot of Connecticut in the mid-1700's. A Frenchman gave alfalfa to the new world.

And Jefferson, a great believer in crop rotation, was among the first proponents of contour plowing, a practice that promised to do much to minimize soil erosion.

For AFBF news

Order the Farm Bureau News

Current actions and events -- national and international -- which affect farmers and ranchers are covered by the FARM BUREAU NEWS, the official weekly newsletter of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Insight into the activities and efforts of Farm Bureau on national legislative and government affairs matters also is provided. This makes the FARM BUREAU NEWS a vital reference for members of farm families to help their organization to achieve its objective of providing improved profitability to farming and ranching and a higher quality of life for rural people.

Also featured are concise presentations of pertinent farm business facts, developments, and trends. This is the kind of information farmers and ranchers need to stay ahead in their business.

Current developments within Farm Bureau -- membership status, economic services for members, commodity actions, personnel, activities of Women's Committees and Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committees -- are regularly covered by FARM BUREAU NEWS.

The weekly FARM BUREAU NEWS is the only national publication available to members at this time.

By having a copy, a member family can become better informed on actions and issues affecting their livelihood and life. Even more important, it can help them play an active role through Farm Bureau in surfacing, analyzing, and finding solutions to problems.

Any individual may subscribe to FARM BUREAU NEWS. The cost for a single subscription is \$4.00 per year. The group rate -- for 25 or more members -- is only \$2.00 per person through State and County Farm Bureaus. This is a real bargain as many national newsletters cost \$25.00 per year and more.

For further information on the newsletter, write to: Business Manager, FARM BUREAU NEWS, 425 13th Street, N.W., Suite 723, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Asparagus promotion turned down by growers

A proposal to establish an asparagus promotion and development program was narrowly defeated in a referendum conducted in May by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

B. Dale Ball, MDA director, said only 200 ballots were cast, although more than 300 asparagus growers had earlier signed a petition requesting adoption of a promotion and development program for the commodity.

Asparagus producers voted 129 yes, 71 no on the proposal. On a production volume basis, the vote was 64 percent yes (5,478,779 pounds) and 36 percent no (3,080,898 pounds).

However, under state law a favorable vote of two-thirds of the growers voting, representing 51 percent of their tonnage, or a favorable vote of 51 percent of the growers voting, representing two-thirds of their tonnage, was required for adoption.

The program, if adopted, would have provided for advertising and promotion, research, projects to expand asparagus markets, and assessment of producers for funds to conduct the activities.

In 1975, Michigan produced 19,800,000 pounds of asparagus, valued at \$4.8 million, on 17,800 acres. The state ranks third in production among the 50 states.

Farrow is Northeast regional representative

Kenneth Farrow, former regional representative in the west region and MACMA staff member took over regional representative duties in the Northeast region May 5 according to Chuck Burkett, director of MFB's field operations division.

He is replacing Bob Lee who is returning to the land and taking over the family farm.

Farrow is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a major in Agriculture. He and wife Kathy will be moving to the Northeast region shortly.



Kenneth Farrow



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CAPITOL REPORT

The sunset law

Robert E. Smith



SUNSET LAW

House Minority Leader Dennis Cawthorne has proposed that Michigan adopt the "sunset law" concept now used in Colorado. This would place expiration dates upon all state programs and agencies, including social services, and would require positive legislative action to continue a program. Rep. Cawthorne believes the idea could be worked into budget bills for the fiscal year that is two years away. He said that such a program would "force department heads to stay more on the beam and demonstrate the programs are working." Governor Milliken will be requested to appoint a task force to study the "sunset" approach during the next year. It has been suggested that 1/5 of all state programs could be terminated each year and that over a five-year period of time, all programs would be studied for their effectiveness and the renewal of any program would be based on continued need.

Many maintain that current appropriations procedures give momentum toward continuation of existing programs. However, "zero" budgeting has been in effect this year which requires many agencies to fully justify their continued existence. The "sunset" idea has much merit, however, it can cut both ways. For example, many program appropriations essential to agriculture would be affected.

This means that the Legislature would have an opportunity to re-enact them. Farmers would have to be on their toes with strong support in order to provide necessary support. Several important agricultural programs were targets under the "zero" budgeting program. For example, early in the year, the Bureau of Management and Budget recommended that the fruit and vegetable inspection service program be terminated. This is an essential program for producers of fruits and vegetables and also processors and consumers. The program has been funded 1/3 users and 2/3 by the state. Farm Bureau was effective in helping to reinstate the program at a 50-50 cost sharing in the recommended budget. However, the House Appropriations Subcommittee headed by Rep. Hellman has restored the 1/3 - 2/3 funding level based on last year's budget. Similar problems were involved with FFA funding and Soil Conservation appropriations.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

There are two tax bills now on the House calendar that will be of interest to every property owner. H.B. 4954 (Rep. Powell, et al) would eliminate land on which there is a public right of way, such as highways, from all forms of property taxation. This could be especially important to farmers who have property along highway rights of way. It is estimated that about one acre in

a 40 is taken up by the highway. Rep. Powell introduced the legislation because of a problem of a farmer in his district whose farmland is on a corner and has considerable road frontage.

H.B. 6139 (Rep. Mathieu, et al) amends the section of the Tax Act which defines "cash value" by adding "the assessor shall not consider normal repairs and maintenance in determining the true cash value of property for assessment purposes . . ." It contains a list of repairs that would not be considered "a part of a complete or major modernization" for assessment purposes including painting, lawns and landscaping, siding roof, porch, etc., repair of existing masonry, repair or addition of gutters, storm windows and doors, insulation, etc. Complete rewiring, replacement of plumbing, new furnace, new kitchen cabinets, new ceilings, walls, removable petitions, etc., etc., etc. The above is only part of a longer list.

H.B. 6315 (Rep. Forbes, et al) has been introduced to amend the State Construction Code Act of 1972. The bill broadens the agricultural definition and continues the key provision providing that the word "structure" in the Act "does not include a structure incident to the use for agricultural purposes of the land on which the structure is located . . . or part or parts thereof, and or equipment therein." The broadening of the agricultural definition

should further help to exempt agricultural buildings from building codes. However, to be sure, farmers should check with their local officials. The Construction Code passed in 1972 permitted local units of government to adopt recognized national building codes and in that manner, comply with the State Act. In some areas, local codes apply to agriculture.

H.B. 6296 (Rep. Gast, et al) would amend the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act. (MIOSHA) by providing that a state standard "shall not be stricter or greater than a federal standard covering the same or similar subject". This is important legislation inasmuch as there have been attempts to make state standards stronger than existing federal standards, thereby eliminating uniformity, creating confusion and leading to harassment.

There are plans and bills for codification of several different sets of laws. The latest is perhaps the largest bill ever written, containing 441 pages. H.B. 6306 is "a bill to protect and promote public health, to codify, revise, consolidate, classify and add to the laws relating to public health; to provide for the prevention and control of disease and disabilities . . ." Other provisions relate to administration, financing, numerous health services,

(Cont. on page 15)

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Single business tax amendments called for

Several efforts are being made to amend the Single Business Tax (passed last year) in order to moderate its impact on small businesses. Two identical bills have been introduced, S.B. 1328 (Davis, et al) and H.B. 6072 (Ostling, et al) and would affect those with gross receipts of \$1.5 million or less. If the federal taxable income figure is less than 1 percent of the gross receipts, tax would be reduced by 75 percent - if it is more than 1 percent but not more than 2 percent, the tax would be reduced by 50 percent - 2-3 percent, the tax would be reduced by 25 percent.

While the Single Business Tax will not affect most farmers, many of the larger farmers may be subject to its provisions. S.B. 1328, which has had a public hearing, would be helpful in many cases. Farm Bureau testified in support of the bill and also recommended to the Committee other changes that should be made. For example, the averaging of income of the current year plus the previous four years was a Farm Bureau amendment to the Act; but the Treasury Department has seen fit by rule to permit this provision to become effective only one year at a time. Another suggestion was that a small business person should be permitted to pay himself a reasonable income without being subject to the tax. This would improve the present provision that allows a percentage of the tax to be deducted from the state income tax.

Farm Bureau is continuing to

work closely with Senator Davis and the committee on amendments to the Single Business Tax. In fact, Sen. Davis, along with other senators were most helpful in attaching Farm Bureau supported amendments to the SBT before it passed last year.

Some of the other amendments being considered for S.B. 1328 include: (1) increasing the percentage in S.B. 1328 from 1 percent, 2 percent, 3 percent to 2 percent, 4 percent, 6 percent; (2) eliminate Workers Compensation, Social Security and Unemployment Compensation payment, etc. from wages that are included in the tax base; (3) make the tax totally deductible from the state income tax; (4) reduce the adjusted tax base by the percentage that compensation exceeds 50 percent of the total tax base. Such a deduction could not exceed 50 percent of the adjusted tax base. In the present Act, these figures are 65 percent and 35 percent respectively.

Several other ideas are also being considered, however, adjustments to the Single Business Tax are most complex and changes in any area may be helpful to some and harmful to others.

Governor Milliken has appointed a special 37-member task force to monitor the Single Business Tax to determine any inequities and recommend changes. Farm Bureau is represented on the Task Force.

There has been a great deal of misunderstanding on the Single

Business Tax. For example, many believe that the tax is on "gross receipts", this is not true. The major figures on which the tax is based are:

Add: (1) Compensation; (2) interest expense; (3) depreciation; (4) net income from the business; and (5) Capital Gains, if any.

From this total is deducted: (1) 28 percent of depreciation prior to 1976; (2) 100 percent of any new depreciable investment; (3) deduction for high labor costs according to a formula; and (4) \$34,000 exemption (declines if net income is higher and is eliminated at \$51,000).

Other important provisions include: (1) Only farmers and fishermen are exempt from filing quarterly returns; (2) income averaging (current year and previous 4 years); (3) credit on the state income tax (sliding scale ranging from 10 percent to 20 percent); (4) increased exemptions for partners; (5) use of 50 percent of gross as a base if advantageous and, (6) there are other additions and deductions depending on the type of business.

The most important part of the SBT tax package is the increase in the property tax rebate from the present maximum of \$500 to \$1200 in 1976. This applies only to farms and households, most of the increase will go to farmers.

This is a very limited explanation of the Single Business Tax. The March Capitol Report Page had examples that may be helpful.

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Packer bonding and disaster loans

Last month it was reported in this column that federal estate tax reform legislation would be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee following public hearings held in March. The Committee has not yet reached a decision on final language for the legislation. Some believe the Committee will make such a decision by early June while others feel that it will be somewhat later. The subject of federal estate tax reform continues to be a top legislative goal of Farm Bureau, and members will be kept advised of significant developments as they occur.

PACKER BONDING

Legislation to provide protection to livestock producers who sell directly to packers and Stockyards Act to assure livestock producers of greater certainty and promptness in receiving payment from packers.

As passed by the House, the bill is consistent with Farm Bureau policy. It 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, and (4) require packers to hold in trust, for the benefit of unpaid producers, proceeds from livestock purchased in cash sales.

Prior to action by the House, the bill was the subject of considerable opposition from national packer and meat organizations. It was also opposed by major financial institutions who finance packers. However, amendments to delete the trust provisions and prompt pay provisions were defeated. The bill now goes to the Senate where the Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to consider similar legislation before June 1.

BEEF CHECK-OFF

Both the House and Senate have approved a conference report of H.R. 7656. This bill would establish authority for a national check-off program to finance beef promotion and research. As passed by the Congress and sent to the President for his signature, H.R. 7656 provides for registration of beef producers prior to a valid referendum. Beef producers would register by mail or in person at ASCS offices. A national referendum would be held; and if at least 50 percent of the registered producers vote and at least 2/3 of those vote approve the proposed

promotion program, a mandatory check-off could begin to collect funds for beef research and promotion. The check-off would apply to dairy cattle sold for beef and would be in addition to the present state beef check-off program.

DISASTER LOANS

As reported earlier in this column, the Senate on March 10 passed S. 2578 to authorize low interest government loans to farmers for losses suffered when their commodities or livestock were contaminated by toxic chemicals.

The report filed on the bill by the Senate Agriculture Committee notes that 23 incidents of chemical contamination of poultry and livestock have occurred since 1968. These incidents involve losses to producers totaling more than \$97 million. The incidents involved such chemicals as heptachlor, dieldrin, mercury, chlordane, PCB, and PBB through no fault of the producer. On April 28 and 30, the Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit of the House Agriculture Committee held hearings to consider H.R. 12702 introduced by Congressman Bob Traxler (D-Bay City).

Both S. 2578 and H.R. 12702 would provide loans to producers who suffer

losses as a result of having their agricultural commodities or livestock quarantined or condemned because of toxic chemicals. The loans would be limited to \$100,000 and must be repaid within seven years. The loans would bear interest at a rate equal to the cost of the money to the federal government. A grace period of up to three years could be added for repayment of the principle and all but 1 percent of the interest. Producers receiving compensation for the losses such as through insurance or law suit settlements would be required to repay the loan within three months.

This legislation is consistent with national Farm Bureau policy adopted in St. Louis last January. The House Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit has not taken action on the legislation since conducting its hearings in late April. However, when the Subcommittee does consider the issue further, attention will be given to an important amendment suggested by Congressman Phil Ruppe (R-Houghton) which would extend eligibility for the loans to producers whose commodities or livestock are contaminated.

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

- 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
- WDDB 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

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
- WDDB Escanaba
- WHTC Holland

AFBF supports market system before Democrats

The American Farm Bureau Federation told National Democratic Party Platform writers May 17, in Washington D.C. that the nation's farm and ranch families "support efforts to maintain constitutional government, strengthen the market system, reduce government interference in the management decisions of individual farmers, stabilize the general price level, restrain monopoly, promote private ownership and management of resources, and expand international trade."

John Sledge, president of North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, said that the recommendations of the nation's largest general farm organization "will promote a climate of freedom which will lead to increased incomes for farm families and raise living standards for all Americans."

Sledge placed the control of inflation high on the list of recommendations he presented to the platform committee. He said the Farm Bureau supports an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to require the congress to operate on a balanced budget each year, with provision for the waiver of the requirement only in "extreme emergencies" with the concurrence of congress and the president.

Tax Policies, particularly those relating to estates, was another priority area emphasized by Sledge. He said estate laws have not changed materially since 1942, and he called for immediate revisions to (1) increase the standard estate tax exemption to reflect the effects of inflation over the past 34-year period, (2) increase the marital deduction, and (3) provide for an option of valuing farmland and scenic open spaces to reflect their current use rather than the highest possible use.

"Such legislation is necessary," Sledge said, "to allow farms and small businesses

to be passed on from one generation to another, to relieve unnecessary hardships on survivors, and to maintain privately-owned open spaces in urban areas."

New legislative guidelines are needed, he said, to prevent any one economic group from taking

undue advantage of other groups. And he added, "to permit labor to maintain the monopoly power it now has is neither right nor fair."

Sledge emphasized the importance of expanding mutually advantageous international trade. He said embargoes on

(Cont. on page 15)

NOW AVAILABLE



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU'S BICENTENNIAL PUBLICATION!

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

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

Includes the 1975 County Award Winners, too!

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

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

LIMITED EDITION! DON'T MISS YOUR COPY!

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

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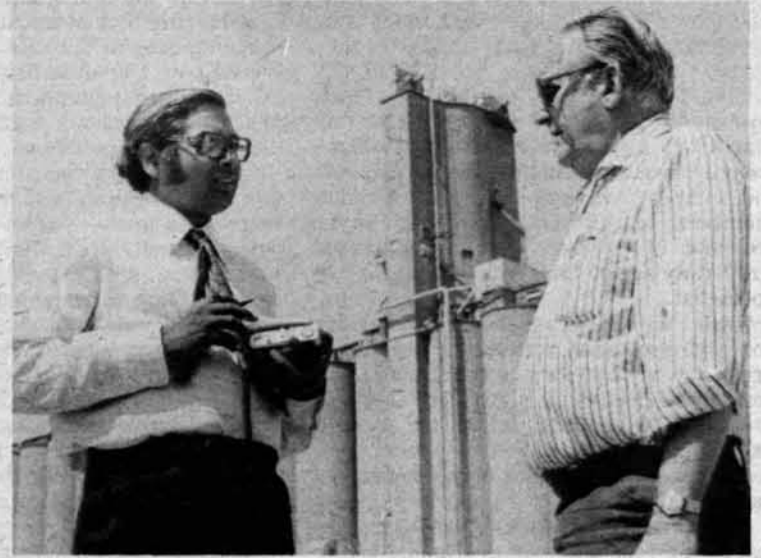
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Make Checks payable to Michigan Farm Bureau

Around the state with Farm Bureau



Michigan's "Mother of the Year" Myra Spike was honored with a special recognition award from the MFB Board of Directors. Standing by are proud sons Bill and Tom and husband Cyril.



Mr. Ramadhar, chairman of India's Bihar State Agricultural Marketing Board (left) toured MEE's Ottawa Lake grain terminal with host Bob Siedl, terminal manager. Ramadhar was especially impressed with the terminal new drying facilities.



The district 6 women's rally in Lapeer was great fun for all.



These children at Livingston County's Brighton Mall are amazed to learn where wool comes from. Livingston County Farm Bureau Women sponsored the successful mall display.



At a well attended news backgrounder in Big Rapids MFB President Elton Smith was interviewed by Cadillac's channel 9.



This baby pig just had to be touched by one inquisitive onlooker at the Brighton Mall display.

OSHA rules go into effect

As of June 7, all Michigan farmers who hire farm labor must comply with the new Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations on proper guarding of all moving machinery parts.

"The law covers all new and old field equipment and stationary farmstead machinery. Most of the requirements stem from a common sense approach to protect the farmer, his employees and family members from potential accidents," says Howard J. Doss, Michigan State University agricultural engineering safety specialist.

While most of the new regulations concern new machinery, there are three areas in which the farmer has new responsibilities.

- Adequate guarding for power take-off drives on all farm and field equipment, regardless of the date of manufacture or purchase.

- The power drive line between the tractor and an implement must be completely guarded when the equipment is being operated. This guarding must include a master shield on the tractor PTO, except when the shield would interfere with the proper operation of the trailing implement. If the guarding devices or shield have been lost or damaged beyond repair, new PTO guards must be installed before the equipment can be operated by an employee. OSHA standards dictate that

these guards must provide protection equivalent to the guards originally provided by the manufacturer.

- All farmers must annually re-instruct their employees in the safe operation and servicing of tractors, field implements, and farmstead equipment they operate. Such instruction should occur immediately upon hiring new personnel.

Field equipment guarding includes all farm tractors and all harvesting and forage equipment. Self-unloading forage wagons, gravity-unloading grain wagons, all manure spreaders and portable grinder-mixers are also considered field equipment.

Farmstead equipment to be guarded includes auger and flight elevators, conveyors, mechanical bunk feeders, all silo unloaders, bin unloading systems, grain dryers, grinders, mixers, sorting tables, coolers and all other types of material handling equipment.

On farm field machines, functional components must be fully guarded so they will not substantially interfere with crop and soil conditions. This includes snapping and husking rolls, straw spreaders and choppers, flail rotors, rotary beaters, mixing augers, feed rolls, auger conveyors, rotary tillers, broadcast star distributor wheels and similar units.

On farmstead equipment, functional components such as choppers, rotary beaters, feed rolls, mixing augers or

paddles, auger conveyors, grain spreaders, stirring augers, bin sweep augers, and feed augers must be likewise guarded.

The law requires that silo surface unloaders and similar equipment must have a guard placed no more than 12 inches above the silage surface and no less than 6 inches in front of and parallel to the rotating gathering mechanism.

Exposed auger flighting on portable grain auger elevators must have grated or solid baffle style covers. Grated guards shall have the largest opening no more than 4 3/4 inches long. Each individual rectangular opening cannot be larger than 10 square inches but no closer than 2 1/2 inches to the rotating auger. Slotted openings in solid baffle style guards shall be no wider than 1 1/2 inches or looser than 3 1/2 inches to the exposed auger.

Here is a summary of the OSHA guarding standard, effective date June 7, 1976:

It is the responsibility of the farm employer to insure immediately that tractors, farm field and farmstead equipment have been equipped with adequate PTO guards - even though the standard does not go into effect until June 7, 1976.

Signs shall be placed at prominent locations on all tractors and all PTO-driven equipment specifying that power drive system safety shields must be kept in place.

Also, on all farm field or farmstead equipment where removal of a guard or access door will expose an employee to a component which continues to rotate after power has been disengaged, a sign shall be placed in the immediate area warning the employee to look and listen for evidence of rotation, and not to remove the guard or access door until all components have stopped.

Guards, shields and their supports shall be capable of withstanding the force that a 250-pound person, leaning on or falling against the guard, would exert upon that guard. This requirement affects new machinery manufactured on or after June 7.

A visible or audible warning of continued rotation, after power is removed, is required on new machinery manufactured after June 7.

Safety training and education on equipment the employee operates shall be given no later than June 7, 1976, and at least annually thereafter.

The complete agricultural guarding standard is available in OSHA regional and area offices. Michigan's regional office address is: Region V, U.S. Department of Labor, 230 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60604 (toll free telephone number: 1-800-621-0523).

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 _____

MACMA forms direct market division

A new MACMA Division, the Direct Marketing Division, has been established by the Board of Directors to expand the sales of Michigan grown agricultural commodities. This latest addition to the other twelve operating divisions will handle the Farm Bureau "Member to Member" high quality food products program, which has grown greatly in the past several years.

Major emphasis will be placed on developing sales of Michigan produced commodities and products furnished by other state Farm Bureau marketing associations through county Farm Bureaus in Michigan.

The Direct Marketing Division sales will complement and supplement the marketing activities of other MACMA divisions. The division will have the capability of innovating in the marketing of food products direct to consumers.

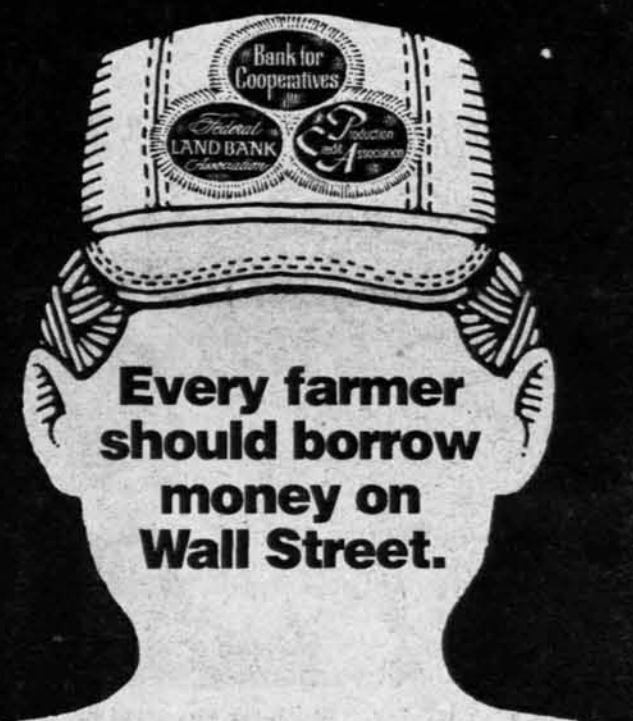
The "Member to Member" program has grown in Michigan to where it now includes Florida fresh citrus, orange concentrate, pecans, and peanuts; California dates and walnuts; Wisconsin cheese; and Michigan fresh asparagus, frozen fruits, and apple concentrate. Contacts with other state Farm Bureaus has revealed interest in handling Michigan grown products.

Agriquotes . . .

With attention to the cultivation of grass, farmers often double the value of an old farm in a few years and grow rich on farms on which their predecessors had nearly starved - Benjamin Rush.

Agrifacts . . .

One or more Guinea hens were placed in flocks of fowl to prevent molestation from hawks.



Every farmer should borrow money on Wall Street.

Every kind of farmer and rancher shares in the ownership of the cooperative Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul. So when your co-op borrows from the Bank for Cooperatives or when you do business with a Federal Land Bank Association or Production Credit Association, you're actually borrowing capital raised in the money markets of America...like Wall Street.

A lot of people think agriculture is a good investment. Individuals, banks, insurance companies, state and local governments. All kinds of people and businesses purchase farm credit bonds. Funds raised in capital markets are loaned to full- and part-time farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives...\$3.5 billion of loans in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin as of early 1976.

The Farm Credit System's method of providing capital has helped make American agriculture the most efficient and productive in all the world. Fact is, a strong agriculture provides a vital flow of money back into the market place.

Farm Credit...a mighty good way for every farmer to have access to Wall Street.

THE COOPERATIVE **FARM CREDIT BANKS**

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Federal Intermediate Credit Bank (for your PCA)
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NOW YOU HAVE A CHOICE

✓ YOUR CURRENT HIGH BENEFIT **Comprehensive Plan**

✓ THE NEW LOWER COST **Econo-Plan**

**SPECIAL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD
JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 12**

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE
AUGUST 20, 1976**

(SEE THE ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE FOR MORE DETAILS.)



**Blue Cross
Blue Shield**
of Michigan

Will be effective in August

Blues introduce Econo-Plan to members

Michigan Farm Bureau members will now have a choice in selecting a health care protection plan to best fit their individual needs.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan will implement a new lower cost program, called the Econo-Plan, effective August 20, 1976. Eligible members may select either plan to be effective on this date.

During a special open enrollment period (July 1 - July 12) members having a paid membership by January 31, 1976, may either change or enroll in the new plan. Subscribers to Blue Cross and Blue Shield through the Michigan Farm Bureau group plan may switch from the current high benefit comprehensive plan. Members who are not enrolled but who had a paid membership on or prior to January 31, 1976 will have the opportunity to enroll at this time.

Cost of the new program is not yet available because new rates effective August 20, 1976 have not been issued. However, a comparison of the current rates shows that the new Econo-Plan will be approximately 30 percent lower. Specific rate information will be available by June 15.

Lower costs are achieved by subscribers sharing in the cost of services provided

under the new plan. This can be illustrated by a comparison of basic coverage benefits. (All benefits are based on usual, customary, and reasonable charges.)

I. Comprehensive Plan

Hospital Benefits:

365 days of hospital care
Full cost of hospital room (Ward or Semi)
Full cost of meals, general nursing care, special diets
Additional hospital services - covered in full

Full cost of hospital outpatient care (except medical emergencies)

Maternity and Nursing Care

Medical Surgical Care Benefits:

Surgery - including pre & post operative care

Anesthesia - by a physician anesthetist other than physician in charge of case.

Technical surgical assistance

Obstetrical care

Medical care

Unlimited consultations

Emergency first aid

Radiological therapy

Diagnostic x-rays

Diagnostic laboratory and pathology

Master Medical Benefits

II. Econo-Plan

Hospital Benefits:

You have the same hospital benefits described above in the Comprehensive plan except you share the cost by paying 30 percent of the charges for covered services you receive - up to a maximum of \$600.00 for each inpatient admission.

Medical-Surgical Benefits:

You receive the same Medical-Surgical benefits as described in the Comprehensive Plan above except you share the cost by paying 30 percent of physicians reasonable charges for covered services received. There is no maximum dollar cut-off for payment on these services.

For diagnostic laboratory and Pathology benefits you share the cost by paying your physician \$5.00 for each service (with no sharing of the cost if the services are performed while you are hospitalized - except for electrocardiograms).

Complementary Care (Medicare Recipient)

I. Comprehensive Plan

Part A - Inpatient Hospitalization

Blue Cross and Blue Shield pays the first \$104 and the \$26 a day from the 61st through the 90th day. Pays the \$52 for each "lifetime reserve" day used.

Part B - Professional

For members enrolled in Part B, Blue Cross and Blue Shield pays the first \$60.00

per year and 20 percent of the remaining reasonable costs as required for services covered by Part B - excluding charges for regular medical home and office calls.

Master Medical 65 Benefits

II. Econo-Plan

Part A - Inpatient Hospitalization:

The benefits are the same as the Comprehensive Complementary contract except Blue Cross and Blue Shield will not pay the first \$104.

Part B - Professional:

The same as the Comprehensive Plan but does not pay the first \$60 per year and also excludes regular medical home and office calls.

Master Medical Benefits:

The new Econo-Plan does not include services covered under the Master Medical program.

The next opportunity to change plans will come at the next scheduled Blue Cross and Blue Shield open enrollment period. This is usually held in March for an effective date of May 20.

To enroll or to change plans, members must complete a new application card which is available at the County Farm Bureau Office. The county secretary can offer assistance in enrollment or in providing additional information on the program.

Young Farmers announce four topics for 1976 discussion meet competition

Four subjects have been selected by the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committee to be the official 1976 Discussion Meet topics.

The topics are: 1. What should

be the position of Farm Bureau relative to the further development or continuance of social programs? 2. What should be the role of Farm Bureau for agriculture in an expanding urban environment? 3. What

should be Farm Bureau's role in meeting America's transportation needs in the next decade? 4. What is the impact of vertical integration on Agricultural production and marketing needs?

The four topics will be used during Young Farmer discussion meets at the district level in the fall and later and the state annual meeting in December where Michigan Farm Bureau's state meet winner will be chosen.

The state winner will go to the AFBF annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in January 1977 to compete in the national contest. Michigan's state discussion meet winners for the past two years have been AFBF finalists.

Fun for all

4-H sponsorees "Salute '76"

EAST LANSING -- Doc Severinsen, the "Tonight Show's" trumpet playing band leader, his Now Generation Brass and a vocal group called Today's Children headline the entertainment bill for "Salute '76," Michigan 4-H's Bicentennial celebration, June 26 at 3 p.m. on the campus at Michigan State University.

Today "Doc" is best known as the musical conductor on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show." Millions of viewers enjoy his skillful trumpet playing, his ever-changing clothing, and his nightly "bantering" with Carson. Severinsen began playing the trumpet at the age of 7 in Arlington, Ore. In three weeks he was invited to join the high school band and by the age of 9 he had won the state's music contest.

Before he finished high school "Doc" went on the road with Ted Rita's band, doing his homework when he wasn't playing his horn. Upon graduation from high school "Doc" played with big band favorites like Tommy Dorsey, Charlie Barnett and Benny Goodman.

While still in his early twenties, Severinsen went to New York and was hired as an NBC staff musician. He played on dozens of shows and became a regular member of Skitch Henderson's orchestra.

"Doc's" performance at MSU will be the first concert ever to be held in MSU's Spartan Stadium. Advance concert tickets are \$5 and are available by writing to Salute '76, 175 S. Anthony, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824 before June 12. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5.50. All proceeds will be used for the support and expansion of the Michigan 4-H program.

Throughout the day, additional entertainment will be provided by 4-H members who will perform on "Salute's" three stages -- the opera house, the show boat and the dance hall.

"Salute '76" will provide the opportunity for families and the general public to attend an all-day birthday party for America.

The festivities will include: antique car exhibits, parades, a baby animal farm, auctions and craft demonstrations and much more.

There is no general admission charge.

Activities begin at 9 a.m. and conclude with the finale auction at 6 p.m. The event is jointly sponsored by the Michigan 4-H Foundation and Cooperative Extension Service.

Agrifacts . . .

In 1825, the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture offered a gold medal worth \$50 to any person who shall have carried on farming without using any ardent spirits on his property, except when prescribed by a physician, for a period of two years. There was no claimant for the premium. Products of home stills for many years was the chief cash crop of farming.

Agriquotes . . .

"The Pilgrims are used to a plaine countrie life and ye innocente trade of husbandry," said William Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Colony in describing early farmers.



Q and A

Q. I have heard stories on the increase of rural crime -- What are the facts?

A. According to the Michigan State Police there has been a rapid increase in rural crime. During the past two years, there has been an increase of 58 per cent in reported crimes while cities have experienced only 34 per cent increase in reported crimes.

Q. What can I do to help prevent rural crimes?

A. There are several activities that an individual may consider. (1) Identifying by marking: appliances, hand tools, equipment and machinery, which can be easily stolen. Lists should be kept of identified items, (2) Display a sign indicating that you have marked your valuables, (3) Be alert to unusual activities in your area and report any unusual situations to the police.

Milk's Role in History

MILK IS MILK IS MILK. Even Gertrude Stein would have agreed that milk is important in the history of yesterday, the present of today and the future of tomorrow.

Milk's sole function in nature is to serve as a food. Perhaps that's why in the 50 mentions of milk in the Old Testament, the Promised Land is described as a "land flowing in milk and honey."

Today domesticated cows produce most of the milk consumed by humans. But other animals are the source of milk for humans, too. These include sheep, which can graze on hilly areas and eat grass too short for cows, and goats, which can survive on even poorer pasture.

Other milk-producing animals are the water buffalo of India and Southwest Asia, with its strong-flavored milk primarily used to make a form of butter, the yak of Central Asia and the pien niu, a cross between a yak and a yellow cow, found in China and Mongolia. Desert-dwelling Arabs enjoy soured camel's milk and Arctic Laplanders milk reindeer. Mare's milk is drunk by various primitive peoples, but the llama, once a milking animal is now a beast of burden in South America, valued for its wool.

Pre-Domesticated Era

Prior to 10,000 B.C., the ancestors of today's cows were hunted as wild animals. Many of the primitive cave paintings in Spain (carbon-14 dated as 20,000 B.C.) show cows being killed by spears and arrows, which indicates an era of pre-domestication of these animals. Other paintings depict scenes of domesticated cattle.

The milk trail through unrecorded history finds cows everywhere from celestial constellations to temples, sleeping fossilized on plains and in caves and migrating to graze where water and grass were plentiful.

No one really knows when man discovered that the milk of animals was good food for humans. Perhaps a nomad became the first dairyman.

In the beginning, nomads milked whatever animals they could catch. Later, they followed the animals from one grazing area to another. According to Sanskrit, the nomads lived in hovels "which could be erected in a few hours, and left again as the cattle moved into higher ground with the approach of spring or descended into the valley when winter approached."

It is generally believed that the people of Southwest Asia were the first to feed and care for animals in order to collect their milk. As the nomads settled the land and learned to grow some of their food, they discovered that the milk-giving animals could also be used for work. They already knew the animals could provide meat, so the process of taming animals was begun. During the Neolithic Age, early man led the first herds of cattle westward from Asia to Europe.

The Age of Domestication

Cattle were domesticated many centuries before the first permanent written history of the Aryan race, who are thought to be the common ancestors of all the "white races." To them, cow's milk was a life-sus-



Per capita civilian milk consumption in 1975 approximated 546 pounds on a milk equivalent basis. This means expressing dairy products in terms of the amount of milk of standard butterfat content that would be required to produce the product. For example, this could be a consumer drinking 156 quarts of whole milk in 1975.

taining food and the possession of cattle meant happiness and wealth. Since they looked to milk and products made from milk for most of their food, they believed that life itself depended on the cow.

They also believed that all the good spirits in the world were "cows" and began a religion based on worship of them. Vedic hymns of 3500 B.C. tell that heaven, from which came life-giving rain, was thought of as the "heavenly cow," the best and greatest of all the gods.

Beliefs such as these were natural to a people who depended upon cattle for existence. Wherever men have kept cows and lived upon their milk, butter and cheese, traces exist of these same beliefs. Cows were worshipped in Babylonia and in Egypt and are venerated today in India.

Dairying became an important activity in many parts of the world. A stone panel found in the ruins of the Temple of Ur in Babylon shows men milking cows, some 6000 years B.C. Cattle fossils and cheese-making equipment have been unearthed in Switzerland dating back to 4000 B.C.

Modern Milk Period

There were no cows in America before the arrival of Europeans. Some historians believe that the Vikings may have brought cows to the coast of North America about 1000 A.D., but none survived. Columbus brought long-horned cattle from Spain to Santo Domingo. Their descendants found their way to Mexico and finally became known as Texas longhorns.

The first cows arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1611. And four years after the Pilgrims survived starvation and disease, cows were brought to New England in 1624.

Man has long been aware of milk's value, but it wasn't until science and industry combined efforts that Americans were provided the safest milk in the world. Leeuwenhoek's discovery of spermatozoa in 1679 and Mendel's postulation of the laws of heredity almost 200 years later made possible the breeding of high-producing cows through artificial insemination.

These are some of the great developments that led to today's highly sophisticated and efficient dairy industry:

—Pasteur's discovery that milk was soured by microbes and that heating the milk would destroy these organisms, thus postponing souring.

—The first commercial pasteurizing appeared in Germany in 1880. By 1885, market milk was being pasteurized regularly, for commercial rather than public health reasons, in Copenhagen and Stockholm.

—Technical developments also altered life on the dairy farm. The first ammonia compression machine was invented in 1875, the forerunner of refrigeration. The centrifugal cream separator came along in 1878, and the simple butterfat test in 1890.

—Pasteurization was standardized as a process by which milk was heated to 145 degrees, held 30 minutes and then cooled.

—A Frenchman, A. Gaulin, developed homogenization, which blends butterfat globules and milk by forcing the heated liquid through small apertures, then crushing it as it strikes a smooth surface under great pressure. The first commercial success with homogenized milk was made by a Michigan dairy in 1934. Today nearly all fresh milk in the U.S. is homogenized, and most of it is fortified with vitamin D.

—The first railroad tank car for transporting milk was introduced in 1922. Later, this design was adapted to truck bodies.

—The milk wagon, with its stop-and-go horse, was replaced by the first step-and-drive trucks in 1925. Today the industry boasts refrigerated tankers and trucks, automatic milkers, stainless steel piping and holding tanks and computerized, automated processing plants for a wide range of products made from milk.

For the last hundred years, geneticists, physiologists, animal husbandmen, veterinarians, bio-chemists, even climatologists, have taken advantage of the adaptable nature of the dairy cow to produce harder, healthier and more productive breeds.

Yes, milk has been vitally important to man through his history of growth and change:



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For an informative brochure on Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum, write: Farm Bureau Services/Farmers Petroleum Marketing Services Division, Box 960, Lansing, MI 48904.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE



Lamb care is essential

Good lamb care is even more important this year in view of the recent commercial market recovery.

"Lambs can reach Choice market grade directly off pasture but they also use grain efficiently, reaching market Choice at a younger age than when maintained only on pasture," says Stephen Baertsche, Michigan State University Extension sheep specialist.

Lambs start eating 10 days to two weeks after birth, making efficient use of hay and grain provided in a good creep ration such as 90 pounds of cracked corn, 10 pounds of soybean meal, 3 pounds of trace mineral salt and 2 grams of antibiotic (Auremycin or Terramycin).

"Feeds must be kept clean and fresh, in easy-to-reach dispensers. Place good quality legume hay in the creep area, preferably in a rack hanging over it. Replace hay daily and give the unused to the ewes," Baertsche says.

Adequate roughage intake is important in preventing enterotoxemia (over-eating disease), even when antibiotic is used in the creep. Vaccination is the best way to prevent the disease. The first should be given when the lambs are 7 to 10 days old and a booster given about two weeks later.

Lambs are also susceptible to white muscle or "stiff lamb" disease, resulting from selenium and/or vitamin E deficiency, both essential for good health.

Lambs become stiff or lame in one or more legs and may die suddenly when the heart or diaphragm muscles are affected. If the deficiency is present at birth, it is especially dangerous, according to Baertsche.

An injectable product containing selenium and vitamin E is available from veterinarians and can be given to ewes as a preventive six weeks before lambing. It may be given to lambs a few days after birth.

Lambs born before March 15 and fed on adequate creep ration can be weaned by May 15. Keep market lambs on the creep ration until they are sold. Those kept for



These lambs show the results of good lamb care.

breeding may be turned to pasture after weaning but a good parasite program must be followed.

Common stomach worms cause the most problems but nodular worms and tapeworms can also be serious. Prevention is called drenching -- giving the sheep medicine to control the problem.

The first step in controlling most of these internal parasites is to feed phenothiazine (a worming material) each day in the salt. Mix 1 pound of phenothiazine with 10 pounds of trace-mineralized salt and keep it before the flock at all times in a salt box that protects the mixture from the weather.

Small flock owners will usually find it more convenient to buy a commercial phenothiazine and salt mixture from a farm elevator or feed store.

Sheep also may become infected with two kinds of external parasites - lice and ticks (keds). When sheep rub a great deal and the fleece looks rough and stringy, lice are likely present. There are two kinds of lice - biting or chewing and blood sucking. They can be seen if the wool is parted near rubbed areas on the skin.

Sheep ticks are wingless brown flies about one-fourth inch long.

They spend their entire life on the sheep but crawl readily from ewes to lambs and other sheep whenever the animals are in close contact.

Large numbers of ticks cause serious damage, especially to young lambs, by sucking blood. Shearing ewes before they lamb helps control ticks because they do not survive easily on a freshly shorn sheep.

Lice and ticks can be controlled by dipping, spraying or dusting. Two treatments exactly 14 days apart are necessary for lice. The second treatment kills the young lice that hatch from eggs present at the first treatment.

An important part of flock care is providing adequate, clean water. Sheep and lambs will drink about a quart of water for each pound of dry feed they eat. Ewes eating four pounds of hay per day will drink about one gallon of water daily.

The need for water increases during later gestation and when ewes are nursing lambs. For greatest production during these periods, ewes must have an unlimited water supply.

Suggestions on caring for the flock may be obtained from numerous bulletins available through the local county Extension office.

mfrn farmers of the week

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James Quisenberry
160 head Montcalm County dairy farm • Delegate on MMPA board • County Farm Bureau president • Bel Dere community group chairman • Member of township board of review.

Robert Howland
640 acre Lapeer County dairy farm • Lapeer County Farm Bureau membership chairman • County DHIA board • Former MMPA market committeeman • Member of MFB dairy advisory committee.

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FDA says:

FBS feed mills clean of PBB

Gov. William G. Milliken announced results in early May of feed and elevator testing which was conducted in response to the contention of some Michigan farmers that they were continuing to receive grain contaminated with PBB.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted spot checks at 12 Farm Bureau feed mills and reported that it detected no PBB in any of the samples of feed collected.

"I am reassured by the tests results furnished by the FDA," Milliken said, "and hope that this information will help reduce the anxiety that continues to be expressed over this problem."

Milliken has met with a number of farming groups on the PBB issue. In some of these meetings farmers have expressed a concern that contaminated grain continues to be marketed.

In response to this concern, Milliken checked into ongoing investigations and found that the FDA was testing a number of Farm Bureau elevators.

Grains were tested from the following elevators: Farm

Bureau Services - Battle Creek (2), Fremont Coop Production Company, Hesperia Farm and Feed Company, Farm Bureau Services - Stanwood, Farm

(Cont. on page 15)

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Michigan Marketing Outlook

DAIRY NOTES

The M-W series price for the month of April was down \$8.44. This is a drop of 16 cents per hundred weight from the March M-W series price. This move reflects the normal downward trend in milk prices during the spring flush production season.

Butter and cheese stocks remain at relatively low levels accounting for the strong demand for manufacturing milk that we have experienced in recent months.

Utilization of Class I and Class II milk in April decreased 3.04 percent and 2.07 percent respectively from April, 1975. Class III utilization increased 25.38 percent from a year ago.

Most experts are looking the M-W series price to continue downward in the next few months with the bottom being somewhere in the \$8.00 - \$8.30 range. The second half of 1976 should see the usual seasonal increases in price, but not as

much of an increase as was experienced in late 1975.

The Crop Reporting Service indicates that farmers are planning on planting more corn and hay this year. This should indicate that, if the weather is good, the milk-feed ratio should be favorable in the coming months.

COUNTERVAILING DUTY THREATS EFFECTIVE. Imports of quota type cheese last year were equivalent to only 63 percent of the calendar year quota (Table 1). Although no countervailing duties were imposed on dairy imports in 1975, the threat that the U.S. might impose additional duties to offset any subsidies on imported cheese substantially reduced cheese imports. Farm Bureau initiated two of the threats -- requests that the U.S. Treasury investigate imports of cheese from Switzerland and Austria.

Bernie Bishop, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

TABLE 1. IMPORTS OF QUOTA TYPE CHEESE, UNITED STATES, 1975

Product	Calendar	1975
	Year Quota Thou. lb.	Imports Thou. lb.
Cheese, Quota Types		
American-Ceddar	10,037.5	10,600
-Other	6,096.6	6,033
Italian-Original loaves	11,500.1	10,173
-Other	1,494.0	1,232
Edam and Gouda-Natural	9,200.4	(9,207)
-Processed	3,151.0	()
Blue Mold	5,017.0	4,564
Swiss-Emmenthaler, -92c	20,420.0	9,409
-Gruyere-process, -92c	11,242.0	5,700
Other-Over 0.5 percent fat, -92c	40,730.0	17,852
-Under 0.5 percent fat	8,901.0	6,360
Total	127,789.6	81,130

POULTRY AND EGGS

According to Feedstuffs, a total of 44.7 million dozen shell eggs were broken from February 29th thru March 27th under the U.S.D.A Eggs Products Inspection Act. This represents an increase of 30 percent from the same period in 1975.

Liquid egg production for immediate consumption and processing totaled 26.1 million pounds during the February 29th to March 27th period. Frozen egg products amounted to 24.7 million pounds and dried egg production was 4.7 million pounds.

The cash egg market was strengthened in May more than had been anticipated. This has resulted from extensive retail feature activity along with the higher breaker activity. The trading sentiment is somewhat uneasy. Movement has begun to taper off slightly. Supplies of most egg sizes are generally adequate to fill the needs.

The rate of lay in early 1976 was 5 percent above 1975. Add to this an expected 17.1 million pullets to be added to the laying flocks and we can expect to see more eggs produced than can be profitable sold.

Bernie Bishop,
Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

ATTENTION SOYBEAN PRODUCERS!

Over the past few months I am sure you have heard about the possibility of a Soybean Check-Off system for Michigan producers. Both the Michigan Farm Bureau Soybean Division

and the Michigan Soybean Producers Association have been working hard on the proposed program for the promotion of soybean products.

This program, if approved by the farmers, will provide for advertising and promotion, research, projects to expand markets, and market information.

Producers would be assessed one-half cent per bushel to finance the program. There will be an exemption program which provides the opportunity for any producer who does not wish to participate in the Check-Off Program to get his money back.

Ballots will be mailed to the states approximately 5,400 soybean producers by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The referendum will be conducted between June 14th and June 30th and will provide you, the producer, the opportunity to decide whether or not you want a Soybean Promotion and Development Program, so look for your ballot in the mail and be sure to vote.

Tom Reed, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

FRUIT

Cold weather and poor pollination have combined to create a problem of sizable proportion for fruit growers. These problems have dealt a severe setback to growers not only in Michigan but in areas such as Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, and Appalachia. Packers as well as growers share in the concern. While there may be scattered areas which escaped

frost and unseasonably cold weather, 1976 does not stack up at this point in time as a very good year for most fruit growers in the East and Midwest. Certainly at this juncture it is only speculation to say that prices will be high but this has invariably been the case when short crop conditions have prevailed in the past. However, high prices will probably mean very little to most producers this year!

Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development Division

VEGETABLES

Asparagus growers in Michigan have settled on a price for processing grade. The base price for number one grade will be 27½ cents with a 20 percent premium for select grade. These grades and prices were recently established by mutual agreement between growers and processors.

Gras growers have also been hurt by the recent cold weather in Michigan. In some cases producers have already lost 2 or 3 cuttings from this seasons crop.

And a final note-- The recent research and promotion referendum put before Michigan asparagus growers was defeated by a very narrow margin. With only a handful of additional affirmative votes the Check-Off program would have been a reality. There were many growers, according to M.D.A. officials, who had signed petitions but did not vote on this important issue!

Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development Division

Supply



By Greg Sheffield

Report

GENERAL - Over the past several weeks weather has dominated farmer buying activities. Substantial increases in field crop planting intentions have been pushing fertilizer and pesticide sales along at a steady pace. For a while dealer inventories of supplies were filled because of good weather, and an early start, followed by frosty weather causing on-and-off-again planting. This made for good buys with ample supplies of fertilizer and chemicals available. But, with activity moving into full swing and warmer weather, the spring rush is on again. Supplies, at this writing, were being drawn down rapidly.

The rubber workers' tire strike at first did not hurt Farmers Petroleum dealers because they had adequate supplies going into the spring season. But now, warehouses are being put under pressure and supplies are tightening up fast. Farmers Petroleum dealers can still offer more tire sizes, but if you need 'em, get your tires right away and be sure.

FERTILIZER - The trend is now toward less fertilizer being available where dry nitrogens are used. Farmers who applied fertilizers early are ahead, but many farmers were delayed by weather, and planting is now going on at a furious pace. With farmers anxious to get planting

chores over with, supplies of anhydrous ammonia, dry fertilizers, herbicides, and rootworm materials are being drawn down fast. Corn planting intentions are above last year by 7 percent with the sudden drain on supplies straining the ability of some dealers to replace rapidly. Farm Bureau dealers, however, are generally in good shape, having prepared for this eventuality.

PESTICIDES - When the planting season started, pesticides disappearance commenced at a surprising rate. Preferred rootworm chemicals will be short in the state. Farmer orders simply did not come in early enough. Farm Bureau dealers are still okay, and will be able to take care of their farmers who laid by their needs ahead of time. Herbicides, too, will show spot shortages and Farm Bureau patrons who planned ahead with their dealers will be pleased with their pre-season buys.

Insecticides, herbicides, 2, 4-D's and 2, 4, 5-T's will be formulated for Farm Bureau advantageously.

SEEDS - Corn and other seeds have been moving at a steady pace until the middle of May. Earlier weather delays served to

balance out the sales flow which, at times, was erratic. Seed sales during the middle of May were seen to accelerate as expected. Farmers should make commitments on certified soybean and navy bean seeds to avoid uncertainties and be sure of supplies.

HARDWARE - With the building season in full swing, farmers who have not ordered their buildings should do so at once. Farm Bureau Building Centers have low cost building supply inventories and are still scheduling orders for this year. But the engineer and building craft people are busy, so don't delay.

Steel and aluminum stocks are moving. Steel prices increased by 5 percent, while aluminum is expected to go up 5 percent by July 1. Farmers have been active in many areas with fencing. Wire shipments to dealers are taking six weeks lead time to dealers. All power equipment ordered is now in the hands of dealers and selections are still good, but replacement orders will require two to three weeks lead time to dealers.

The Dairy Equipment Division of Sta-Rite Industries, Delvan, Wisconsin, was purchased by

Universal Cooperatives, Inc. Farm Bureau will benefit as one of the co-op owners of Universal through their quality Sta-Rite dairy equipment.

FEEDS - Increasing market prices of soybean meal should reinforce the fact that Farm Bureau finished feeds are the better buy in balanced nutrition. Also, the new liquid silage additive, LSA, has stirred much interest in the country. Special meetings for dealers will be held to explain, seminar-style, the outstanding advantages of LSA. Urge your dealer to attend and report to you how LSA can help you increase profits.

TIRES - With the rubber workers strike having its effect, and arbitrators no closer to settlement at this writing, prices will increase substantially, especially when the rubber workers do go back. Allocations have already started. We expect to clean up tires on hand fast with purchases by cost-conscious patrons. The Farmers Petroleum Cash and Carry Program, just started, still prevails, with bargain prices!

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Summer is fair season in Michigan

Join in the fun and excitement at Michigan fairs this summer. The season opens July 1 with 85 county, 4-H and agricultural fairs and two state fairs scheduled.

"There's something of interest for everyone," said Director B. Dale Ball of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. "Animal shows, agricultural, educational and commercial exhibits, family entertainment, prize-winning contests, and midway rides are major attractions.

"Fairs provide an excellent opportunity for a friendly exchange between consumers and the producers of Michigan's agricultural bounty. There are nearly 50 important crops produced in our state," Ball said.

Michigan's two state fairs are the Upper Peninsula State fair at Escanaba August 17-22 and the Michigan State fair at Detroit August 27-September 6.

Other fair dates and locations, as compiled by MDA's County

Fair section, are:

July 1-5 Lake Odessa; July 6-10 Marion; July 6-11 Sparta; July 9-17 Bay City; July 11-17 Hastings; July 12-17 Big Rapids; July 12-18 Vassar; July 18-24 Marne; July 19-24 Crosswell, Fowlerville and Greenville; July 23-31 Hartford; July 25-31 Charlotte; July 26-30 Saline; July 26-31 Gladwin and Holland; July 27-August 1 Mt. Morris; July 28-31 Hale; July 31 - August 1 Menominee;

August 1-7 Harrison; August 2-7 Alma, Mason, Davisburg, and

Caro; August 3-7 Ewart and Ravenna; August 3-8 Harrisville; August 4-7 Standish; August 6-7 Pelkie; August 6-8 Chatham; August 6-15 Ionia; August 8-14 Jackson, Gaylord and Corunna; August 9-11 Falmouth; August 9-14 Ludington, Cassopolis, Lowell, Monroe, Coldwater and Sandusky; August 11-14 Goodells, Atlanta and Northville; August 12-15 Ironwood; August 13-21 Berrien Springs; August 14-21 Cheboygan; August 15-21 Midland and Marshall; August

16-18 St. Johns;

August 16-21 Alpena, Cadillac and Belleville; August 17-21 Manchester and Fremont; August 17-22 Armada; August 19-22 Kalkaska; August 20-21 Wayland; August 22-28 Mt. Pleasant and Bad Axe; August 22-29 Adrian; August 23-28 Hudsonville, Kalamazoo and Petoskey; August 24-28 Chelsea; August 26-29 Iron River; August 27-29 Allenville and Greenland; August 28-29 Hancock; August 30-September 5 Traverse City;

August 30-September 6 Imlay City;

September 1-6 Onkama; September 2-6 Hart and Kinross; September 3-5 Fairview; September 3-6 Norway; September 7-11 Saline; September 9-11 Stalwart; September 10-12 Posen; September 10-18 Allegan; September 11-18 Saginaw; September 16-19 Newberry; September 20-25 Centreville; September 23-25 Marquette; September 26-October 2 Hillsdale.

Counties can earn from FBIG

County Farm Bureaus without offices have collected more than \$2,400 from Farm Bureau Insurance Group for devoting part of one meeting to insurance topics.

Through a program designed specifically for non-office counties, FBIG agreed to pay 50 cents a member to each county that reserves at least half of one meeting to an insurance presentation. Also as a requirement for the payment, the County Farm Bureau must make a special mailing of insurance information to all members, inviting them to attend the meeting.

Counties have three insurance topics to choose from -- Estate Planning, Worker's Compensation, and Individual Retirement Plans. Presentations are made by representatives of FBIG.

Thirty-two counties with a total of 11,443 members are eligible to participate in the reimbursement program.

Several counties have already taken advantage of the program.


Donna

(Cont. from page 2)

Those eyes seem to look right inside of you, transmitting wordless queries about what you're doing, what you're thinking and why.

It was an inquisitive cow's eyes that kept me on the straight and narrow once upon a time when I was a teenager. Parked on a lonely country lane one moonlight night, my date and I were startled by a curious cow looking through the car window. No amount of sweet-talk could convince me that the cow wouldn't be disappointed if I failed to remember my mother's teachings.

So, you see, there's a lot more to a cow than dairy products. And every June, I'll continue to pay tribute to Bossy, for my own personal reasons.

Start your pigs with  then . . .

Take a closer look at your hog finishing feed tag. You may be coming up short.

If it says anything less than 50 grams per ton, you're coming up short on disease prevention. Which means you're coming up short on weight gains, and you're coming up short on feed efficiency. And if there's anything more important to a hog producer trying to make a profit today, we haven't heard about it.

Is there a better way? Yes. It's 50 grams of AUREOMYCIN® feed additive per ton of complete feed. Compared with the typical "growth-level" antibiotic, 50 grams of AUREOMYCIN gives you added disease protection, ensuring excellent weight gains and improved feed efficiency. It aids in prevention of bacterial enteritis. Maintenance of weight gains in the presence of atrophic rhinitis. And reduction in the incidence of cervical abscesses. And there's no withdrawal required.

Now, if all this isn't enough to get you to take a closer look at your hog finishing feed tag, consider this. You can probably switch from 20 grams of another antibiotic to 50 grams of AUREOMYCIN without it costing you a penny! Check it out with your feed supplier. And ask for details of the AUREOMYCIN GUARANTEE.

You have nothing to lose and a whole lot to gain.



THE EFFICIENCY FACTOR

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Not all revolutions lead to the downfall of governments. Some are quiet and unnoticed, for a while at least. These are social revolutions. This briefly concerns one of them.

In the past few years a dramatic growth has occurred in the authority of government to regulate consumer goods. In October 1972, the Consumer Product Safety Act was signed into law. In June 1973, the Supreme Court interpreted the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act as permitting the Food and Drug Administration to promulgate regulations which have application on an industrywide basis and are not subject to judicial review. The expansion in government power to regulate consumer goods as a consequence of this decision can only be termed revolutionary. Surprisingly, few people have voiced significant objections.

For years the feeling has been growing among consumers that goods and food available in the marketplace are not labeled to tell the whole truth. Some consumers would agree with the way Edgar Albert Guest expressed it in "The Package of Seeds":

In this little package,
now isn't it odd?

You've a dime's worth of something
known only to God!

Ever since the first tradesman bartered away his primitive wares, people have no doubt been questioning quality, weight, nutrition, and service. In the wake of scientific advances, there seems to be a host of persons who willing misinterpret them and exploit them for private gain. The articles one reads, both pro and con, regarding are mind-boggling and many consumers are worried about the safety of our foods. At least a part of this concern can be credited to the fact that the public does not know enough about the workings of food standards and the other instruments of protecting consumers to be able to properly evaluate everything they see, hear and read.

Americans continue to enjoy good health because of advances in medical science and public health, the application of disease control and sanitary procedures, education, a high standard of living, and growth of the science of nutrition and food technology.

Many organizations, groups, and individuals have a hand in protecting and advancing the Nation's health. Federal responsibilities are specifically designated by Congress, but its program have been developed in cooperation with agencies and groups having an interest in health. Within this partnership are state and local agencies, voluntary organizations, universities and medical schools, hospitals, research institutions, etc., etc.

As a result of all of these organizations' activities, food reaching American consumers today is safer than in almost any other part of the world.

Business has come a long way from the day when Shakespeare wrote in *The Winter's Tale* "Let me have no lying; it becomes none but tradesmen." Honesty and fair dealings are much more accurate descriptions of business practices today than they were in Elizabethan times. For this reason, it is unfortunate that so many consumers continue to feel that businessmen are attempting to part them from their money without giving a fair return. This belief has given rise to the consumer movement and to the significant growth in regulations that have occurred in recent years.

Not only is the quality of our food controlled, but adhesive tape, bubble bath, cotton puffs, decorations, fingernail files, glassware, hair pins, ink, mouse traps, rubber gloves and typewriter ribbons, to name just a few, are controlled by one or more federal or state agency.

The growing complexity of business, the increasing distance between buyer and seller, and resultant misunderstandings on both sides as to the needs of the other have all been causes for the growing concern regarding the quality of food stuffs.

Regardless of where we live in Michigan, safeguarding our family's food supplies is the full-time job of the Food Inspection Division, Consumer Protection Bureau, Michigan Department of Agriculture. Inspection of foods entering the market supply, inspection of dairy farms and plants, and inspection of slaughtering and processing meats, are all designed to provide consumers with safe, wholesome edible products.

Nearly 100 laws and regulations governing the manufacture, handling and sale of food and beverages are administered and enforced by MDA to prevent adulteration, misbranding and misrepresentation. Sanitary conditions in food handling and processing establishments, ranging from bakeries to pickle packing plants are checked to prevent contamination. Weights and measures, from the grocer's sale to gasoline pumps, are checked to determine accuracy.

The single purpose of regulatory activity in the consumer goods field in recent years has been to assure the public is receiving safe products. By and large, after full disclosure is made, it is up to the consumer to make a value judgement between a wide variety of competing



DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**
Manager Member Relations

goods. The day has not arrived when the government, as a representative of the consumer, requires products to meet a single compositional standard. Our marketing system still encourages innovation, which in the long run is in the best interest of consumers.

GRAIN INSPECTION

In the coming year United States Producers will export almost 60 percent of their wheat crop, around 25 percent of their corn crop, and about 50 percent of their soybeans. Producers must either export in these magnitudes each year or sharply curtail their output.

As a result of this high volume of exports, agriculture's contribution to the United States trade balance was nearly \$12 billion in fiscal 1975. This means that the United States exported almost \$12 billion more in agricultural products than it imported. This difference more than offset a deficit of some \$9 billion in nonagricultural trade, giving the nation an overall trade surplus of \$2.8 billion despite the quadrupling of petroleum import prices by the oil cartel. These figures indicate that our total economy, as well as American agriculture, has a very great stake in international agricultural trade.

The maintenance and expansion of this volume of exports will not be possible if the United States grain inspection system does not insure that that grain delivered to purchasers conforms with contract specifications.

The United States must make every effort to restore confidence on the part of foreign buyers that we are a reliable supplier -- and that the information in our inspection certificates is accurate.

Our agricultural export markets are far too important -- both to farmers and the total economy -- to permit irregularities in grain inspection. Foreign dissatisfaction with our products ultimately will encourage our customers to seek alternative sources of supply.

Proposed amendments to the Grain Inspection Regulations, issued under the United States Grain Standards Act, were published in the Federal Register on February 12, 1976. Since the proposed changes are designed to implement the purposes of the law which are to promote and protect interstate and foreign commerce in human food and animal feed by providing "for an official inspection system for grain, with the objectives that the grain may be marketed in an orderly manner and that trading in grain may be facilitated," Farm Bureau supports these changes.

It certainly is in the best interests of producers, merchandisers, warehousemen, processors, and consumers of

grain and the general welfare of the people of the United States that action be taken promptly to correct the abuses which have occurred in the inspection of grain.

The proposed changes to the United States Grain Standards Act would:

a. Increase the surveillance of loading procedures. Increased surveillance is one of the real keys to an effective inspection system.

b. Make it possible for the USDA to withhold inspection from grain firms found to be in violation of the act. This would greatly enhance the ability of USDA to enforce its regulations.

c. Liberalize the existing rules with regard to re-inspections and appeals. While this portion of the proposed change may create some burden on the custodians of samples and necessitate some changes in trade practices, it appears to be realistic and practical.

d. Provide that all fee schedules must be approved by the Administrator. This would make it possible for the administrator to prohibit excessive charges by inspection agencies.

e. Define the term "conflict of interest" more precisely for inspection agency personnel. This is needed to restore public confidence in the reliability and integrity of the individuals who work for inspection agencies.

f. Eliminate conflicts of interest and/or the appearance of conflicts of interest in private grain inspection agencies. Private agencies would be more responsible for their employees.

In summary, the retention of the existing Federal-State-Private grain inspection system and the thrust of the USDA's proposals would make the system more effective. An effective grain inspection system is vital to agricultural exports, which, in turn, are vital to the U.S. economy. However, even a perfect inspection system would not solve all problems and eliminate all complaints.

Further attention must be given to grain standards and to grading, weighing, and handling procedures in order to determine the actions which are needed to improve the overall grain marketing system. In addition, it must be remembered that the present system, authorized by the Grain Standards Act, samples and grades only a very small proportion of our grain production as it leaves the producers hands. The sampling and grading procedures that are used as producers turn their grain over to local elevators are determined by the elevator operators in the vast majority of cases and not by the provisions of the grain standards act.



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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
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