I am America and America is Me

For those whose eyes shall never see,
America I speak for thee.
Of countries distant, and lands afar,
None freer than you are.
You shelter the homeless, feed the poor,
And protect the helpless who knock at your door.

For all the peaceful nights there be,
America I speak for thee.

As brothers of the world, we walk hand in hand,
So strong is our nation, no mightier land.
No ocean is too deep, no mountain is too high.

We'll always fight for freedom, our spirit will not die.
For all the troubled times we see,
America I speak for thee.
Your people are many, every race, every hue,
Problems that they face are really not that few.
The Energy Crisis and inflation, these are only two.
But with the beginning of each new day we stive to work them through.

For all you are, or ever will be,
America I speak for thee.
Your wealth of beauty reigns supreme,
For each and every human being.
It's America the Great! As you can see,
I'm America and America is Me!

BY GARY JOHNSON
(Editor's Note: Gary Johnson was the 5th place winner in Farm Bureau Insurance Group's annual "America and Me" essay contest. His was one of 6,000 essays from 318 Michigan schools which were submitted for the contest.)
"NO RISKS"--NO FOOD

The Scientific Advisory Panel, appointed by Governor Milliken to study the PBB situation in Michigan, gave its report on May 24, 1976.

Farmers disagree with the recommendations made by that group. They did so, not out of self-interest or concern for any particular farmer, but out of concern for the total agricultural industry and concern for the consumer.

The Governor's Scientific Panel reported, "No specific disease or symptomatology in animals or man can presently be associated with exposure to low levels of PBB." Despite this finding, the panel still decided and recommended that the tolerance level be lowered to five parts per billion for meat and eggs and one part per billion for milk. This could result in hundreds of animals being quarantined even though only a single animal has any PBB in its system.

According to a recent issue of Michigan Science in Action, over $150,000 dollars worth of research on the effect of PBB on various types of livestock and livestock products has been carried on in the experiment facilities of Michigan State University. While the panel acknowledges this work has been done, it chose to disregard that research in making its recommendations. It is amazing that the panel chose to disregard, to such a large extent, work done by the Michigan State University Experiment Station and Pesticide Research Center. These two institutions are nationally known and respected for objectivity, accuracy and leadership. Yet, the panel makes no mention that MSU's tests show PBB to be less toxic than many other substances commonly used as insecticides, both in agriculture and in urban and suburban households.

Based on the criteria of, is this regulation necessary, practical and defendable, farmers in Michigan believe the answer to each question is "NO". They see feed being produced containing no PBB. They see milk being tested consistently with no traces of PBB. They hear a distinguished panel of experts report to the Governor that there is no immediate health hazard to either humans or animals. They see a testing program which would be extremely costly, difficult to administer and apparently unenforceable.

Farmers don't believe these conditions lead to a sound regulation. Farmers see this as an attempt to capitalize on emotion, fear and distrust, rather than the logic that is necessary for sound judgment needed in legislative matters.

"There is an increasing demand for absolute safety in food and there is no such thing as absolute safety when it comes to food."

As long as there is a demand for more food, and at low cost to the consumer, ways will be tried to meet that demand. These will include risks. The cost of "no risks" -- is little or no food, high prices and dissatisfied consumers!

The belief of farmers is best summarized by Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Director of the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station. He is quoted as saying, "In keeping with the Bicentennial spirit, Mrs. Asparagus - Joan Cheever of Oceana County - came to the state Capitol in Lansing May 22 by horse and buggy to present Governor Milliken with a basket of asparagus.

Prior to visiting the Governor, Mrs. Cheever and other area residents from Oceana County paraded through downtown Lansing distributing brochures and fresh asparagus to interested onlookers.

The group came to Lansing to promote asparagus grown and processed in Michigan and also to spread the word about the National Asparagus Festival held in Oceana County June 11-12-13.

Mrs. Asparagus was escorted by Mr. and Mrs. Al VanBergen of Hart, owners of the team of matched paints which pulled the buggy. The VanBergens are asparagus growers and members of the Oceana County Farm Bureau.

The Asparagus Queen is a CPA, currently employed as head accountant at Mercy Hospital in Muskegon. Her husband, Jack, is a partner in an agricultural chemical firm in Shelby.
Doctors, Scientists, Farmers Oppose Lowering of PBB Tolerance Level

A lack of scientific evidence to justify lowering tolerance levels of PBB, was cited at a Michigan Department of Agriculture hearing held in Lansing. The proposed regulation to lower the tolerance level was a result of the recommendation of the Governor's Scientific Panel which reported on May 24.

Elton R. Smith, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, joined many doctors, scientists and farmers in opposing lowering of the tolerance guidelines.

In his testimony, Smith stated, "The lowering of the tolerance level is not necessary, it is not practical, and it is not defendable. Michigan farmers want to produce clean, wholesome food for consumers. But rules and regulations must be practical and workable.

The Scientific Panel disregarded much scientific data and acted up with a recommendation inconsistent with its findings. "No specific disease or symptomology in animals or man can presently be associated with exposure to low levels of PBB."

Smith explained that the level of PBB in Michigan livestock is constantly decreasing. This has taken place through disposal and quarantine of livestock with high level PBB. Feed has been free of PBB for over a year.

He pointed out the decision of the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to maintain current guidelines. A more strict law would put Michigan farmers at a competitive disadvantage with farmers in other states.

"If lowering the tolerance level is proposed to protect consumers, then where should food, meat and milk be tested? Should it be done in retail markets, in processing plants, or on the farm? Does it mean that all food, regardless of point of origin, must be tested or just food produced in Michigan? If all food is to be tested at the retail level, can it be done in terms of manpower and in terms of cost? The same question must be asked if the testing is to be done on the farm. Must the program be established for testing all animals in the state?" Smith asked.

The lowering of tolerance level could be disastrous to Michigan agriculture. It may make necessary a state financed indemnification program. Farmers could not stand the loss on their own.

FDA officials testified in opposition to lowering the tolerances. One assured the public that the FDA had included a ten-fold safety factor in establishing present limits. In addition, there is no evidence that Michigan residents are consistently consuming meat and milk which contain PBB.

Where some persons called for zero tolerance levels, FDA officials stated, "Two reasons make it inappropriate for FDA to insist on destruction of foods that contain any detectable amount of PBB."

First, such a policy is not necessary for protection of the public health. Second, the source of PBB residues in the Michigan food supply has changed. These residues are no longer due to avoidable contamination of animal feed commercially available in Michigan. PBB's are extremely stable and persistent chemicals, and have been occurring in waste products from livestock and feeding areas affected by the original contamination incident.

The environment of Michigan farmers so contaminated will probably remain that way for some time in the future. New livestock introduced on these farms would also be exposed to this indirect source of PBB's, and food derived from these animals could contain low levels of PBB's despite farmer attempts to prevent contamination. In other words, the complete elimination of PBB's in the Michigan environment is presently not possible."

In addition, the reliability of tests at levels dictated by the Panel is a major concern. Addressing this subject, Dr. Jerry A. Burke stated that to remove an item from the market place, both the amount and identity of a substance must be proved in court. He added, "Very often the ability to confirm residue identity is the limiting factor at the lowest level at which we can assure adequate certainty for regulatory action. Such is the case with PBB."

BULLETIN

The Michigan Agricultural Commission reached a decision on June 22 to maintain the current guidelines set by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for PBB tolerance levels.

ELTON R. SMITH was one of the many farmers who expressed their concern about the future of Michigan agriculture at the hearing. (MICHIGAN FARMER photo)
The Legislature is looking toward a summer recess beginning the first week in July. Major issues now, as throughout the year, are budgetary. The Senate has completed work on all of its budget bills including a controversial K-12 school aid bill. The fact that the Senate has extended the fiscal year for the state until October 1, means that budgets must be passed for the new "fifth quarter" and the full new budget year.

SCHOOL AID

The Senate has considered two school aid budget bills. The original S.B. 1327 which was defeated, would have required school districts to spend their money for purposes allocated in the legislation. The bill finally passed in the Senate is S.B. 1473, which eliminates that issue and would provide a standard student allocation of $1,100 in state and local funds plus a district "levies" equal to 40% of the standard amount. This particular approach total $1,528 million, which is about $80 million above the Governor's recommendations. In the defeated bill, however, the formula was some $110 million above the Executive Budget. It is possible that the controversial K-12 education budget may not be passed in the House before the July recess.

MSU-EXTENSION

The Michigan State University Agriculture Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service have each received about $1.7 million. One extremely important appropriation still under consideration is $4,000 for the School of Veterinary Medicine at M.S.U. Of this amount, $300,000 is for a diagnostic laboratory to conduct research and diagnosis work on animals, especially emergency cases. The rest of the money would be used for equine research.

 safari BUSINESS TAX STUDY

Governor Milliken's Task Force to study the Single Tax question has its first meeting. The Task Force is composed of businessmen, legislators and various state agencies. H.B. 7010 is now represented on the Task Force.

It was agreed at the first meeting that a research firm would be hired to devise and distribute official surveys to determine the exact effect of the new tax on Michigan businesses.

It is expected that the Task Force will submit a final report to Governor Milliken by September 30.

As soon as the survey is finished, public hearings will be held to give every person an opportunity to submit their views and in-formation considered.

Pesticide Law Revision

The Governor's Advisory Task Force on property Tax Revision held its seventh public hearing on its interim report, due in early July. The report will present alternatives to the present property tax system and review effectiveness of assessments, equalization, appeals, and tax relief programs. The task force is studying proposals to equalize local governments' ability to provide services and examining the tax's relationship to equal education costs.

Hearing dates are: 1 pm Monday July 12 in the House Chambers, Lansing; 10 am Friday, August 16 University Center, Marquette; 1 pm Friday, July 30 Gaylord State Bank, Gaylord; 10 am Friday, August 13 Detroit County-City Building's 13th floor auditorium; 9 am Wednesday, August 25 Grand Rapids City Commission Chambers; 1 pm Tuesday, August 31 Fine Arts Building of Delta College near Bay City; 9 am Tuesday, September 6 Lansing Civic Center, Lansing.

Anyone may receive a copy of the interim report by writing to the Task Force on Property Tax Revision, Department of Management and Budget, Office of Finance and Tax Analysis, Lewis Cass Building, Lansing, 48813.

NEW PESTICIDE ACT

H.B. 5844 of this session is now law and is known as the "Pesticide Control Act." It is, in reality, an up-dating of the Michigan Pesticide Law that has been in effect for some years.

However, it has been modernized and modified to conform to the FIFRA changes being made by the federal government. This means, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) took effect in 1972. For the first time, commercial applicators have been required to be licensed and to take tests to determine their knowledge of the variety of toxic chemicals. Under the new act, any person applying "restricted chemicals" will be required to have "certified applicators."Farmers would be considered "private applicators" which means "a person who uses or supervises the use of a pesticide which is classified for restricted use for purposes of producing an agricultural commodity on property owned or rented by that person or his employer." Any person, however, who is unable to demonstrate during a public hearing, other than trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities, on the property of another person.

The bill provides optional methods of meeting certifi-cation requirements. Farmers may choose to have a "general industry rules" or a "private applicators," which includes farmers. One of the following options must be complied with:

(a) Self study and examination
(b) Classroom training and examination
(c) An oral fact-finding interview administered by an authorized representative of the Farmer's Protection Board. It is not possible to demonstrate competence by examination or classroom training.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Extension Service already have materials prepared to assist farmers in meeting the certification requirements. As a practical matter, it is expected to be reasonably easy to become certified. It should be remembered that the law requiring certification applies only to "restricted use pesticides" that are so classified by EPA. EPA is still in the process of classification and there are presently "no restricted pesticides." The classification is expected to be completed by April 1977.

The federal regulation deadline for certification of farmers is also April 1977. There are certain pesticides, however, under Michigan regulation (Reg. 633) that are "restricted use." If farmers are concerned, these are limited to some of the lead arsenics. It should also be remembered that aldrin, dieldrin and DDT have been "cancelled." However, present stocks can be used.

The use of agricultural reports that a training manual should be available from the County Extension offices by September or October of 1976 and that during the winter months they will be mailed to many farmers will attend local meetings and become certified. In advance of the agriculture meeting certification will be in effect until 1980.

OSHA HEARINGS

A public hearing will be held in Lansing on June 29 to permit the public to present their views on proposed "general industry rules for agricultural operations". Farm Bureau and MASA will testify.

Out of the some 60 or more industrial rules, only parts of two were finally recommended for possible application to agriculture. This is the work of the Agricultural Advisory Committee which included farmer representation and M. J. Bunchen of MASA.

One of the proposed rules involves fork-lift trucks used by some farmers. The other is "head protection equipment for agricultural operations." This includes protective headgear and hard hats. It is proposed that such equipment be used in places where there may be hazardous objects or during construction in store houses, etc. One question raised by one farmer was whether the "flying objects" should also be considered a "flying object".

PBB LEGISLATION

Information on the official hearings held on June 10 is reported elsewhere in this issue.

There have been numerous bills introduced in the Legislature over a long period of time on the PBB problem. Those presently before the Legislature include H.B. 5846, which was introduced early in the year. It was reported out of committee early in February and has been on the House calendar since then. It has also been substituted. The bill would establish a loan authority to provide low cost loans. There were two other bills introduced to pay the cost. One, H.B. 5758, added a 4 percent tax on insurance and the other, H.B. 5794, would add a 4 percent tax on the state income tax on the sale of certain chemicals. This method of financing the loan authority would have failed directly on agriculture.

The other bill presently on the House calendar is H.B. 6144, which is in its present
Legislation to reform the federal estate tax has been reported upon in this column for several consecutive months. Farm Bureau has given strong support to the Burleson Bill - H.R. 1396 - which has been introduced by over 130 Congressmen. This relatively simple bill would (1) increase the present $60,000 standard deduction to $200,000, (2) increase the marital deduction from the present one-half of the adjusted gross estate to $100,000 plus one-half of the adjusted gross estate and (3) provide an option for heirs to have the farm estate appraised at its agricultural value for estate tax purposes rather than highest potential use.

Last month a new and comprehensive federal estate tax reform bill - H.R. 13966 - was introduced by Congressman Al Ullman (D-Oregon). The House Ways and Means Committee began consideration of this complex 114-page bill on June 2. Because this bill presently appears to have the best chance for Committee approval, it is important that Farm Bureau members be aware of its provisions.

H.R. 13966 would combine the federal estate tax and gift tax which are presently separate laws. Insofar as the federal estate tax provisions of this new bill are concerned, it would turn current estate tax exemptions into credits, revise the marital deduction, provide for a form of optional capital gains tax at death, extend time for estate tax payment and allow farmland to be assessed for estate purposes on its farming value.

In place of today's $60,000 standard exemption, the bill would provide for a $25,000 credit against estate taxes. This amount of the credit would equal a standard exemption of $120,000. Family farms passing to a qualified heir would receive an additional $25,000 estate tax credit. Therefore, in the case of farms eligible for the maximum credit, the two credits would be equal to a standard exemption of $200,000. The additional credit would start to phase out where the estate exceeds $1 million and would be eliminated when it exceeds $2 million.

If the farm were sold to persons outside the family the maximum credit, the two credits would be equal to a standard exemption of $200,000. The additional credit would start to phase out where the estate exceeds $1 million and would be eliminated when it exceeds $2 million.

To qualify for this appraisal, certain conditions must be met. These conditions include transfer of the property to a qualified family heir and the land must be used or held for use as a farm for 5 of the last 8 years prior to the decedent's death.

If the farm is sold to persons outside the family or ceases to be used for farm purposes prior to the death of the qualified heir or within 25 years after the death of the decedent, there would be a recapture of the tax benefits. Full recapture of the tax benefits would occur during the first 15 years with a phaseout during the remaining 10 years. If the heir died without having disposed of the property or converting it to a nonfarm use or a period of 25 years from the decedent's death lapses, liability for recapture would cease.

Although H.R. 13966 provides certain benefits similar to the Burleson Bill, Farm Bureau continues to support the Burleson approach. Farm Bureau is specifically opposed to the appreciation tax in H.R. 13966.

At the time this column is being written, the House Ways and Means Committee had not completed its work on this important issue of federal estate tax reform. However, in another development, the Senate Finance Committee approved an amendment to the omnibus tax bill - H.R. 10612. This amendment would provide for estate tax reform very similar to the Burleson Bill. The amendment does not propose the Farm Bureau - opposed appreciation tax. The full Senate was scheduled to debate the Finance Committee amendment beginning July 17 or 18. The American Farm Bureau and all state Farm Bureaus indicated strong support for the amendment to members of the Senate.

In summary, although new developments are occurring almost weekly, progress is being made towards enactment of federal estate tax reform by the 94th Congress. Farm Bureau at all levels has been and will continue to give strong support for enactment of meaningful estate tax reform.

**398,000 SIGN PETITIONS**

On June 4 petitions to ban nonreturnable beverage containers were filed with the Secretary of State. The petitions contained 398,000 signatures which virtually assures the issue will be decided by voters on November 2 if legal challenges are overcome.

A suit has been filed to declare the petition invalid. The suit charges that the petitions were filed after the statutory deadline, did not contain a title and that the description of the proposed initiative law was misleading. It is expected that the Court will issue a prompt decision on the suit. Michigan Farm Bureau has joined as an intervenor in the suit in an attempt to uphold validity of the petition.

The petitions would give voters a chance to express themselves at the polls on whether or not certain nonreturnable beverage containers should be banned.

Michigan Farm Bureau members were extremely active in circulating the petitions and are responsible for a substantial number of the signatures obtained.REP. LYNN JONDAHL (D-East Lansing) carries Into the State Elections Division, one of several boxes containing over 380,000 signatures on petitions to ban non-returnable bottles in Michigan.

**Ban the Bottle Petitions Challenged**

David Conklin  

Louis Ter Avest  
263 acre Allegan County beef farm - Allegan County commissioner - former member of county Farm Bureau board - past director at-large of county Farm Bureau board - past treasurer East Allegan Soil Conservation District - member Michigan Livestock Exchange.

Gene Maynard  
430 acre Shiawassee County hog operation - President county Farm Bureau member Michigan Livestock Exchange - past chairman county Young Farmers Co-op.

Eldon Knopf  
Presque Isle County dairy farmer - member Farm Bureau Oil branch board of directors - member Kindred Township Board of Education.

Gordon Albright  
1100 acre Branch County grain, hog and beef cattle operation - member Farm Bureau Oil branch board of directors - member Kinderhook Township Board of Education.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
July 1, 1976  
Page 5  
QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Beans...Beans...Beans

REP. QUINCY HOFFMAN (R-77th District) and Michigan Bean Queen Kristy Jo Mowry of Fairgrove that during the Gratiot County Farm Bureau Women's bean smorgasbord during Capital Bean Day.

REP. LOREN ARMBRUSTER (R-Caro) helps pass out cups of bean soup during the fourth bi-annual Capital Bean Day on May 19.

Women Promote Agriculture

治理着获取"Gras"

TRY SOME YOGURT with your cheese tidbits, shoppers were encouraged at the West Michigan Fair, held in the Woodland Mall, Grand Rapids, recently. Dairy products were among many agricultural commodities promoted by Farm Bureau Women in the West Michigan area.

Saginaw Set for Safemark

SAGINAW COUNTY FARM BUREAU WAS FIRST in the state to sign a dealer agreement for the new Group Purchasing program. Selected by the committee and approved by the board as the dealer to carry Safemark tires and batteries for Farm Bureau members was Robert Reeves (center), manager of Hamlack Farmers Co-op. Shown watching Reeves sign the agreement are Donna Gulliver, county secretary, and Ivan Sparks, county president.

Named to FBS Board

Bruce Leipprandt of Pigeon has been named to the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. board of directors to fill the unexpired term of Loren Gettel, also of Pigeon. Bruce, who has been president of the Huron County Farm Bureau for the past three years, operates a 1200-acre farm specializing in dairy, beef and cash crops. He serves on the advisory board of the Pigeon Co-op, the local township zoning board, and is treasurer of the local MMPA.

Bruce and his wife, Virginia, have two sons.
Michigan Marketing Outlook

Dairy

The Class I milk price for July, published by the Southern Michigan Marketing Area Market Administrator, shows a decrease from the previous per hundredweight from the Class I price in June. The July Class I price is 3.53 percent milk with 10.00 percent butterfat. The downward price movement is a result of increasing milk production resulting from the usual spring flush accompanied by heavier feeding of grain and fat-free milk by farmers encouraged by the relatively good milk-feed price ratio.

The U.S.D.A. recently indicated the milk production for 1978 may reach 117 billion pounds. The figure is approximately 2 billion pounds above the 1977 production. NON-FAT DRY MILK PROBLEM - Excess supplies of non-fat dry milk in all the world's major producing countries have created a serious problem relative to the disposal of non-fat dry milk. Solutions range from give-away programs, to compulsory use in animal feeds, and dumping.

As of May 14th the United States has uncommitted inventories of 385 million pounds of non-fat dry milk. A rapid decline in the commercial use of non-fat dry milk is the major reason for this accumulation. Non-fat dry milk sales last year were down 11 percent from 1974 and 36 percent from ten years ago. Per capita, commercial sales of non-fat dry milk were 3.2 pounds last year. In 1966 per capita sales were 4.2 pounds. Since 1966 the CCC purchase price for non-fat dry milk has risen 327 percent while prices have increased only 14 percent. A comparison to CCC purchase price increases of 44 percent for butter and 130 percent for cheese. Is non-fat dry milk being priced out of the market?

IMPORTS - A recent proclamation by President Ford placed zero import quotas on certain products containing non-fat dry milk. The proclamation was aimed at preventing the importation of a mixture of sugar and non-fat dry milk from Canada. The product contained less than 515 percent butterfat and did not come under any of the tariff schedules for dried milk and butter. The item is believed to be non-fat dry milk. As of May 14th, the United States has uncommitted inventories of 385 million pounds of non-fat dry milk. A rapid decline in the commercial use of non-fat dry milk is the major reason for this accumulation. Non-fat dry milk sales last year were down 11 percent from 1974 and 36 percent from ten years ago. Per capita, commercial sales of non-fat dry milk were 3.2 pounds last year. In 1966 per capita sales were 4.2 pounds. Since 1966 the CCC purchase price for non-fat dry milk has risen 327 percent while prices have increased only 14 percent. A comparison to CCC purchase price increases of 44 percent for butter and 130 percent for cheese. Is non-fat dry milk being priced out of the market?

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Livestock

It appears that feedlot production will be up 5 percent.

(Continued on Page 13)
A Tribute to Farmers

As a tribute to farmers, who have played such a vital role in the birth and growth of this nation, we are proud to present an Honor Roll of Farm Bureau members who own Centennial Farms.

HILLSDALE COUNTY

Benson, George S.
Brown, Albert
Crosby, Frank
Dailey, Charles H.
Dawson, Homer
Dawson, Howard K.
Dawson, W. D.
Dawson, William L.
Dawson, William W.
DeRuy, Ed
DeYoung, Walter
Dickinson, James
Dunn, F. W.
Easter, G. B.
Erickson, A. H.
Evans, A. E.
Foster, J. W.
Fry, Charles
Gallagher, John
Gardner, C.
Garrison, C. W.
Gibson, J. W.
Gibson, L. H.
Gibson, W. W.
Gibbs, W. H.
Glockinger, C.
Gomer, F. H.
Goodall, W. B.
Goodman, J. H.
Goodman, L. D.
Goodman, W. H.
Gough, F. P.
Graham, W. H.
Grady, W. H.
Graves, F. H.
Gray, W. H.
Gray, W. W.
Green, W. H.
Greene, W. H.
Graham, W. H.
Groninger, C. G.
Groninger, F. W.
Groninger, H. G.
Groninger, J. W.
Groninger, R. H.
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Supply Report

By Greg Sheffield

GENERAL – This has been another big year of sales for Farm Bureau Services with a record 10-month period concluded in April. Budgeted figures were topped with a total of $220,400,000 compared to the budget of $177,000,000. Supplies sold exceeded 1975 sales of $214,000,000 and 1974 sales of $208,858,000. This is a dollar and cents testimony by farmers showing the confidence they placed in the cooperative system.

FERTILIZERS – With the fertilizer application season passed, it’s of note to record the biggest May sales season ever to take place in any month. More fertilizer was sold by Farm Bureau Services in the month of May than in any previous year in history. The rush demand for fertilizer was great, but, so far, no reports of distribution breakdowns have come in. In other words, the Farm Bureau Services system of co-operation came through again with a record of outstanding achievement. All fertilizer supplies with the exception of anhydrous were tight from the first of April. Supplies of 28 percent Nitrogen solution also became tight as the season progressed.

PESTICIDES – Farm Bureau has an adequate supply of a variety of fruit fungicides, insecticides and herbicides such as 2, 4-D and 2, 4-5 T’s. Chemical inventories of field crop herbicides were cleaned out in a tremendous call for delivery by farmers. The strong demand for pesticides overcame price buying as farmers wanted pesticides fast. Corn rootworm pests were crucially short for farmers not ordering early. Farm Bureau patrons were adequately supplied according to dealers in spite of the close balance because of good back-up from our warehouses.

FEEDS – Farm Bureau’s quality feeds are moving well based on the excellent results feeders obtain and competitive Farm Bureau prices. The prices of feed grains and soybean meal were strong through the middle of June with farmers, who would usually be selling grains, holding on their farms. Liquid silage additive has shown increased popularity. LSA seminars for dealers are very well attended. Dealers will be contacting farmers to explain the use of this most advantageous product. With higher feed grain prices, LSA is a way to save and increase profits.

HARDWARE – Manufacturers of building supplies, including steel and aluminum kitchen, have raised prices. Lumber prices too are going higher. Farm Bureau Building Centers still have some lower priced inventories and farmers or commercial people planning buildings should not delay, but contact their local Farm Bureau Center at once. With the building season in full swing promises can still be made on construction completion dates.

Gardening equipment, especially power tools, is selling in volume throughout the state. Farm Bureau dealers are seeing many new faces interested in purchasing garden supplies.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS – Final clearances were completed for the purchase of the ARCO, East Chicago, Indiana petroleum refinery by CF Petroleum Company, partly owned by Farmers Petroleum. Delivery to Michigan’s Farmers Petroleum dealers commenced almost at once. Prices on gasoline were lowered 1/2 cent to start. This puts Farmers Petroleum in an excellent position to supply liquid fuels to Michigan patrons.

TIRE STRIKE – The negotiations between the United Rubber workers and the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company were deadlocked over major economic issues, as of the middle of June, with no end in sight. About 60,000 URW workers have been striking since April 21 against the nation’s big four: Goodyear

(Continued on Page 13)
BY DONNA WILBER

She's a pint-sized dynamo who looks you straight in the eye, gives you a handshake that makes you wonder where the power comes from, and speaks in a straightforward manner that leaves no doubt that she knows what she's talking about.

When Janice Stuck says she will have $300,000 in sales of farm supply products for the year ending July 1, you believe her. The highly-motivated Farm Bureau Services sales rep, who works out of the Hillsdale office, was near that mark in mid-May.

In fact, if you include the grain she's been shipped to Ottawa Lake terminal, the figure is already an impressive $112,000.

What a nice girl like Jan doing a job like farm supply sales? No big deal, says she; before she went on sales, she was manager of the Hillsdale Branch of Farm Bureau Services. In that role, "I never asked an employee to do anything I wouldn't do myself," even if that something was repairing equipment. The daughter of a mechanic, she's handy with a monkey-wrench herself.

Janice doesn't feel she's impinging on a "man's world" while she pursues her career in serving farmers. She enjoys her work and does it well — so why should the fact she's a woman have any bearing? Her husband has just purchased a packing house and people have been asking if she will leave her position to join him in the business. "Not a chance!" says Janice. "To me, that's man's work!"

Do her customers feel any skepticism about buying farm supply products from a petite, attractive, young saleswoman? Janice doesn't think so. Most of them knew her when she was a branch manager and respect her knowledge in the field.

"I suppose if I came tramping into the barnyard in a mini-skirt, my credibility might be questioned, but I wear slacks, my Farm Bureau shirt, and boots to wade through whatever has to be waded through. They think of me as one of the boys."

The secret of Janice's success seems to be her genuine respect for farmers and her sincere desire to serve their needs. Someday, Jan may wish to go back into management. She feels her experience in the field would be valuable. But, for now, she's happy and enthusiastic about her current job. She's in her Hillsdale office every weekday morning at 8:00 and then it's direct to the farms by 9:30 a.m.

In addition to a full-time career, Janice is also a wife and mother. All this for a gal who, at 14 years of age, was told by her doctor to "go sit quietly in a chair for the rest of your life."

Janice, who has only one kidney, decided she would not sit quietly, that she would make the most of her life because "you can do anything you really want to do if you set your mind to it."

Right now, she's set her mind on reaching that $300,000 mark.

Marketing Committee Named

Recent appointees to the MACMA Direct Marketing Advisory Committee held their first meeting June 14 at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing. The committee has been delegated the responsibility of reviewing the Direct Marketing Division's projects and recommendations will be made by the MACMA board of directors.

It is expected that the committee will make recommendations on operational policies, credit policies, and marketing strategies, along with suggesting products to be handled.

In 1975, the cooperative Farm Credit System moved to the top as the leading lender to agriculture ...with over $30 billion in big-rolls. Of that whopping total, $3.5 billion was handled by the Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul.

But doing business with the Farm Credit System means more than going to the biggest. It means going to the top in ag-credit knowledge, too. Farm credit people know farming and the heavy requirements for capital. They know cooperatives, too, and all about the huge credit resources co-ops need to continue serving rural patrons effectively.

When it comes to ag credit...think of your Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank Association, or Bank for Cooperatives.

Every farmer should go straight to the top for credit.

875 Jackson St., St. Paul, MN 55101 Phone: (612) 725-7722

Wheat Pool Enters 10th Year

The first meeting of the 1976 MFB Soft Wheat Advisory Committee was held at Farm Bureau Center on June 14, 1976. Committee members for the coming year include: Robert Brown, Kalamazoo;

Glenn Preston, Quincy; Wilmon Stotz, Ida; Gerald Waldeck, Caledonia; Robert Kissane, St. Johns; Leroy Schluckbier, Frankenmuth; Robert Beard, Pentwater; Lorna Dershem, St. Louis;

FOR SALE: Red White and Blue Fruit

A "Bicentennial Salute of Michigan Fruit" is being offered to Farm Bureau members. Participating county Farm Bureaus are joining forces with Farm Bureau fruit growers, making RED tart cherries, WHITE apple slices and BLUEberries available to farm folks. Additional products which are available through the program will be strawberries, high-density orange concentrate and Michigan's apple cider concentrate.

Prices will be considerably higher on most fruits in '76. Quota limits and fruit will be available for the member-to-member program, according to Bob Gregory, Direct Marketing Manager. Participating counties will have prices by mid-July and members should place their orders between July 15 and July 31 to assure delivery. Frozen fruit shipments will then be made during mid-August.

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"Pioneers" Rendezvous With History

BY MARCIA DITCHIE

They travelled by covered wagons westward over the Santa Fe, Oregon and Lewis and Clark Trails and by flatboats, steamboats and barges down the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. They were men, women and children moving westward as early as the late 1790's. They were, for the most part, farmers, curious and adventurous, in search of fulfilling the American dream.

Within 100 years of the signing of the Constitution, these courageous individuals had transformed the rugged frontier into wheat fields and ranches.

In celebration of the nation's 200th anniversary, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has sponsored a unique way to pay tribute to those Americans and recall the vital role they played in the growth of our nation...

On July 4, 1976, 200 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 60 official covered wagons of Pennsylvania's Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage will converge on Valley Forge, arriving from every state in the Union, to rededicate to each American the ideals upon which this nation was founded.

In an attempt to rekindle the American spirit which helped build this nation, five segments of the train are crossing the country, west to east, travelling as closely as possible those same historic trails which carried the early homesteaders west.

Since the first wagons left Blandon, Washington, in June 1975 heading east, thousands of Americans have joined in the festivities by either riding with the train or participating in encampment activities. By spring 1976, all five segments of the Pilgrimage, including the Great Lakes segment and Michigan's Bicentennial covered wagon, were heading toward their rendezvous with history at Valley Forge.

Safemark is on Schedule

The Group Purchasing program for Farm Bureau members only, adopted by voting delegates at the special session last June, is on schedule. As of mid-June, 22 county Farm Bureaus had signed agreements to participate in the program. Another 15 counties have selected their group purchasing committees to study the needs of their members and select dealers to recommend to county boards of directors.

The group purchasing concept, as it evolves in Michigan, will begin with members buying tires and batteries from their local dealers.

PROVIDING OFFICIAL ESCORT for each of the five segments of the National Bicentennial Wagon Train pilgrimage to Valley Forge is a Conestoga wagon from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HORSE-DRAWN ICE CREAM WAGON from Bolgos Farms was just one of many local wagons which joined the wagon train during its journey across southern lower Michigan.

FLYGON Model 200

AUTOMATIC INDOOR FLY CONTROL

Electric control. Just turn on the RID-O-RAY Flygon and you'll get rid of indoor flies effectively, continuously and without odors, fumes, pest strips, sprays, chemicals, fuss or muss. Ah! At Last, sanitation for pennies per day. "Spectral Glo" panels attract flies to electrically charged grids. In a split second the dead insects drop into a removable tray. Anywhere flies are a problem, there's a RID-O-RAY model right for you.

Ask for RID-O-RAY, the best in indoor or outdoor flying insect control . . . at your Farm Bureau dealer today.

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USDA accepted
UL - CSA listed
Complies with OSHA standards

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FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC
SMITH SILOS, rebuild used silos, Install

WI6-9025. Louise DeYoung, R No 3, Box 119, WATER PIPE FINDER: Simple but amazing device will find irrigation and other pipes, also 1969 TD20B . International Bulldozer postag & handling to PIPE FINDER. EBI ceramic good condition. reasonable. Roy Moore, R 5, Box 48, Traverse City 49684.

FOR SALE - JOHN Deere three furrow, 16 700 truck. 313-752-9882 or 313-752-9666. (6-2t.25p)

FOR SALE: Cedar post and holes. Hand
FOR SALE: 1968 Chev. Station Wagon, 6 cyl. 313.752.9666 or 313.752.9882. (6-2t.25p)


FOR SALE: Flying L” horse and 

R.J. Eldridge & Sons, 7911 Alden Nash Rd., Unionville. Phone 517.674.2311. (6-3t-25p)

WANTED TO BUY - U.S. bim & hives, contact Ron Ringer, 3760 Hickwark Dr., Seneca Falls, NY 13148. Phone 516-265-3412 or 654-4795. (7-15-6)

SLOTH: Our line fence needs repair. Who is required to pay for the maintenance? Are both parties required to pay even if one of the parties refuses to pay. The two occupants are unable to agree. Bill Haas, Manager Farmers Petroleum, R 6, Michigan R 1, Bill Haas, Manager Farmers Petroleum, 7177 N. Voorhies, Inglewood, California 90309. (6-tf.25p)

FARM BUROU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership, additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as $12 or $12.50 count as one word NON MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 12th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm Notes, P. O. Box 560, Lansing, MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF POETS, 6405 Michigan Ave., detroit, Michigan 48221. (4.5t-25p)

-- Predictions are for hog prices to decrease around 50% in 1976, then the member would have to pay 30 percent of the bill or the member would have to pay 30 percent of the bill or the member would have to pay the maximum of $600.00 out of available from your county member would be obligated year deductible amount.

Michigan Farm Bureau has terminated its agreement with Hertz Corporation which provided certain discounts for car rentals. The agreement was terminated because of the small number of members during the last half of 1975 with cattle slaughter to decrease to year ago levels. Such an occurrence would have reduced the membership by 100,000. The member would have had to pay the $60.00 per year deductible amount.

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In 1942 it was rare for a farmer's estate to have to file a federal estate tax return. The $50,000 exemption was usually more than the value of the estate. But in the 30 plus intervening years, the $60,000 exemption and tax rates haven't changed one bit. Today it's rare for a farmer's estate not to have to file a federal estate tax return. And the tax is often high. It now takes over a dollar to achieve the same purchasing power $30 had in 1942. On the average, assets per farm are almost 20 times greater than they were then.

Death taxes and estate settlement costs at the deaths of parents frequently take between 20 and 30 percent of the assets. And it's not uncommon for it to run as high as 40 percent. It's shocking, but it happens because farm owners are much more energetic in creating their estates than they are in preserving them or passing them on to their heirs.

Estate planning, in its broadest sense, may involve many things. The making of a will is a traditional part of it, but it involves insurance reviews, an examination of how property is owned, tax implications, and planning which can involve property held jointly with others. For someone who has spent a lifetime creating an estate, it's almost inconceivable to see the aparent disregard for future health and well being that this death may take place in the absence of a personal estate program.

For the far too many individuals who've put off talking to an expert about establishing an estate plan, we do have some good news -- and some bad news.

The good news is that whether you know it or not, you do have an estate plan. Between state and federal laws for disposing of the property of a person dying without a will, you can die anytime estate planning is needed.

Estate planning has two basic elements -- people and property. The "people side" must be sorted out, priorities established, and plans made which will accomplish these objectives. With sharply higher land values and increases in farm size, many farmers who have never considered themselves wealthy will leave behind substantial estates for settlement.

This leads directly into the second element of estate planning -- property. There are two basic types of property -- real property or estate and personal property. Real property includes land and personal property. Real property includes land while personal property includes movables and anything tangible as property as stocks, bonds, savings accounts and insurance.

It's how this property is owned that is so important when it comes to estate planning. You get into such terms as fee simple, life estate, remainder, joint tenancy and tenancy in common. It's not our intent to examine these here but simply to point out that when you start planning your estate, you will need help in deciding what type is best for you and your particular objectives.

Dying without an estate plan is a bit like walking off your farm for a year and asking a neighbor to take care of things. No one really knows exactly how you want things done -- and it probably won't get done in the way you want.

If you like the state's plan, you're in great shape. But that's not too likely. After estate taxes, funeral costs, legal fees, executor fees, accounting fees, court costs, income taxes and inheritance taxes, your estate could be diminished by 20 to 40 percent. You've spent a lifetime creating that estate -- now how about investing a few hours to find out how to leave more of it to your family.

Here at Farm Bureau, we're fortunate to have a Farm Bureau Insurance Group agency force of trained career agents and estate planners to assist Farm Bureau members and insureds. Think about the questions raised in this article, the answers will come to mind.

Let's take a moment and see what can happen. These levels of concern lead naturally to the second element of estate planning: the "people" side. Whatever is built upon the land permanently while personal property includes movables and anything tangible as property as stocks, bonds, savings accounts and insurance.

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Agriculture and Trade Were U.S.A. Building Blocks

BY DR. PAUL KINDINGER

From the time of its discovery, through periods of war and peace, America's growth and well-being have relied extensively on agriculture and trade. Early colonists were expected, by England, to furnish raw materials and serve as a market for her finished products. During periods of conflict such as the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I and World War II, American farmers were put to the test. This country had to rely heavily on its farmers for many raw materials because supply lines to other sources were severed completely and became too unreliable. America has also gone through periods of voluntary isolation from other countries.

We, as a nation, have only recently begun to appreciate and facilitate to any degree, agriculture and trade. Yet, it has been these two forces working hand in hand which have been the basic building blocks for our nation.

It is worth a moment of our time, during this Bicentennial year, to examine and try to appreciate the contributions and impact which agriculture and trade have had on our nation.

Most economists can generally agree that economic growth is essential if a country is to use its productive resources efficiently, and maintain a higher level of living for its population. It is also generally agreed that growth should be steady and sustained over a long period of time.

American agriculture has made a major contribution to the growth and economic development of the United States. It is virtually impossible for a country to survive and prosper without establishing an adequate supply of food. Because the American farmer has always been ready and willing to adopt new time-saving technology, his productivity has led the way for this country's growth.

Agriculture was necessary in the beginning for sheer survival purposes. People worked the land to provide enough food for their family. As new inventions and eventually mechanization took over, the farmer was able to provide for the needs of his family and have some left over. This, in turn, freed human resources to engage in other activities. Once this cycle is started, it feeds itself.

Today, voluntary support from the federal government to fiber for 56 people. Only 10 years ago, he was producing enough for 29. Because of the farmers' efficient output, we are all able to enjoy a satisfying quantity, quality, and variety of food and a higher level of living as well.

People in other countries also would like to enjoy a higher level of living. Since the American farmer produces far more than we are able to consume here at home, it is possible to seek additional markets overseas. This has not always been the case, however. As early as the 1950's, the American consumer, through restrictive government policies, was saddled with the burden of storing huge surpluses of grain.

A remarkable and complex set of circumstances in 1972 suddenly and dramatically changed all that. This turnaround in farm policy is due, in large part, to the changing market prospects for American farm products in the world market. We have now reached the point where the production of almost one out of every three acres of cropland harvested in the United States is going into export.

Exports of agricultural products benefit the farmer, but also benefit the consumer in several ways. One way is through the creation of new jobs in related industries, such as transportation, financing, warehousing, and supplying farm machinery, feed, and other goods and services. Industries such as food processing, wholesaling, and retailing are also affected. This, in turn, generates additional income which circulates through the economy and creates demand for other products.

Farm exports have served to create a favorable balance of payments. This is actually an anti-inflationary measure.

The balance of payments merely reflects the dollar difference between how much we buy from overseas and how much we sell overseas. Nations must sell in order to buy. By selling overseas, income is generated to buy the products needed from foreign sources.

If we bought more overseas than we sold, we would end up with a negative balance of payments. If that negative figure gets too big, our dollar becomes less stable in international markets. If other nations lose faith in our currency, then our money buys less overseas -- which is the same effect as inflation. Hence, when we have a positive balance of payments, then the position of our dollar is more sound.

Thus, as we reflect over the nation's most basic industry -- agriculture -- and its contribution to the well-being of many other nations, we should be thankful that we live in this land of such great opportunities.

For it is only in a nation where agriculture and freedom are allowed to prosper that such miracles as a plentiful food supply and the highest level of living in the world are possible.

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