Chairman of AFBF Young Farmers

Gary Nye, 29, of Jonesville, Michigan, was elected chairman of the Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee for the past two years. Nye says that through his experience on the national committee, he has learned that farmers in different regions of the nation have problems unique to their areas. However, he said, young farmers have one basic problem regardless of location — obtaining the financial backing necessary to get started in the business of farming.

The American Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will urge that existing lending institutions be used for financing young people in agriculture — with no government intervention.

Grant Urges Congress to Keep Free Market Concept

The president of the American Farm Bureau Federation has urged Congress not to use public misunderstanding to remove the free market concept from agriculture. AFBF President Allan Grant made the comments as he addressed delegates to the 58th annual meeting of the farm organization.

Grant said, "We recognize there is a role for government in agriculture," said Grant. "But this role should be restricted to the prevention of severe downswings in prices. These interfere with market prices and blunt consumer pricing signals. They encourage government owned surpluses which may be manipulated to create an illusion that food is cheaper by transferring part of the food costs to taxpayers."

"We recognize there is a proper role for government in agriculture," said Grant. "But this role should be restricted to the prevention of severe downswings in prices, which farmers should be made aware of."

Grant said, "We ask that the marketplace system have freedom to function, with emphasis placed on building competitive opportunities in farm marketplaces of this country and of the world," Grant said. "True, money earned in the open market is subject to the risks of that market, which livestock and grain farmers now understand all too well."

OSHA Disregards Congress, AFBF Says

The American Farm Bureau Federation has accused the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of disregarding Congressional intent and the "flaunting of Congressional will."

In a letter to the Labor Department agency, Farm Bureau protested a recent directive that changed an October ruling on legislation exempting farm operators with 10 or fewer employees from OSHA regulations for one year.

OSHA's original interpretation said the application or exemption of its regulations on a farm would be determined by the number of employees present on the day of inspection.

Under the new directive, any farmer who had more than 10 employees at any time during the previous 12 months would be subject to OSHA's inspection and regulation.

FB called the change one which "clearly disregards Congressional intent." It pointed out that the legislative history clearly did not intend use of a historic test.

"The Senate," FB stressed, "considered measures that would have taken employment experiences into account and the final bill did not incorporate this Senate provision."

FB asked OSHA to rescind its latest directive and adhere to the original interpretation of the so-called Skubits (R., Kansas) amendment to the current appropriations act.

At AFBF Annual

This year's 5th Annual Soybean Day will be even bigger and better than last year's. The program will be held in Flint at the Sheraton Inn at the intersection of I-75 and Pierson Road on March 1, 1977. This year's program will be an all out attempt to bring producers up-to-date on all issues that will affect their production and profit potential in the coming year.


MFB Soybean Day March 1

This year's 5th Annual Soybean Day will be even bigger and better than last year's. The program will be held in Flint at the Sheraton Inn at the intersection of I-75 and Pierson Road on March 1, 1977. This year's program will be an all out attempt to bring producers up-to-date on all issues that will affect their production and profit potential in the coming year.

The President

We Have A Choice

I'd like to share with you some comments made by former AFBF president, Charles Shuman, at the recent annual meeting in Hawaii because he made some points which, I believe, are very pertinent to us in Michigan.

He said, "It is better to go down in defeat supporting a sound policy position than to accept a compromise with an unsound position."

He warned Farm Bureau members of the danger of overplaying the 'nice guy' role. "Farm Bureau leaders are nice people and they want to be liked by others. However, the preoccupation with being a 'nice guy' sometimes leads to weakness and defeat in the tough political battle in which Farm Bureau is engaged. Farm Bureau can become more effective in coping with changed conditions by learning how to fight effectively for sound policies."

When we met in Grand Rapids in December for our annual meeting, we adopted a sound policy on land use. It is a policy calling for the preservation of private property rights, the retention of essential farmland, and the protection of the Indiana border and Flint that will take as many as 4,000 acres of prime farmland in the Eaton County area.

The Eaton County Planning Commission vigorously opposed this route, telling the State Highway Commission that it would cost Eaton farmers and businesses $50 to $125 million annually, not only in farm products, but in the amount farmers buy in goods, services and machinery.

The local planning commission went down in defeat in this issue, but its testimony and involvement made an impact. One of the state's highway commissioners said recently, "I detect that in the future we are going to build freeways by avoiding the agriculture route. I can see that when you take up farmland, you cause some real problems for farmland." We lost a battle, but we can win the 'war.' Our land use policy urges Farm Bureau members to take an active part in land use planning at all levels of government. Delegates said, "If local land use control is to be maintained, it is imperative that local people accept the responsibility to plan the use of their land resources."

The key word is "responsibility," and we dare not shirk in this vital issue. If members do not get involved, then others will make decisions which may not be in the best interests of agriculture. We simply cannot be too busy and "let George do it," because "George" even though his grandfather may have been a farmer knows nothing about agriculture and its needs today. And we can't afford to be a 'nice guy' and assume that "George" will make the right decisions.

There are zoning boards, study committees, and local decision-making groups that need input from the agricultural community. Don't wait to be asked! Volunteer your services today. Even if you can't serve in an active capacity, at least offer your knowledge and experience as a resource person. Most of these local groups are made up of people who want to be responsive to the wishes of their communities, but often don't know where to look for valuable, reliable assistance. You can provide them with information they cannot find in books or reports or studies, or from those outside the agricultural industry.

Grant

(Continued from page 1)

concerned in the new year.

He said "We have tolerated - beyond reason - the growth of giant government, now overshadowing personal and property rights. We have allowed ourselves to be taxed - beyond reason - for the very controls and regulations that further strangle us."

"We have selected, and supported, members of Congress who have every opportunity to sacrifice our individual freedom and opportunity on the altar of political expediency," Grant said.

"We have allowed excessive federal spending to create costly inflation, eating into the value of the dollar we own."

"Most of damaging of all has been excessive regulation, agriculture through newly created federal-authorities involved in the Federal Water Pollution Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act."

This attack has been directed with directives, standards, inspections, investigations, regulations, and penalties."

The AFBF president said farmers must "expose and expose" administrative and regulatory decisions and control groups such as the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and such.

The consumer movement is another area of concern to farmers, according to Grant. He charged that "most of the professional consumer advocates reflect the aims of organized labor and the anti-businesses. They remain silent about worker rights stolen by union shop compulsion, they say nothing about the conditions of work, the making, making of rules or excessive wage demands robbing the consumer."

Pesticide Antidote Guide Available

A clinical handbook on pesticide poisonings is now available, recently completed by Donald Morgan, Director of the University of Iowa Epidemiological Studies Unit. It is a treatment manual with the title, 'Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisoning.'

Each major class is grouped with a listing of the general chemical structure, mechanisms related to poisonous, symptoms, methods to confirm diagnosis, and the latest info on treatment of poisonings. To obtain a copy for a physician in your area, write to: WH-369, Waterside Mall, 300, 401 M Street, S.W. Washington, D.C.
Ag Legislators Feted at Annual Banquet

An overflow crowd of farmers, legislators, and agricultural organizations attended the Michigan Agricultural Conference's 29th annual legislative dinner at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, on January 12.

"Food for the Third Century" was the theme of the event, which featured the popular "Loof bags" of Michigan food products, donated by various agricultural organizations, associations, and businesses. Special guests included Governor Milliken, who, in his remarks, credited Michigan's agricultural industry with being the "stabilizing factor" in the state's economy. Other guests were 106 Michigan senators and representatives, and four agricultural queens representing the sugar, honey, bean and pork industries.

Four legislators received honors from the Ag Conference for their "legislative service to Michigan agriculture." They were Representative Armbruster, Senator John C. Hertel, Representative Raymond C. Kehres, and Senator Robert Young. Keynote speaker was John D. Jackson of Texas, a flyer training instructor for American Airlines, who talked on "Risk, Reaction and Responsibility."


William Brook, president of the Michigan Agricultural Conference, served as master of ceremonies for the program. The Conference is made up of several agricultural organizations, including the Michigan Farm Bureau.

8 Counties Make Goal; State Ahead in '77

Well ahead of last year's pace, the Michigan Farm Bureau 1977 Membership Campaign achieved 92.05 percent of goal as of January 19, with expectations of an early date for reaching state goal. As of that date, eight counties had reported membership goal with Genesee County being the first in the state to reach goal, reporting on January 3. Each of the counties that have reported thus far have secured a position in the "Fabulous Fifteen." Under the recent reorganization of membership regions, the "Fabulous Fifteen" replaces the "Dedicated Dozen," comprised of the first three counties in each of five membership categories to report goal.

Those counties and their membership chairman reporting goal and comprising the "Fabulous Fifteen" as of January 19 are:

- Kalamazoo - Representative William Brook, president of As of that date, eight Rublig, chairman, Genesee County, with co-chairmen Mr. & Mrs. Henry Jennings in the 1201-1500 category; and in the 1501 and over category, Saginaw County - Ivan Sparks, chairman.

Below is the state status as compared with last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE STATUS</th>
<th>1976-1977 Membership Comparison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>as of January 19, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal:</td>
<td>61,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New:</td>
<td>1,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewals:</td>
<td>51,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>33,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Goal:</td>
<td>86.62 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needed for Goal:</td>
<td>9,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>651-1200</td>
<td>61,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1201-1500</td>
<td>6,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1501</td>
<td>64,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19,1977</td>
<td>36,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needed for Goal:</td>
<td>92.05 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.62</td>
<td>4,896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Henry Jennings, Genesee County membership chairman, receives congratulations from MFB Central Region Representative Burlieh Bishop, for leading that county in its achievement of being the first county to reach 1977 membership goal. Genesee reached its goal of 1,435 member families on January 3. Jennings reports that the membership total is now well over 1,500.

Somebody has to tell urban people how important agriculture really is.

All of the forces of agriculture and urban society affect urban people, too. And that's why we're telling the world that "Farming is everybody's bread & butter." That share of the consumer dollar going back to farmers and ranchers goes down year after year. And when you compare prices of food: 10 or 20 years ago, food continues to be one of the best bargains around. So help your PCA spread the word, wherever you go. Stop in and pick up a bread & butter bumper sticker. Tell the world!
CAPITOL REPORT - Michigan's State of the Message

Governor Milliken gave his annual state of the state message on January 13, 1977, to the 79th Michigan Legislature. He welcomed the 14 new members elected in the recent special election and assured them that it was his desire to work with the Legislature on constructive goals and on all legislative issues. He pointed out that our nation is entering its 3rd century, and our state is entering its 154th year of statehood. He said there could be no doubt that the means to expand our economy will be the highest priority for 1977.

He warned the legislators that "We face one of the longest and most complex agendas ever to challenge a Michigan Legislature and a Michigan governor." His formal message was in book form and contained some 100 pages with more than 200 proposals, requesting 85 pieces of legislation. Some major issues included:

BUDGET - He indicated that his general fund budget would be up between $600 million and $800 million over the last year. And that there would be "no call for increased taxes" for the "general fund." He estimated the cost of transportation message that will follow next week may be a request for increased state funding for highways, public transportation, including airports, mass transit, etc. He also pointed out that there may be requests to repair some of the existing tax laws that provide tax relief for businesses and to provide business incentives for job expansion. He pointed out that there will be a request for funds to specifically support corrections to the Single Business Tax whatever there are incentives. The Michigan Efficiency Task Force's 41 recommendations when implemented are expected to save about $15 million annually. A "Budget Stabilization Fund" was recommended. He said that this budget will contain a recommendation for creating a fund to set aside surplus funds during the good years to be used later during the bad years, and he called this a "rainy day fund." Such a fund will contribute to responsible budget planning. It is also estimated that an amount of about $100 million would be able to be set aside this year (perhaps $100 million).

"Sunset Legislation" was proposed to help cut the growth of state government. Citizens are frustrated with the rising cost of government. There have been many attempts to cut government spending such as program budget evaluation systems and other studies, including the Michigan Efficiency Task Force. Each of those efforts had some success. However, the concept of "Sunset Legislation" is to provide a review of each program for which means they must be reenacted if they are to be continued. The concept of "Sunset Legislation" is to provide a review of each program for which means they must be reenacted if they are to be continued.

AGRICULTURE - Governor Milliken pointed out that last year Michigan farm operators earned more than $1 billion for their cash crops, and other marketable produce. It has been estimated that the Michigan portion of the national agricultural produce is included. He said that agricultural employment grows more than 4,000 workers on U.S. farms. This number of farms is slightly under half of the 160,000 farms in Michigan as recently as 1965. The average farm size in Michigan has increased from 111 acres to 155 acres. He said that every month a farm should be done to "preserve, protect and encourage this basic Michigan industry and take every action necessary to retain their livelihood from it."

He said there are no easy solutions for some of the problems facing the Michigan agricultural industry, as other businesses, it is confronted by steady rising costs for fuels, transportation, wages and supplies. He said it is essential, therefore, that a favorable economic climate for agricultural operations be maintained and that the state must assist wherever possible to maintain existing and develop foreign marketing programs. He briefly outlined some of the more recent legislation affecting agriculture including the Farmland and Forest Act of 1974 (P.A. 116). He said that more than 900 development rights had been acquired, representing more than 160,000 acres of valuable farmland.

He pointed out that the Agricultural Marketing and Food Promotion Act has been extended, thus giving farmers a permanent marketing tool which will protect them from discrimination and other unfavorable practices on the part of middlemen, handlers and processors and allows producers to equalize their position in negotiations for prices. He also indicated that the New Farm Produce Storage Act, which is better known as the "Price Stabilization Act," will require all grain dealers and truckers to be licensed and will allow the Department of Agriculture to take steps in order to assure farmers payment for their grain (this is an extension of the old Warehouse Bonding Act).

The governor also made reference to the future of the State Fair. He supports the idea of moving the fair to Detroit as it is conveniently situated to serve the needs of the residents of urban areas of eastern Michigan. He also pointed out that funds are needed to improve the fairgrounds.

The report mentions the Michigan Farmland Development Program. The governor pointed out that Michigan rural areas have more than 60,000 acres that are entitled to a fair share of government funding for state and federal surplus agriculture programs. In the fall of 1976 he is planning to establish within the Department of Agriculture a new Council on Rural Development with council members to include representatives of federal, state and private sectors.

He said that agriculture was the governor's recommendation on chemical contamination. He recommended that "Michigan use its strength when a contagious disease erupts in epidemic proportions either in human beings or in animals. We must mobilize quickly to provide any necessary assistance. However, chemical contamination do not have reliable procedures for dealing with the problems. These include such problems in recent years as DDT, mercury, PCB and PBB. He recommends establishing a comprehensive program of activities of three departments concerned with these problems (public health, agriculture and D.N.R., and agriculture). He recommended that the D.N.R. develop a proposal for private participation in monitoring toxic environmental systems.

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE - The governor said that he would urge the Legislature to pass a land use bill this year. It has been nearly five years since he first proposed legislative action on land use planning. He said that it was essential that Michigan not allow unnecessary and premature development to erode the state's natural resources and that erosion of land based industries including farming, forestry, and mining and tourism must be eliminated. He pointed out that agricultural production potential has been cut by 1/3 due to problems (farms being forced to leave land, and that the northern forests, once a valuable resource, are threatened by unplanned and premature development which sometimes denies access to mineral deposits. He also urged passage of "wetlands" legislation this year as there are more than 200,000 acres of "wetlands" which have been lost. Wetlands are essential to prevent flooding loss and are important to prevent encourage toxic waste disposal systems.

He further urged passage of "wetlands" legislation this year as there are more than 200,000 acres of "wetlands" which have been lost. Wetlands are essential to prevent flooding loss and are important to prevent encourage toxic waste disposal systems.

The governor also urged passage of "wetlands" legislation this year as there are more than 200,000 acres of "wetlands" which have been lost. Wetlands are essential to prevent flooding loss and are important to prevent encourage toxic waste disposal systems.

ECONOMY - Governor Milliken pointed out that Michigan is an energy "have not" state. The oil embargo in 1973 seriously affected the economic condition of the state and the state's energy imports since then have risen from 30 percent of needs to almost 45 percent and continue to increase. Oil production has fallen from 6.1 million barrels a day to 4 million barrels a day - the lowest in 5 years. The government has been 22 percent short of demand during this winter. Michigan produces only 8 percent of its oil needs, 10 percent of its natural gas needs and must import from other states or countries 100 percent of coal needs. In short, Michigan produces only 4 percent of its energy supplies but continues to rapidly increase consumption of energy resources. Gasoline consumption is up over 4 percent and electricity consumption up 9.2 percent. The governor expressed the imperative, the governor said, that unnecessary energy use is to be eliminated. He mentioned several areas of energy conservation being undertaken by state agencies and also of energy research and development, such as appropriation for a national solar energy research institute which is expected to be located in Michigan. Also the passage of certain legislation in reference to the future of the old Warehouse Bonding Act.

LABOR - One very controversial area of concern is the need to revamp the Workers Compensation Act. This will include improving benefits for injured employees, return abused employees to work and expect others to feed them, or employees of the system who take advantage of their positions for illegal gains for themselves, or the providers of health service who pad their bills or perform unnecessary services draining the state funds that it sorely needs for worthy purposes. He said efforts will be stepped up through the Attorney General and with legislative help to continue to prosecute cheaters etc. and straighten out the welfare system. A Task Force on social welfare programs will be appointed. Several other recommendations made in Public Health, Mental Health, Medicaid, malpractice, etc.

CRIME - This is one of "our greatest problems" in both urban and rural areas. In a survey, more than 60 percent of the respondents said that Michigan is a high crime rate state. He listed several priority programs (Continued on page 18)
The power of seniority will be 94th Congress will carry over reforms realized during the Senate. This will be 292-143 in the House allies - the presidential veto. The biggest obstacle to the changes, however, is expected from members who would lose their post as chairmen of a committee that would be abolished. Certain special interest groups, such as labor are also opposing the possible abolition of some committees. The Senate Rules Committee was expected to have considered the changes and reported the proposal back to the full Senate by a time limit the Michigan Farm News is published.

Michigan Congressional Delegation
The composition of the Michigan Congressional delegation in the 95th Congress, will represent a gain of 1 seat for the Republicans. This seat will be won by Harold Sawyer (R-Grand Rapids) who defeated incumbent Richard Van Veen in the Fifth District - the one held by President Ford prior to his being named Vice-President of the United States. Michigan delegation will have 11 Democrats and 8 Republicans. In addition to Congressman Sawyer, other new members of the Michigan delegation include Carl Pursell (R-Frederick), incumbent Marvin Esch, who lost in his bid for the United States Senate, Dr. Irving Selikoff (R-St. Joseph) replacing incumbent Ed Hutchinson who retired; Dale Kildee (D-Flint) replacing incumbent James O'Hara who lost his party's nomination for the United States Senate.

MAJOR ISSUE
During the 94th Congress which adjourned on October 2, 1976, nearly 38,000 bills were introduced, 91 percent of these bills affected agriculture in various ways. Undoubtedly the newly elected 95th Congress will be equally prolific in introducing bills before adjourning some time before December 31, 1977, and provides authority for various farm program provisions including wheat, corn, feed grains and milk. The new Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, has suggested certain changes in the legislation. Support programs must be carefully designed and implemented to avoid conditions which might perpetuate to protect our competitive position in world markets, and to avoid undue interferences with market-oriented adjustments in production and marketing - and the farmer's management of agriculture because we believe farmers will fare better under the market system than under any type of government managed system.

The above policy change indicates that Farm Bureau will support an extension of the 1973 Act, provided loan rates will be increased to no higher than 3% and the AFBP policy is expected to deal with implementation of drafting of new farm legislation to replace the current act.


FARM NEWS PAGE 5

NATIONAL NOTES

The 95th Congress convened on January 4 to begin its 1977 Session. For the first time since former President Lyndon Johnson left office in 1969, both the Congress and White House will be controlled by Democrats. Because of the change of Presidents as a result of the November 2 election, the role of the minority Republicans will have changed and it has been during the last eight years. The Republicans have lost three of their most powerful allies - the presidential veto. Overall, the Democrat majority in the 95th Congress will hold 245 in the House and 61-38 (with Independent serving) in the Senate. This represents a gain of three seats for Democrats in the House while neither party gained seats in the Senate. In the House many of the reforms realized during the 94th Congress will carry over into the new 95th Congress. The power of seniority will be less dominant, voting procedures have been liberalized and previously closed committee sessions will be opened to the public.

In the Senate many sweeping changes are being considered and if adopted would be the first major reorganization in over thirty years. The changes include a reduction in Senate committee which would substantially cut Senators committee assignments. Senators must often choose between several committee and sub-committee meetings. The biggest obstacle to the changes, however, is expected from members who would lose their post as chairmen of a committee that would be abolished. Certain special interest groups, such as labor are also opposing the possible abolition of some committees. The Senate Rules Committee was expected to have considered the changes and reported the proposal back to the full Senate by a time limit the Michigan Farm News is published.

Michigan Congressional Delegation
The composition of the Michigan Congressional delegation in the 95th Congress, will represent a gain of 1 seat for the Republicans. This seat will be won by Harold Sawyer (R-Grand Rapids) who defeated incumbent Richard Van Veen in the Fifth District - the one held by President Ford prior to his being named Vice-President of the United States. Michigan delegation will have 11 Democrats and 8 Republicans. In addition to Congressman Sawyer, other new members of the Michigan delegation include Carl Pursell (R-Frederick), incumbent Marvin Esch, who lost in his bid for the United States Senate, Dr. Irving Selikoff (R-St. Joseph) replacing incumbent Ed Hutchinson who retired; Dale Kildee (D-Flint) replacing incumbent James O'Hara who lost his party's nomination for the United States Senate.

MAJOR ISSUE
During the 94th Congress which adjourned on October 2, 1976, nearly 38,000 bills were introduced, 91 percent of these bills affected agriculture in various ways. Undoubtedly the newly elected 95th Congress will be equally prolific in introducing bills before adjourning some time before December 31, 1977, and provides authority for various farm program provisions including wheat, corn, feed grains and milk. The new Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, has suggested certain changes in the legislation. Support programs must be carefully designed and implemented to avoid conditions which might perpetuate to protect our competitive position in world markets, and to avoid undue interferences with market-oriented adjustments in production and marketing - and the farmer's management of agriculture because we believe farmers will fare better under the market system than under any type of government managed system.

The above policy change indicates that Farm Bureau will support an extension of the 1973 Act, provided loan rates will be increased to no higher than 3% and the AFBP policy is expected to deal with implementation of drafting of new farm legislation to replace the current act.
Zoning, P.A. 116 Must Be Used to Preserve Ag Lands

The Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources are working together to develop comprehensive land use policies for Michigan. This coordinated work to preserve agricultural land from urban development is one of the first of a series of outline what some of the trends in land use have been, how effective current programs are and what farmers can expect in the way of state and national land use planning legislation.

Defense of one's property has led to some of the bitterest battles in this country's history. Conflicting interests of land use, such as between cattlemen and "homesteaders" or farmers and land developers, sometimes ended in tragedy for the man who stood alone to defend his property rights.

Fortunately the question of land use is no longer a battle between two individuals as it often was in the past. The need for a systematized method of assuring adequate amounts of land for various elements of society is well recognized now and laws exist to achieve this goal for the property owner. However, the basic dispute is the same. Why should one man let his land be used for a purpose other than he planned for it? This "right to property," to do what one wishes with one's property, has even been the major stumbling block to comprehensive land use legislation. Many otherwise well-thought-out land use programs have failed because they were interpreted to violate the constitutionality of private ownership.

To properly implement a land use program for the public benefit, some segments of society must give up more than others," says Ron Nelson, local affairs specialist for the Michigan Farm Bureau. "However, those that do give up more should be compensated in other ways to balance out the economic loss to these landowners. Land use legislation seems needed more and more in the compulsory direction.

According to Michigan State University agricultural economist Larry Libby, there have been three approaches to land use planning through the years. All have been designed to deal with the private ownership of land in a different way. "The most frequently implemented regulatory land use policy format is zoning," Libby explains. "This concept uses districts to protect land used for one major purpose from being sold and developed into other uses. This method limits some of the property owners options, but offers security to those who do not wish to sell or alter their land for other uses." A second ideology, one considered for Michigan, was passed into law for the state for agricultural purposes. Landowners would have to apply to the state for the development rights. The enormous cost of this concept prevented it from being enacted in Michigan.

"The third concept, presently in Michigan, is the incentives program, where a landowner is compensated for keeping his land for a certain purpose for a specified amount of time," Libby says. The Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB), Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and many other groups, including Michigan agriculture advocate both the incentives and the zoning concepts for land use planning.

"Michigan's incentive program, P.A. 116, has received wide acceptance since the act was passed in May 1974," says Bob Smith MFB senior legislative council. "Presently about 700 persons owning a total of 160,000 acres in 56 counties, both in the upper and lower peninsulas have signed agreements for the tax rebate program. Additional applications are in process all over the state."

Also known as the Farm, Fish and Game Land Preservation Act, this tax program is one of the few in the country designed to encourage farmers to preserve valuable lands. The totally voluntary program offers varying forms of incentives, Smith explains. It cuts the property tax for the land owner by returning the difference in property taxes exceed seven per cent of the household income and makes sure that the property is not assessed for utilities. The property is also exempt from special assessments for sewers, farm draining and lighting.

In return, the landowner must sign a contract stating the purpose for which the land specified in the contract to be used for any other than agricultural purposes for at least ten years. "Some farmers have signed contracts for 40 years and more to make sure that their lands are protected against urban encroachment," Smith says. "This really shows legislators and others involved with land use planning that farmers have much deeper motivations than selling out their land to the highest bidder."

Michigan Farm Bureau was a major force in promoting and supporting P.A. 116. The organization has been greatly concerned with the preservation of agricultural land in the state, but also in providing tax "break" for farmers.

"Historically, farmers have paid four to five times the land taxes that urban property owners have," Smith explains. "MFB started a concentrated effort to initiate a tax reform program for farmers as a part of its resolutions in 1962. These resolutions pointed out that the farmer is carrying too much of the local tax burden."

Country Doctor Shortage Breeds Poor Rural Health

First of a Series

The quality of Michigan's rural health care has been ailing for many years, and supply has always been a problem in rural states. Among its 83 counties, the 56 with the worst doctor-to-patient ratio are rural.

The state's health experts agree that a shortage of doctors of all kinds is the basic problem. But since the trend towards more specialization and the decentralization of medical care in medical schools, the number of general practitioners and physicians in rural areas has declined sharply.

"It is only about ten per cent of the annual total of family physicians that the Michigan Health Council, "Only 27 doctors completed their family practice residencies in 1976. This is a shocking figure, Doherty says. The Michigan Farm Bureau has been a contributing member of the Michigan Health Council for 20 years. As a part of its 1974 resolutions, MFB recognizes the need for more family physicians in rural areas, along with improved medical services. The organization encourages the state legislature to provide ample funding to train programs at teaching hospitals to encourage doctors to put graduate work in Michigan. The following article is a part of an annual total of family physicians in both rural and urban areas."

Through the Health Council, many organizations are working to reorganize rural health structures, provide incentive programs for doctors to work in rural areas and to solicit programs from the state to work with rural communities on how they can encourage physicians to work in those areas, Doherty says. The Michigan Farm Bureau has been a contributing member of the Michigan Health Council for 20 years. As a part of its 1974 resolutions, MFB recognizes the need for more family physicians in rural areas, along with improved medical services. The organization encourages the state legislature to provide ample funding to training programs at teaching hospitals to encourage doctors to put graduate work in Michigan. The following article is a part of an annual total of family physicians in both rural and urban areas."

"The state's medical schools are now under pressure from the state legislature that controls the MASA membership in the year ahead, "Heather says. Michigan's rural youth are now under pressure from the state legislature that controls the MASA membership in the year ahead, "Heather says. Michigan's rural youth are now under pressure from the state legislature that controls the Michigan Farm Bureau's affiliate which provides research and information on current management rules and regulations concerning agricultural labor, is now underway. The membership list now totals 325, moving towards a goal of 1,000 members. Included in this total are 130 new members, representing 32.5 percent of the 1977 new member goal of 400.

Shepard urges participation in labor information meetings scheduled in February and March. Those interested should contact their county Farm Bureau office for time and place."

Discussion Response Shows Safemark Success

Will agriculture come under the National Labor Relations Act? Will the State of Michigan remove agriculture's current exemption from paying unemployment? Will agriculture continue to be exempt from paying over-time wages? Will agriculture continue to be an acceptable method of paying for agricultural work? Will the legislature attempt to reform the current Michigan Workmen's Compensation laws? Where will OSHA and M-OSHA hit agriculture? These are just a few of the many questions that confront agriculture in the year ahead. Predicts Donald Shepard, Operations Manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA). "This is why a strong MASA membership in 1977 is imperative," he said.

The 1977 membership campaign for MASA, Farm Bureau's affiliate which provides research and information on current management rules and regulations concerning agricultural labor, is now underway. The membership list now totals 325, moving towards a goal of 1,000 members. Included in this total are 130 new members, representing 32.5 percent of the 1977 new member goal of 400.

Shepard urges participation in labor information meetings scheduled in February and March. Those interested should contact their county Farm Bureau office for time and place.
Urban Sludge Successful as Ag Fertilizer

At least 20 Michigan communities are finding ways to utilize sludge from municipal wastewater treatment plants in the fertilization of agricultural lands. "These communities are utilizing their waste, instead of just dumping it into lakes, rivers and streams," said Jacobs, Michigan State University soil scientist. "Such programs are proving to be beneficial to both the communities and agriculture in general."

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Monroe County has the most complete package of land use development, along with a comprehensive application guidance program. The cities of Allegan, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Chippewa, Eaton, Gratiot, Kalamazoo, Kewaunee, Lenawee, Monroe, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, St. Joseph, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties are also making comprehensive sludge application programs in the state, the DNR says. Jacobs believes that sludge from urban sources could prove to be as efficient as commercial fertilizers.

Provided good management practices are observed, farmers may get better plant response by using the liquid waste, sludge, Jacobs said. "Farmers in Michigan who have used this waste as fertilizer are returning to it by choice for the following year's application program."

The increased response is not only due to the amount of trace elements present in domestic waste, Jacobs points out.

"In other waste, is not a balanced fertilizer," the soil expert clarified. "The substance is usually low on the basic need elements which may have to be added. With the proper loading ratio of nitrogen already present in the mixture, through use, proper amounts of phosphorus and potassium should also be present."

Two disadvantages of using liquid waste sludge are their widespread application of the organic fertilizer instead of commercial fertilizer, Jacobs says. "One is that nearly all the needed crop nutrients can be supplied through application of commercial fertilizer." Jacobs explains. "Waste is usually 95 percent water, so many trips must be made to the field to apply a exact ratio of nutrients with waste."

A farmer alone could not afford the increased costs of making so many trips through his fields, Jacobs points out. However, many of the communities that are involved with the land application of sludge are providing a major portion of the labor, either by use of the manpower in the summer months, in some cases, both are provided. "If a farmer can work out such an arrangement with a municipality, the use of sludge is a viable and practical alternative," Jacobs says.

A more critical problem in using sludge is that there are as yet no comprehensive guidelines established as to how much material can be applied while maintaining a safe level of heavy metals. "Heavy metal contamination of domestic and industrial waste is the major problem in the use of sludge as the fertilizer of crops for human consumption," Jacobs says.

(Continued on page 8)

P.A. 116 Growing, Zoning Use Expands

(Continued from page 6)

burden. P.A. 116 offers an unique way to help balance out the tax burden of local government. The act has been so unique in that it is voluntary, Smith points out. "P.A. 116's success means that it's possible to change land use patterns with a voluntary tax relief program instead of a mandating a state or federal program," Smith emphasizes.

Smith is also encouraged because the law received a considerable amount of support from metropolitan legislators. "Michigan Farm Bureau first started sponsoring the law as H. 4244 in 1973. "Urban people have begun to see the need for the preservation of agricultural land as a means to maintain food production," Smith points out. "This attitude will help insure better local zoning regulations around urban areas."

Apparently many Michigan farmers are feeling the squeeze of the tremendous growth development, for the greatest concentration of land under P.A. 116 contracts is close to or between urban centers.

All in all, Smith feels that P.A. 116 is the most advanced law for farm protection that has been proposed in the country. "When we first put the law together, we drew from success stories of farm land use programs operating in New York, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, and then added our own ideas. Now we have personnel from other states contacting us for advice in structuring such policies."

"The program is a major breakthrough. A national interest group was formed to mount an aggressive opposition to the program. The USG ag personnel from other states are claiming this program will lead to a decrease in the land under use, the manpower. In some cases, both are provided. "If a farmer can work out such an arrangement with a municipality, the use of sludge is a viable and practical alternative," Jacobs says.

A more critical problem in using sludge is that there are as yet no comprehensive guidelines established as to how much material can be applied while maintaining a safe level of heavy metals. "Heavy metal contamination of domestic and industrial waste is the major problem in the use of sludge as the fertilizer of crops for human consumption," Jacobs says.

(Continued on page 8)

MACMA Annual Features P.A. 344

President Elton Smith will call to order the 16th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Agricultural Marketing Association (MACMA) on Thursday, February 24 at the Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids. MACMA's multi-commodity marketing association affiliated with the Michigan Farm Bureau includes thirteen operating divisions through which marketing services are provided to benefit producers and dealers of farm market products. Annual reports will include highlights of the 1976 operations year and outline goals for the future of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association. According to Stockman, "Increased volumes of commodities marketed and income to the Association are the measurable evidence of successful marketing efforts.

We are proud to be able to report our accomplishments to the MACMA membership. In 1976, MACMA completed its fiscal year with a positive net margin; in addition, Class A Common stock holders will receive a 7 percent dividend. The Association has increased producer membership to a record high of 2,707 members with substantial membership increases in the Feeder Pig Division and the Michigan Processing Apple Division. MACMA also added a new division, the Direct Marketing Division, which coordinates the Farm Bureau "Member-to-Member" program. Emphasis is on expanding the sales of Michigan products in other states.

Growers, processors and agribusiness and governmental officials have become accustomed to operating within the provisions of P.A. 344, which is the first comprehensive farm bargaining law enacted in the United States. In that it is new landmark legislation, P.A. 344 has been subject to legal challenges by opponents since its enactment.

Extensive litigation has been filed in several state courts by the Michigan Canners and Freezers Association against MACMA and the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board. Most of the lawsuits are inactive and awaiting a final decision by the Michigan Supreme Court on the asparagus suit. The Supreme Court, in its August 1976 ruling remanding the suit back to the Ingham County Circuit Court, ordered the Association to prove that the act is unconstitutional on the processors challenging P.A. 344.
Hannah Says at Annual

Profits Key to Meeting Food Demand

Farmers of the world can and will meet the challenge of producing an adequate supply of food if the profit system is permitted to work. Dr. John A. Hannah, Executive Director of the World Food Council, told Amelec, the Bureau Federation Annual meeting participants in Hawaii, "Farmers, whether subsisting on less than an acre in south Asia and Africa, or on a large modern farm in the United States, cannot be expected to meet the challenge unless they receive adequate rewards and incentives." Dr. Hannah spoke at the meeting held at the American Farm Bureau Federation's convention.

"It is important", Dr. Hannah said, "to recognize that although the production of food is fundamental, the issue is not food for 'people in general' is not the issue. On the average, the per person food supply is about a fifth higher than it was in 1959," said Dr. Hannah. "The more than four billion people alive today have more food available than the 2.5 billion people alive in 1950 had."

"The real food supply problem lies with the tens of millions below average, the starving, hungry, or grossly malnourished people, most of them children." Dr. Hannah said that most malnourished people live in Asia, Africa and in some of the Latin American countries. "The first challenge is to increase food production in these developing countries."

The second challenge is to see that the increased food supplies are actually consumed by those people who need additional food most. Dr. Hannah emphasized the immediate need for increased production of the basic cereals such as rice, wheat and the other food grains and the oil seeds that are the principal diet for poor people in the poorest countries. "Now is the time to give serious thought to the establishment of food reserves that will truly benefit both producers and consumers," said Dr. Hannah. "The United States should play a leading role in encouraging serious consideration of the pros and cons." He urged leaders of the Farm Bureau to exert leadership in bringing about the discussions and debate necessary for public understanding of the issues.

"Repeatedly in the past we have seen that these problems were dramatically presented and then quietly allowed to drift from the minds of those who ignored them. We can also see that the Food Council was established to ensure that this does not happen again, and that the world's attention will be constantly focused on the need to make fundamental improvements and that the related objectives will be brought to the attention of international agencies and national governments."

FPC Has Fuel in Spite of Winter

In spite of tight fuel reserves caused by the extremely cold winter, all Farmers Petroleum Cooperative dealers will be able to carry adequate fuel supplies throughout the balance of the winter, Bill Rockey, FPC executive vice president, said.

"However, just because we have the fuel doesn't mean that consumers should not conserve," Rockey emphasized. "We're strongly urging that all Michigan farmers take every conservation measure they can."

The problem is not one of the lack of fuel in the country, Rockey explains, but one of transportation difficulties brought on by the cold weather. "The overall fuel supply situation in Michigan is quite tight because the ability to get fuel into the material into the Northern states has been seriously hampered."

No. 1 fuel oil supplies are extremely tight, Rockey says. FPC dealer supplies of this material are presently being allocated.

The unusual cold spell is expected to last throughout February and possibly longer, weather forecasters say.

"It is possible that if the poor weather conditions continue, we might be called upon to ship fuel to a part of the country less fortunate than Michigan", Rockey points out. "This will tighten up our supplies even more and is another reason why farmers should conserve."

FB Mutual Increases Worker Benefits

Because of mounting losses caused by medical care costs, Farm Bureau Mutual has raised rates for worker's compensation insurance.

The rates were set by the Worker's Compensation Rating and Inspection Association of Michigan, an independent group, and the rates are subsequently established for Farm Bureau Mutual and many other insurance companies operating in Michigan.

Although rates went up for almost all classes of coverage, the average increase is less for agricultural workers than for other classes.

Coverage for agricultural workers will raise an average of 9.04 per cent, compared to the average rate increase of 15.5 per cent in all classes, including manufacturing and contracting.

Rising worker's compensation losses, directly linked to inflated prices, especially in hospital and medical costs, were responsible for the higher rates. The new rates took effect December 1, 1976.

Civil money penalties have been established for 33 different violations of the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act (FLCRA), according to Wage and Hour Administrator Ronald J. Dr. Hannah, U.S. Department of Labor.

The money amounts, which may be assessed range from $50 to $1,000 for a single violation, depending on the seriousness of the offense.

Categories of violations for which a contractor may be assessed a civil money penalty of up to $1,000 are:

- failure to meet required registration certificate from the Labor Department;
- failure to carry required insurance on personally owned or controlled vehicles that are used to transport workers;
- failure to meet required health and safety standards for personally owned or controlled migrant housing;
- registering falsely as a contractor on behalf of someone who does not qualify for a certificate (i.e., someone who has had a certificate revoked or denied).

Growers and other users of agricultural workers may also be assessed up to $1,000 for engaging the services of an unregistered contractor or for knowingly employing a contractor who has taken illegal action that could disqualify the contractor from holding a certificate.

Both employers of agricultural workers and contractors may be liable for a penalty of up to $1,000 for retaliating against workers who file complaints or suits against them.

Willful employment of illegal aliens carries a $400 penalty for each alien worker knowingly employed. This could raise the total money penalty above $1,000 in a single violation, depending on the number of illegal aliens.

Civil money penalties have been established for such violations as failure to properly post working conditions at the work site ($50); failure to make proper payment to workers ($200); and failure to keep payroll records ($400). A penalty may be reduced by 50 percent if the violation is not willful or recurring.

The FLCRA, enacted in 1963, was amended in 1974, to strengthen protection of migrants by placing stricter controls on farm labor contractors and by making users of agricultural workers subject to penalty for the first time. The right to a hearing before an administrative law judge as to the amount of civil money penalties is also established by the 1974 amendments.

"Industrial sludge, particularly that from auto bodies, the like, is most likely to contain greater levels of the poisonous metals."

However, the soil scientist sees a trend for industry to try to reclaim these metals from their effluents for recycling. He anticipates that in about five years, industrial waste could be as applicable to agricultural land as domestic waste.
MFBers Enjoy AFBF Annual, Hawaii

While Michigan was suffering the coldest winter in years, over 550 Michigan Farm Bureau members were enjoying the beauty and 80 degree weather of Hawaii. They left Michigan on January 6 to attend the 55th Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which drew some 14,000 members from all parts of the nation.

Michigan farmers heard many fine speakers, including AFBF President Allan Grant, Fredrick Dent, Chief of U.S. Trade Negotiations, and Dr. John Hannah.

The highlight of the meeting, however, was the appearance of Shirley Temple Black. Many remember her as the curly haired movie star, but were impressed with her philosophy, charm and the content of her message. Farm Bureau members were proud to have Mrs. Black as Chief of Protocol for the U.S. State Department.

At an awards program, the members were pleased to learn that the Michigan Farm Bureau received five (5) Gold Stars for program excellence and knew they had helped build those programs.

But the meetings were only a small part of the memories that Farm Bureau members have of Hawaii. Perhaps the weather made the greatest impression. The temperature never dropped below 70 degrees and was in the mid 80’s during the day.

One said, "Oh, to have a dairy farm and not worry about pipes freezing!"

But because they are farmers, members had concern for the things they saw. First, Hawaii needs rain badly. Reservoirs for water are nearly empty. This is of major concern to Hawaiian agriculture.

Many Changes in Ag Labor Laws in 1977

Donald Shepard, operations manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, said that several changes have occurred in agricultural labor laws and regulations.

Effective January 1, 1977, the Federal Minimum Wage Rate for agricultural employees is $2.20 per hour. In addition, the section 7(c) and 7(d) seasonal exemptions for agricultural labor was eliminated effective January 1. These sections allowed a wage to be worked up to 48 hours per week (up to 10 hours per day) for a period of time without overtime pay. Effective January 1, the Michigan minimum wage rate for agricultural employees is $2.30 per hour. Also effective January 1 was the increase in Michigan agricultural piece rates to be equivalent to the prevailing minimum hourly wage rate for such work.

Effective January 1, the Social Security tax wage base is $16,500, up from $15,300. The rate remains the same: 5.85 percent to be paid by the employer and 5.85 percent to be paid by the employee.

Farmers who employed 11 or more workers at any one time during the previous calendar year must post OSHA Form 102, "Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses," where employees can see it, and keep it posted for the month of February, 1977.

Savin' Dollars' New MFB Radio Program

Helping everyone stretch their dollars is the aim of a new Michigan Farm Bureau public service radio program.

The show, called "Savin' Dollars With Sense," tries to give Michigan farmers and consumers a hand in getting the most for their money. Some of the subjects covered have included: saving on interior painting, how to shop credit, how to buy car tires, how to save on heating bills, and how to compare warranties.

Mike Rogers of the Michigan Farm Bureau Information and Public Relations Division produces the program, using source people from the state government and Michigan State University.

The show is distributed by the Michigan Radio Network, and is also carried by WJCO in Jackson.

Mrs. Rigg Named to Ag Labor Board

Mrs. Ruth M. Rigg has been named to the Michigan Agricultural Labor Commission. She is the wife of Remus Rigg, Coldwater. The Riggs are Branch County Farm Bureau members and operate an 840-acre farm which produces wheat, soybeans and corn.

Mrs. Rigg will serve as a grower member on the Commission for the remainder of a term ending November 16, 1977. She has been District II Chairman and State Safety Chairman for Michigan Farm Bureau Women. She was the first woman to be elected to the Branch County Fair Board in 1973. Presently she is serving as a member of the MFB Speakers Bureau and was recently appointed township clerk.

Y Fer's Should Help During FFA Week

County Farm Bureau Young Farmer committees are encouraged to work with local FFA chapters to help that organization commemorate National FFA Week February 19-26.

This year's theme, "Learning the Basics: NJIN's" stresses the importance of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) and its student enrollment.

Dr. David L. Armstrong, assistant dean and director for the office of academic and student affairs, says that during the week as much visibility as is possible will be given the students, their graduates and their accomplishments.

More than 17,000 Michigan residents are expected to participate in the more than 170 educational programs and related activities offered throughout Farmers' Week. More than 300 speakers from throughout the nation will make special presentations for these sessions which will complement scores of MSU departmental displays and activities.

Interested Young Farmer Committee leaders should contact local FFA chapters during the first part of February to get the most benefit out of an FFA Week promotion, Currey adds.

FFAF Week is traditionally celebrated beginning the Saturday before George Washington's birthday (February 20) and ending the following Saturday. The FFA recognizes Washington in their ceremonies during FFA Week because of his significant contributions to American agriculture.

Representative Dennis Cowhorne, 98th district (8-Manistee) loads up his "foot bag" with food contributed by various Michigan agricultural organizations and food companies at the 29th Annual Legislative Dinner. The Event was sponsored by the Michigan Agricultural Conference. All participants are offered the food sample "Michigan grown goodness."

mfrn Farmers of the Week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS - AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

mfrn Farmers of the Week is sponsored by MICHIGAN FARM RADI NETWORK AND FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP.
This year, it'll be hard to turn down.

Now your dealer has all the Liquid AAtrex® 4L you want, and he has all the reasons why it's a better buy than ever.

He'll tell you we now make Liquid AAtrex with a continuous flow process. This allows volume production with no sacrifice in quality control.

And he'll discuss with you how much easier Liquid AAtrex is to work with than the powder.

But what about time-savings, better coverage, improved control? And how will Liquid AAtrex work in a tank mix with another liquid herbicide?

Ask your dealer. He has these answers, too. And more.

Agricultural Division, CIBA-GEIGY Corporation, P.O. Box 11422, Greensboro, NC 27409

Liquid AAtrex 4L
It's what you always wanted atrazine to be.
Buschlen Honored at Testimonial

Living up to a legend can be a full-time job, but according to "testimony" given at the Michigan Farm Bureau Retirement Testimonial Dinner on January 4, "Busch" has met the challenge and would be a true inspiration to others. The occasion was attended by invited friends and associates who praised Buschlen for his accomplishments throughout his 40-year career in agriculture. The speakers also shared their personal reminiscences with the assembled guests.

Directors of the Michigan AgriLearn Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (MSA) were seated as members of the "hearing board." One of the speakers was Elton Smith, chairman of the Board of Directors of Michigan agriculture and its affiliated companies. Representative H.R. Hansbarger, who represents Michigan agriculture and its affiliated companies, was one of the speakers. He expressed the high regard in which he is held by his friends.

Blue Cross--Blue Shield Open Enrollment March 1-15

Perhaps you may have more specific coverage needs. Chances are these needs are also covered benefits. Discuss this with your Farm Bureau representative at the next membership meeting. The following recommendations were made by Elton Smith:

1. WHEREFORE, the Hearing Board has heard, and on the said proposal on the 4th day of January, A.D., 1977.

2. The Board of Directors of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association accept and endorse the retirement of Merrill J. Buschlen; 3) that a "Hawaiian" money tree be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Buschlen by the Hearing Board as a token of appreciation to Mr. Buschlen for his years of service; and 4) that the Official Record of Testimony be given to Merrill Buschlen as a memento of the high regard in which he is held by his friends.

MAFC To Hold Member Programs

How can cooperatives better inform their members as to what the organizations do for the members? This question is often posed, and when sold answers do not materialize, member relations often suffer, says L.A. Cheney, director of the Michigan Agriculture Cooperative. To help co-ops find some of the answers, MAFC is sponsoring a member relations conference on March 2. The meeting will be held in the Steffen Conference Room at the Michigan Farm Bureau Center, 773 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Soybean Summit Feb. 24-25

Soybean Summit I, sponsored by the American Soybean Association, will be held February 24-25 in St. Louis. About 40 of the country's top soybean producers are expected to attend. Research, marketing and producer panels will be featured throughout the two-day conference. One of the most interesting speakers will be Dr. Engelfritz Da Silva. He is regarded as a leading expert on Brazilian soybean production. Persons interested in attending the conference should contact the American Soybean Association in Hudson, Iowa.

Dent Advocates Export Trade Policies

A call for the incoming Carter administration to continue "export-oriented" trade policies, and a warning against unwise import controls of grain reserves were voiced today by Elton Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Merrill J. Buschlen and his wife, Lillian, were "required" to spend two weeks in Hawaii at the AFBF Convention.

INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 10-15 year maturity

8% 10 Year Maturity $100.00 Minimum Purchase

9% 15 Year Maturity $1,000.00 Minimum Purchase

8% 10 Year Maturity $1,000.00 Minimum Purchase

9% 15 Year Maturity $5,000.00 Minimum Purchase

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

This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy these securities. The offering is made only by the prospectus.
Ronald White, a Kalamazoo County dairy farmer and Farm Bureau member, has been selected Michigan's outstanding young farmer of 1977 by the Michigan Jaycees.

White, 35, will be honored at the Jaycee state meeting in Wyoming, Mich., on February 11, at which he will receive a trip to Bismarck, North Dakota, in March for the U.S. Jaycees award program.

The Outstanding Young Farmer program is sponsored by the Michigan Jaycees and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, honors students range between 18 and 35 in communities throughout Michigan for their contributions to agriculture, community, and the state.

As the state winner, White is now eligible for the national Outstanding Young Farmer competition, sponsored by U.S. Jaycees and the John Deere Corp.

White, who farms 650 acres near Scotts and milks 88 cows, is active in his local Farm Bureau and served as county committeeeman and membership chairman. White’s involvements include serving as a township trustee, president and secretary of the township health department, and as a member with the Cub Scouts, past president of the Scotts Jaycees, member of the Lions Club, and a member of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn., junior church assistant and usher in his local Baptist Church.

In addition, White completed a two-year short course in dairy production at Michigan State University.

Although his father died when he was only 3 years old, White’s mother continued to run the farm. White bought it from her in 1963. He and his wife, Rene’, have three children, ages 11, 9 and 5.

First runner-up in the state competition was Carl Moore, 29, of Cedar Springs in Kent County.

Rural Med Students--More Apt to Return as Doctors

(Continued from page 4)

A new act this year, presumably for consumer protection, may well create problems with drugs that patients buy. Michigan's old act provided that a patient could, upon request, buy a generic drug which is identical in brand name if he desired. Often, generic drugs are less costly and are equally as good. However, very often, brand names are preferred because they are guaranteed and, very often, other ingredients in the tablet are important.

The new act provides that a pharmacist may, without consent of the patient, substitute a generic drug for only requirement is to indicate on the prescription label the generic name of the drug dispensed along with the brand name that may have been in the prescription. He does not even have to ask the permission of the pharmacist.

Some of the so-called consumer protection groups that supported the legislation failed to recognize the consumer's 'right to know'.

Many elderly people and others do not read the labels or, if they do, it may be after they return home and they're not trying to put reputable option dealers out of business. There are knowledgeable people who have made some alternative profits. But it clearly has been shown that there are some unsavory elements operating in a perjured business.

Commission Vice Chairman John F. Rainbolt said: ‘We’re not saying don’t buy commodity options and we’re not trying to put reputable option dealers out of business'.

There are knowledgeable people who have made some alternative profits. But it clearly has been shown that there are some unsavory elements operating in a perjured business.

The Commission called a news conference to publicize its new consumer hotline, a toll-free number which people can call for information about the commodities market. The number is 800-424-8688.

Generic Drug Act May Cause Confusion

by Bob Smith

A new act this year, presumably for consumer protection, may well create problems with drugs that patients buy. Michigan's old act provided that a patient could, upon request, buy a generic drug which is identical in brand name if he desired. Often, generic drugs are less costly and are equally as good. However, very often, brand names are preferred because they are guaranteed and, very often, other ingredients in the tablet are important.

The new act provides that a pharmacist may, without consent of the patient, substitute a generic drug for only requirement is to indicate on the prescription label the generic name of the drug dispensed along with the brand name that may have been in the prescription. He does not even have to ask the permission of the pharmacist.

Some of the so-called consumer protection groups that supported the legislation failed to recognize the consumer's 'right to know'.

Many elderly people and others do not read the labels or, if they do, it may be after they return home and they’re not trying to put reputable option dealers out of business. There are knowledgeable people who have made some alternative profits. But it clearly has been shown that there are some unsavory elements operating in a perjured business.

The Commission called a news conference to publicize its new consumer hotline, a toll-free number which people can call for information about the commodities market. The number is 800-424-8688.
AFBF Annual Focuses Assault on Regulation, Restraints on Free Market

The American Farm Bureau Federation, under a convention theme of "Keeping America Free—Century 3", has launched a determined assault on the growing power of government to impose new restraints on access and development of world markets, interference with a timely and free market, and the failure of government leaders to produce a comprehensive national energy policy.

Voting delegates attending the 58th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and representing the organization's 2,676,253 member-families, declared that "Little control has had the effect of "enacting more laws than the legislative branch." They asserted it "is the job of these (regulatory) agencies under letter control" and to do its business should "show the greatest restraint in passing laws of broad implication and authority, which leave too much detail to the administrative agencies."

The delegate assembly also proposed that a specific "self-deletion" in legislation should be written into all acts creating new administrative agencies, or giving new responsibilities to existing agencies so "that these laws will go out of existence automatically, along with the agency, unless Congress acts to extend." Vigorously opposed were "all comment and public participation on the sale of agricultural products in world markets. Agricultural export markets must be held hostage in the name of political expediency or foreign policy. Decisions affecting agricultural exports should be made with full participation by farmers and the Secretary of Agriculture."

Farm Bureau agreed that "minimum use of price and income support measures" for agriculture that are "economically sound was" a "necessary as a cushion against the rise of the cost of living." The delegates recognized, however, that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented to avoid unintended consequences which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing."

The convention sharply criticized the lack of a national energy policy, adding that such a policy should define the energy needs of the nation and how those needs can best be met, consistent with the need for agricultural land and other natural resources.

The farm bureau reasoned that "environmental standards related to energy production and usage should be "realistic and practical" and all sources of energy, including nuclear power generation should be utilized. "Proposals to break up integrated energy companies appear to be panaceas for a variety of situations for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "company functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and bankrupt agriculture by disrupting the normal flow of needed energy supplies to farmers."

"Strong support for the interests of consumers in terms of quality, safety, health, and labeling was voiced by Farm Bureau but establishment of any consumer agency or council having other than an advisory powers was opposed by the delegates.

In terms of farm labor, the assembly resolved that "support programs must be..." and "establishment of an adequate farm labor policy..." be supported. Attention was also given to "the need for a strong legal and regulatory framework for the use of needed energy supplies to farmers."

The assembling delegates supported "the legal and regulatory framework for the use of energy and fuels in the petroleum industry" and resolved that "Congress should consider "price and income support measures" for agriculture and "minimum use of price and income support measures..." make the "minimum use of support measures..." for agriculture that are "economically sound..." and that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented..." to avoid unintended consequences which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets..." and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing."

The convention sharply criticized the lack of a national energy policy, adding that such a policy should define the energy needs of the nation and how those needs can best be met, consistent with the need for agricultural land and other natural resources. Environmental standards related to energy production and usage should be "realistic and practical" and all sources of energy, including nuclear power generation should be utilized. "Proposals to break up integrated energy companies appear to be panaceas for a variety of situations for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "company functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and bankrupt agriculture by disrupting the normal flow of needed energy supplies to farmers."

"Strong support for the interests of consumers in terms of quality, safety, health, and labeling was voiced by Farm Bureau but establishment of any consumer agency or council having other than an advisory powers was opposed by the delegates.

In terms of farm labor, the assembly resolved that "support programs must be..." and "establishment of an adequate farm labor policy..." be supported. Attention was also given to "the need for a strong legal and regulatory framework for the use of needed energy supplies to farmers."

The assembling delegates supported "the legal and regulatory framework for the use of energy and fuels in the petroleum industry" and resolved that "Congress should consider "price and income support measures" for agriculture and "minimum use of price and income support measures..." make the "minimum use of support measures..." for agriculture that are "economically sound..." and that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented..." to avoid unintended consequences which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets..." and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing."

The convention sharply criticized the lack of a national energy policy, adding that such a policy should define the energy needs of the nation and how those needs can best be met, consistent with the need for agricultural land and other natural resources. Environmental standards related to energy production and usage should be "realistic and practical" and all sources of energy, including nuclear power generation should be utilized. "Proposals to break up integrated energy companies appear to be panaceas for a variety of situations for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "company functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and bankrupt agriculture by disrupting the normal flow of needed energy supplies to farmers."

"Strong support for the interests of consumers in terms of quality, safety, health, and labeling was voiced by Farm Bureau but establishment of any consumer agency or council having other than an advisory powers was opposed by the delegates.

In terms of farm labor, the assembly resolved that "support programs must be..." and "establishment of an adequate farm labor policy..." be supported. Attention was also given to "the need for a strong legal and regulatory framework for the use of needed energy supplies to farmers."

The assembling delegates supported "the legal and regulatory framework for the use of energy and fuels in the petroleum industry" and resolved that "Congress should consider "price and income support measures" for agriculture and "minimum use of price and income support measures..." make the "minimum use of support measures..." for agriculture that are "economically sound..." and that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented..." to avoid unintended consequences which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets..." and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing."

The convention sharply criticized the lack of a national energy policy, adding that such a policy should define the energy needs of the nation and how those needs can best be met, consistent with the need for agricultural land and other natural resources. Environmental standards related to energy production and usage should be "realistic and practical" and all sources of energy, including nuclear power generation should be utilized. "Proposals to break up integrated energy companies appear to be panaceas for a variety of situations for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "company functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and bankrupt agriculture by disrupting the normal flow of needed energy supplies to farmers."

"Strong support for the interests of consumers in terms of quality, safety, health, and labeling was voiced by Farm Bureau but establishment of any consumer agency or council having other than an advisory powers was opposed by the delegates.

In terms of farm labor, the assembly resolved that "support programs must be..." and "establishment of an adequate farm labor policy..." be supported. Attention was also given to "the need for a strong legal and regulatory framework for the use of needed energy supplies to farmers."

The assembling delegates supported "the legal and regulatory framework for the use of energy and fuels in the petroleum industry" and resolved that "Congress should consider "price and income support measures" for agriculture and "minimum use of price and income support measures..." make the "minimum use of support measures..." for agriculture that are "economically sound..." and that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented..." to avoid unintended consequences which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets..." and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing."

The convention sharply criticized the lack of a national energy policy, adding that such a policy should define the energy needs of the nation and how those needs can best be met, consistent with the need for agricultural land and other natural resources. Environmental standards related to energy production and usage should be "realistic and practical" and all sources of energy, including nuclear power generation should be utilized. "Proposals to break up integrated energy companies appear to be panaceas for a variety of situations for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "company functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and bankrupt agriculture by disrupting the normal flow of needed energy supplies to farmers."

"Strong support for the interests of consumers in terms of quality, safety, health, and labeling was voiced by Farm Bureau but establishment of any consumer agency or council having other than an advisory powers was opposed by the delegates.

In terms of farm labor, the assembly resolved that "support programs must be..." and "establishment of an adequate farm labor policy..." be supported. Attention was also given to "the need for a strong legal and regulatory framework for the use of needed energy supplies to farmers."

The assembling delegates supported "the legal and regulatory framework for the use of energy and fuels in the petroleum industry" and resolved that "Congress should consider "price and income support measures" for agriculture and "minimum use of price and income support measures..." make the "minimum use of support measures..." for agriculture that are "economically sound..." and that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented..." to avoid unintended consequences which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets..." and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing."

The convention sharply criticized the lack of a national energy policy, adding that such a policy should define the energy needs of the nation and how those needs can best be met, consistent with the need for agricultural land and other natural resources. Environmental standards related to energy production and usage should be "realistic and practical" and all sources of energy, including nuclear power generation should be utilized. "Proposals to break up integrated energy companies appear to be panaceas for a variety of situations for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "company functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and bankrupt agriculture by disrupting the normal flow of needed energy supplies to farmers."

"Strong support for the interests of consumers in terms of quality, safety, health, and labeling was voiced by Farm Bureau but establishment of any consumer agency or council having other than an advisory powers was opposed by the delegates.

In terms of farm labor, the assembly resolved that "support programs must be..." and "establishment of an adequate farm labor policy..." be supported. Attention was also given to "the need for a strong legal and regulatory framework for the use of needed energy supplies to farmers."

The assembling delegates supported "the legal and regulatory framework for the use of energy and fuels in the petroleum industry" and resolved that "Congress should consider "price and income support measures" for agriculture and "minimum use of price and income support measures..." make the "minimum use of support measures..." for agriculture that are "economically sound..." and that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented..." to avoid unintended consequences which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets..." and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing."

The convention sharply criticized the lack of a national energy policy, adding that such a policy should define the energy needs of the nation and how those needs can best be met, consistent with the need for agricultural land and other natural resources. Environmental standards related to energy production and usage should be "realistic and practical" and all sources of energy, including nuclear power generation should be utilized. "Proposals to break up integrated energy companies appear to be panaceas for a variety of situations for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "company functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and bankrupt agriculture by disrupting the normal flow of needed energy supplies to farmers."

"Strong support for the interests of consumers in terms of quality, safety, health, and labeling was voiced by Farm Bureau but establishment of any consumer agency or council having other than an advisory powers was opposes...
Supply Report

By Greg Sheffield

Farmers interested in the supply situation and other issues for their local area can attend one of the following OPEN LINE meetings, ask questions, and hear Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum reports. Meetings are 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.: February 16, The President's Motel, 3221 Plainfield, N.E., Grand Rapids (off 96-Exit 33, approximately 100' off exit) and February 18, Zehnders, at Frankenmuth.

FERTILIZER

Adequate fertilizer is available at lower prices at this time for all Farm Bureau patrons. Hurry-Up Starter Fertilizer is a best buy for corn, beans, and sugar beets. Also, you'll find an excellent choice of high analyses fertilizers. It's not all rosy though. There's bound to be transportation shortages on shipments going to dealers due to the spring rush. This peak demand, same as last year, can affect delivery to farmers. The strong possibility of increasing natural gas shortages due to the unusual cold weather, and other heavy demands, could boost the prices of fertilizers later - especially anhydrous ammonia. Some fertilizer companies are publishing increased prices, but Farm Bureau is holding the line.

Farmers who have storage should make arrangements now for deliveries this spring. Those without, should still talk to their dealers to assure that their supplies will arrive on time. Since movement through the winter months has been slow, much fertilizer remains to be shipped. This happening at once could cause serious tie-ups. Thus, now is the best time to order.

PESTICIDES

The new atrazine herbicide, from Universal Cooperatives, has been well accepted by farmers. FFR Weevlcheck alfalfa, this new, but tried variety, has a resistance to weevils which makes the seed the best choice where weevils are a difficult problem. Tempo alfalfa, which is high yielding, wilt resistant, and recovers fast after cutting, is also readily available. The other common forages and grass seeds are in excellent supply.

Available, also, are FFR 111 and FFR 223 soybean seed. These seeds are from our own cooperative farms. Both are outstanding.

HARDWARE

While supplies of all hardware items look good, we suggest dealers and their patrons enter those orders now and allow plenty of lead time. Orders may extend out from four to six weeks for delivery. Baler twine supplies are excellent and low in price now, but prices could very well increase. Steel roofing prices have already increased as previously predicted, and now we look for more increases in other steel products. Right now, there would be a savings by purchasing from presently priced inventories.

By Greg Sheffield

Adequate fertilizer is available at lower prices at this time for all Farm Bureau patrons. Hurry-Up Starter Fertilizer is a best buy for corn, beans, and sugar beets. Also, you'll find an excellent choice of high analyses fertilizers. It's not all rosy though. There's bound to be transportation shortages on shipments going to dealers due to the spring rush. This peak demand, same as last year, can affect delivery to farmers. The strong possibility of increasing natural gas shortages due to the unusual cold weather, and other heavy demands, could boost the prices of fertilizers later - especially anhydrous ammonia. Some fertilizer companies are publishing increased prices, but Farm Bureau is holding the line.

Farmers who have storage should make arrangements now for deliveries this spring. Those without, should still talk to their dealers to assure that their supplies will arrive on time. Since movement through the winter months has been slow, much fertilizer remains to be shipped. This happening at once could cause serious tie-ups. Thus, now is the best time to order.

PESTICIDES

The new atrazine herbicide, from Universal Cooperatives, has been well accepted by farmers. FFR Weevlcheck alfalfa, this new, but tried variety, has a resistance to weevils which makes the seed the best choice where weevils are a difficult problem. Tempo alfalfa, which is high yielding, wilt resistant, and recovers fast after cutting, is also readily available. The other common forages and grass seeds are in excellent supply.

Available, also, are FFR 111 and FFR 223 soybean seed. These seeds are from our own cooperative farms. Both are outstanding.

HARDWARE

While supplies of all hardware items look good, we suggest dealers and their patrons enter those orders now and allow plenty of lead time. Orders may extend out from four to six weeks for delivery. Baler twine supplies are excellent and low in price now, but prices could very well increase. Steel roofing prices have already increased as previously predicted, and now we look for more increases in other steel products. Right now, there would be a savings by purchasing from presently priced inventories.

(Continued on page 17)
MFB European Trip a Winner With Members

Howe Travel of Southfield, Michigan, the agency coordinating the trip, reports that the European farm tour has drawn great response.

According to a Howe Travel spokesman:

Five farm couples sent in the deposit for the European trip the first week after the December Michigan Farm Bureau issue reached subscribers. The issue carried the insert brochure announcing the European Farm Tour Oct. 3-18, 1977. Howe wrote one of them, "We hope the weather cooperates so we can have the corn in.

Rural Health

(Continued from page 13)

$35,000 minimum for the first year of a physician's practice.

Several communities in Michigan have successfully recruited physicians in this manner, Doherty says.

To get on the educational end, Michigan Farm Bureau, through its Marge Karker School of Agriculture, provides funds for a qualified member of a Farm Bureau family who has entered Michigan State University in the field of Human Medicine. This area includes pre-medical, nursing, and other related fields.

The Illinois Agricultural Association has a program that actually recommends rural physicians to the University of Illinois Medical School. Once accepted, the student is given a three-year fellowship at the rate of four percent. About 35 students enter the university through this program annually.

More than 100 statewide organizations, including Michigan Farm Bureau, have con-bureau, have contributed to Michigan Health Council efforts to improve the quality of health.

"Contributions such as a $10,000 student allowance from the Kellogg Foundation will focus on rural health problems in particular," Doherty says.

Part of this money will go to establish a department of rural and community health within the Michigan Health Council.

The Michigan Health Council is planning a rural health Day May 19 in Hastings. As a part of Michigan Week, more than 100 communities will be invited to send physicians, hospital administrators and medical students to the recruitment committees to meet with young doctors completing their training to become general practitioners. They will find out what Hastings did to successfully recruit family doctors to that community.

"Such efforts will help to bring more doctors to their areas," Doherty says.

Queen’s Column by Bunny Semans

Hello from over the Pacific Ocean! I am Bunny Semans, your new Michigan Farm Bureau Queen, on my way from the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Hawaii. I can’t wait to get back - Hawaii is the only way to go.

I am really proud to represent Farm Bureau in the capacity of state queen. I have been involved in various aspects of Farm Bureau for nine years and have already met many of you. I look forward to meeting more of you in the year ahead. If any county would like me to attend a function, please notify the Information and Public Relations Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, and if at all possible, I’ll be there.

Did you make New Year’s resolutions? If you are like me, you have probably forgotten or broken them already. But don’t be discouraged! I was going to start this year! I feel Farm Bureau members had better make some resolutions and make sure they keep them!

We have a real challenge ahead of us this year with a new administration in Washington, D.C. and we’ll need some letter-writing and personal contacts to make our views known. To do this effectively we need to be farm friendly.

In the past few years, with so much emphasis on world hunger and rising food prices, we have had the opportunity to assist Farm Bureau and have actually asked for our opinions! Farm Bureau has taken an advantage of this situation, but it is also our individual responsibility to share our views with local people and non-farm friends.

Through involvement in Farm Bureau, we have the opportunity to be well informed on the issues facing us. Let us all resolve to use our Farm Bureau resources this year to better informed than ever before and then use that knowledge to change the challenges ahead into opportunities.

Bunny Semans

FBS-FPC Board Named

The Board of Directors of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. held their organizational meetings December 29th.

Elton R. Smith, operator of a successful dairy farm in Kent County, was reelected as president of both boards. Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum retained the same officers as the previous year.

Dr. Donald Prigeon was reelected as vice president of the Petroleum and Services Board. Prigeon, from Branch County, is a successful hog farmer in partnership with his sons.

Walter Frahm of Saginaw Coop Cooperative was reelected as third member of the executive board of Farm Bureau Services.

Wesley Prillwitz of Berrien County was reelected as third member of the Petroleum executive committee. Donald R. Armstrong has been retained as Executive Vice President for both cooperatives.

QUESTION

I received my property tax bill, and each year it increases. What can I do about this increase in property taxes?

ANSWER

There are several comments for you to consider. This is no guarantee that they will lower your taxes, but they may give you some reasons as to why your taxes are increasing. You should evaluate your situation and consider the following factors:

1. Is your description correct? Surprisingly many times when property owners check, they find that the description is not an accurate reflection of the property which they own. Incorrect descriptions can lead to incorrect assessment.

2. Does the assessment reflect 50 percent of the true cash or market value? This may be difficult to ascertain, but it is an important criteria in calculating the tax.

3. Check the math. Your assessment times the millage rate should yield the amount of taxes due. You may have to take into consideration a factor which has been levied by the County Equalization Department or State Tax Commission.

4. Board of Review. If you have checked on the above mentioned and still find an error or disagree with the assessment, plan to appear at your Board of Review. The Board of Review does not have the power to consider your case and make adjustments if necessary.

5. Tax Tribunal. If you feel you have not received adequate adjustments, you may appear before the State Tax Tribunal. They also have the power to adjust your assessment if warranted.

6. Involvement. There are many ways to become involved in the local government. Each citizen should evaluate how the local tax dollars are being allocated. Attendance at various meetings including County Board of Commissioners, Township Officers, School Board, and other meetings where tax dollars are actually "invested" is the opportunity and responsibility of each citizen to voice an opinion on how these tax dollars are being spent.

Citizens should also consider becoming directly involved by seeking appointment to various offices and seeking positions on the various boards, which determine how tax dollars are to be spent.

Citizens have a strong opportunity to rise to the next level of taxation. The above are a few suggestions of ways an individual can affect property taxes.
Grain Markets

From now until spring planting time everyone will be trying to outguess the weather and the markets. The U.S. A., beginning in January, will issue planting intention reports. These reports, along with those of private sources, will give us our first look at what farmers are thinking in 1977. Of course, there are a lot of grain orders around, which are anxious also to see these reports. The fact that the reports are even issued will cause some commodity prices to move upward. A lot, of course, will depend on the weather. While winter has been dry, progress along in most areas has not been too great. This could cause damage to wheat especially if it is sparsely covered. Many of the upper midwest and eastern states have not had any substantial moisture in two or three years. Thus, their subsoil reserves are extremely low.

Hence, there is probably reason for some apprehension about the 1977 planting anticipation over spring 1977. The experts will be keeping a close eye on available grain supplies domestically and world wide, and working moisture conditions in key crop producing areas. The relative surplus of 1976 could quickly become less, depending on weather conditions and farmer intentions for 1977.

What does this leave to the farmer? Well, besides watching the weather and the intentions of his neighbors along with the experts, he should be mapping out his marketing strategy for the coming crop year. This next year could prove to be one of the most interesting and challenging in recent years. The new administration, the moisture conditions, energy costs, foreign supply and demand for feed grains, etc. will all be important factors. All of these and many in any of these components either way can send prices for a ride (remember wheat in the spring of 1976 may well be the by-word for your 1977 marketing plans at this juncture.)

Dairy

Turkeys growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.

Poultry

Turkey growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.

Hence, there is probably reason for some apprehension about the 1977 planting anticipation over spring 1977. The experts will be keeping a close eye on available grain supplies domestically and world wide, and working moisture conditions in key crop producing areas. The relative surplus of 1976 could quickly become less, depending on weather conditions and farmer intentions for 1977.

What does this leave to the farmer? Well, besides watching the weather and the intentions of his neighbors along with the experts, he should be mapping out his marketing strategy for the coming crop year. This next year could prove to be one of the most interesting and challenging in recent years. The new administration, the moisture conditions, energy costs, foreign supply and demand for feed grains, etc. will all be important factors. All of these and many in any of these components either way can send prices for a ride (remember wheat in the spring of 1976 may well be the by-word for your 1977 marketing plans at this juncture.)

Dairy

Turkeys growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.

Poultry

Turkey growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.

Hence, there is probably reason for some apprehension about the 1977 planting anticipation over spring 1977. The experts will be keeping a close eye on available grain supplies domestically and world wide, and working moisture conditions in key crop producing areas. The relative surplus of 1976 could quickly become less, depending on weather conditions and farmer intentions for 1977.

What does this leave to the farmer? Well, besides watching the weather and the intentions of his neighbors along with the experts, he should be mapping out his marketing strategy for the coming crop year. This next year could prove to be one of the most interesting and challenging in recent years. The new administration, the moisture conditions, energy costs, foreign supply and demand for feed grains, etc. will all be important factors. All of these and many in any of these components either way can send prices for a ride (remember wheat in the spring of 1976 may well be the by-word for your 1977 marketing plans at this juncture.)

Dairy

Turkeys growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.

Poultry

Turkey growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.

Hence, there is probably reason for some apprehension about the 1977 planting anticipation over spring 1977. The experts will be keeping a close eye on available grain supplies domestically and world wide, and working moisture conditions in key crop producing areas. The relative surplus of 1976 could quickly become less, depending on weather conditions and farmer intentions for 1977.

What does this leave to the farmer? Well, besides watching the weather and the intentions of his neighbors along with the experts, he should be mapping out his marketing strategy for the coming crop year. This next year could prove to be one of the most interesting and challenging in recent years. The new administration, the moisture conditions, energy costs, foreign supply and demand for feed grains, etc. will all be important factors. All of these and many in any of these components either way can send prices for a ride (remember wheat in the spring of 1976 may well be the by-word for your 1977 marketing plans at this juncture.)

Dairy

Turkeys growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.

Poultry

Turkey growers in the 25 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared to 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there were 139.7 million turkeys raised in the U.S., up 13 percent from 1975. The concern caused in the industry by the increased volume was proven to be at least partially unwarranted. The holiday season marked an unprecedented disappearance of turkey products leaving the cold storage supply near year ago levels. The industry seemed to get a gentle reminder that the economy is on the upswing and people will eat more and better the next 3 years than they did the past three.
Going Country With Crime

by the Law Enforcement Assistance's Administration (LEAA).

Victimization surveys -- which attempt to determine the number of crimes that have occurred, including those not reported to police -- show that crime rates in rural areas are increasing at about the national rate.

From 1973 to 1974, non- full-service rural agencies were reported in rural Michigan departments, domestic squabbles, but more crimes such as larceny or breaking and entering.

Rural patrol units are more likely to handle crime such as theft. The workload is getting heavier. The increased burden on rural agencies may stem from these factors.

Some victims contend that the police cannot do much anyway. Others are not aware that a crime has been committed (theft of a seldom used tool, for example) or they are not willing to wait for the police to act. Some problems are intentionally created in rural areas. A very few patrol units are expected to cover a large geographical area, thus greatly delaying response time.

Cities also have response time laps, due to the volume of calls reviewed. This problem is compounded by the differences between rural and urban police work, and why it is difficult to compare the areas.

CRIME NATURE

Area covered is only one percentage point higher. One crime encountered is another. Rural police are less likely to handle crime such as theft. The police are better equipped to handle crime encountered is another. Rural police are less likely to handle crime such as theft. The police are better equipped to handle crime such as theft. The police are better equipped to handle crime such as theft.

Rural law enforcers are more likely to know the crime victim, the criminal, or both. With this knowledge, some cases may be handled differently from the way they are handled in the city.

But all agree that rural and urban enforcers have a common concern. The workload is getting heavier. The increased burden on rural agencies may stem from these factors.

More people mean more demands for police services. Between 1970 and 1973, non-metropolitan population grew by 4.2 percent compared with 2.9 percent in metropolitan areas.

UNREPORTED CRIMES

The LEAA studies support other data that estimate many of the crimes committed are never reported. A number of reasons may account for the unreported crimes. Some victims contend that the police cannot do much anyway. Others are not aware that a crime has been committed (theft of a seldom used tool, for example) or they are not willing to wait for the police to act.

These problems are growing in rural areas. They are expected to cover a large geographical area, thus greatly delaying response time.

Thieves have found that with increased individual wealth in rural areas, crime has become more lucrative there. CBS radios, tape decks, and automobiles are frequent targets.

Rural dwellers expect more from their police than their urban neighbors. Today, police often have to act as social arbitrators as well as crime fighters.

Opportunities for the criminal in the rural areas are great due to lack of awareness on part of rural citizens.

POLICE NEEDS

Rural police are acutely aware of these problems. At a conference of rural law enforcement agencies held in Key Stone, Colorado, last year, these five needs were identified as the most pressing:

1. Cooperation, coordination, and resource sharing among the law enforcement agencies.
2. Consolidation of training facilities to serve several small, widely dispersed agencies.
3. Adequate salaries and benefits.
4. Alternative budget sources in the current local tax base.
5. An effective way to involve the community in the fight against crime.

PROTECTION AT HOME

This last item could be of most importance to farmers.

Capitol Report

(Continued from page 4)

including increasing the strength of the State Police by more than 300 new troopers. He said that they will serve mandatory prison terms for many specific crimes. He said that the most important phrase to crime is the "certainty of punishment.

The增加了 will mean better for police services. The population growth in non-metropolitan areas.

improved highways make rural areas more accessible to criminals.

They have also included county secretaries' names who can give them additional information. Some counties have advertised in the local papers to promote their own Safemark dealer in their area, exposing members and non-members to the fact that there is a member-only program coat is available, and auto thefts -- showed no significant change.

Non-rural crimes increased by 14 percent, and household larcenies, 15.6 percent.

Members Agree on Safemark Concept

The surveys returned in the Community Group minutes would indicate that most of the members buy tires and batteries of the best quality for the lowest possible price. This attitude is in large part the result of the Safemark program in Michigan.

The second most common comment was the fact that county members are not aware of what is happening in Group Purchasing within their counties, in adjacent counties, or the availability of tires and batteries to them as Farm Bureau and Community Group members.

Some county Group Purchasing Committees have made up to two complete mailings to all of their members indicating the status of their county dealer, telephone number and name.

They are expected to cover a large geographical area, thus greatly delaying response time.

Most of the time, the police are better equipped to handle crime encountered is another.

Rural law enforcers are more likely to know the crime victim, the criminal, or both. With this knowledge, some cases may be handled differently from the way they are handled in the city.

But all agree that rural and urban enforcers have a common concern.

The workload is getting heavier. The increased burden on rural agencies may stem from these factors.

More people mean more demands for police services. Between 1970 and 1973, non-metropolitan population grew by 4.2 percent compared with 2.9 percent in metropolitan areas.

Improved highways make rural areas more accessible to criminals.

They have also included county secretaries' names who can give them additional information. Some counties have advertised in the local papers to promote their own Safemark dealer in their area, exposing members and non-members to the fact that there is a member-only program coat is available, and auto thefts -- showed no significant change.

Non-rural crimes increased by 14 percent, and household larcenies, 15.6 percent.

Members Agree on Safemark Concept

The surveys returned in the Community Group minutes would indicate that most of the members buy tires and batteries of the best quality for the lowest possible price. This attitude is in large part the result of the Safemark program in Michigan.

The second most common comment was the fact that county members are not aware of what is happening in Group Purchasing within their counties, in adjacent counties, or the availability of tires and batteries to them as Farm Bureau and Community Group members.

Some county Group Purchasing Committees have made up to two complete mailings to all of their members indicating the status of their county dealer, telephone number and name.

They have also included county secretaries' names who can give them additional information. Some counties have advertised in the local papers to promote their own Safemark dealer in their area, exposing members and non-members to the fact that there is a member-only program coat is available, and auto thefts -- showed no significant change.

Non-rural crimes increased by 14 percent, and household larcenies, 15.6 percent.

Members Agree on Safemark Concept

The surveys returned in the Community Group minutes would indicate that most of the members buy tires and batteries of the best quality for the lowest possible price. This attitude is in large part the result of the Safemark program in Michigan.

The second most common comment was the fact that county members are not aware of what is happening in Group Purchasing within their counties, in adjacent counties, or the availability of tires and batteries to them as Farm Bureau and Community Group members.

Some county Group Purchasing Committees have made up to two complete mailings to all of their members indicating the status of their county dealer, telephone number and name. They have also included county secretaries' names who can give them additional information. Some counties have advertised in the local papers to promote their own Safemark dealer in their area, exposing members and non-members to the fact that there is a member-only program coat is available, and auto thefts -- showed no significant change.

Non-rural crimes increased by 14 percent, and household larcenies, 15.6 percent.
Capitol Report

(Continued from page 18)

highways, railroads, public transportation, mass transit, wasteways, airways and noise control. Many areas throughout the state, including rural areas, now have some type of state subsidized bus service.

By the end of the year, more than 2 million passengers will be transported. This out-state population will have some type of "demand-response" service such as DA-BUS.

More than 93 percent of Michigan's share of the interstate highway system is completed. The highway fund supplemented legislation to assess violation points against drivers convicted of exceeding the 55 MPH speed limit.

EDUCATION

The governor called for a constitutional amendment to create a separate State Board of Education for Higher Education, which would handle educational affairs at the college and university level. The "equal yield" principle was proposed and referred to the legislature.

School finance proposals, closely followed recommendations of the Task Force on Property Tax Reversion. This includes increasing the guaranteed funds and extending the ability to maintain balance of state and local revenue; continue the phase-in of funding the new "equal yield" for retirement millage; raise millage ceiling from 28 to 30 mills to help certain districts; and from the same group of millages levied by the intermediate school districts for special education and vocational education.

Consideration will also be given to proposals to permit local people to vote to adopt local income taxes for schools in place of property taxes.

The governor also supported consolidation of intermediate school districts and the remaining primary districts with a high school district.

Other sections of the report had recommendations on Veterans and Military Affairs; Volunteer Consumer Protection, Cultural Affairs, Election Reform and Governmental Accountability. The reorganization of State-Local Relations, Traffic Safety etc. Each section is broken down into several subsections.

PRIVATE ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE: 8 Hereford Cows, 6 years old. Dow in May, bred to Cherokee-George Davidson, Alma, Mich. Phone 616-626-3393. (2-tf-31p)

WANTED TO BUY: Com Binders. V. Elroy Keinath, R. No. 3, Sparta, Wis. Phone 608-347-3467. (2-tf-31p)


FOR SALE: 8 Hereford Cows, 6 years old. Dow in May, bred to Cherokee-George Davidson, Alma, Mich. Phone 616-626-3393. (2-tf-31p)

WANTED TO BUY: Com Binders. V. Elroy Keinath, R. No. 3, Sparta, Wis. Phone 608-347-3467. (2-tf-31p)


WANTED TO BUY: Com Binders. V. Elroy Keinath, R. No. 3, Sparta, Wis. Phone 608-347-3467. (2-tf-31p)


WANTED TO BUY: Com Binders. V. Elroy Keinath, R. No. 3, Sparta, Wis. Phone 608-347-3467. (2-tf-31p)


WANTED TO BUY: Com Binders. V. Elroy Keinath, R. No. 3, Sparta, Wis. Phone 608-347-3467. (2-tf-31p)
A select unit of Farm Bureau Insurance agents has been helping people with Estate Planning ideas for twenty years. With the significant changes in the estate tax picture brought about by the 1976 Tax Reform Act, now is a good time to review your estate program . . . or to begin estate planning.

Your Farm Bureau Insurance specialist can help by discussing estate planning ideas with you, your family and your legal and financial counselors. Your new or updated estate plan is as near as your phone. Call your Farm Bureau Insurance agent for help with your estate planning questions.