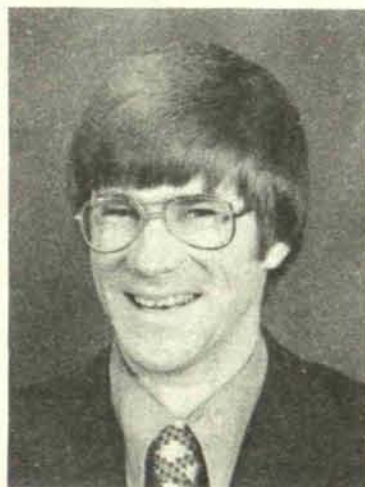


## Nye Chairman of AFBF Young Farmers



Gary Nye

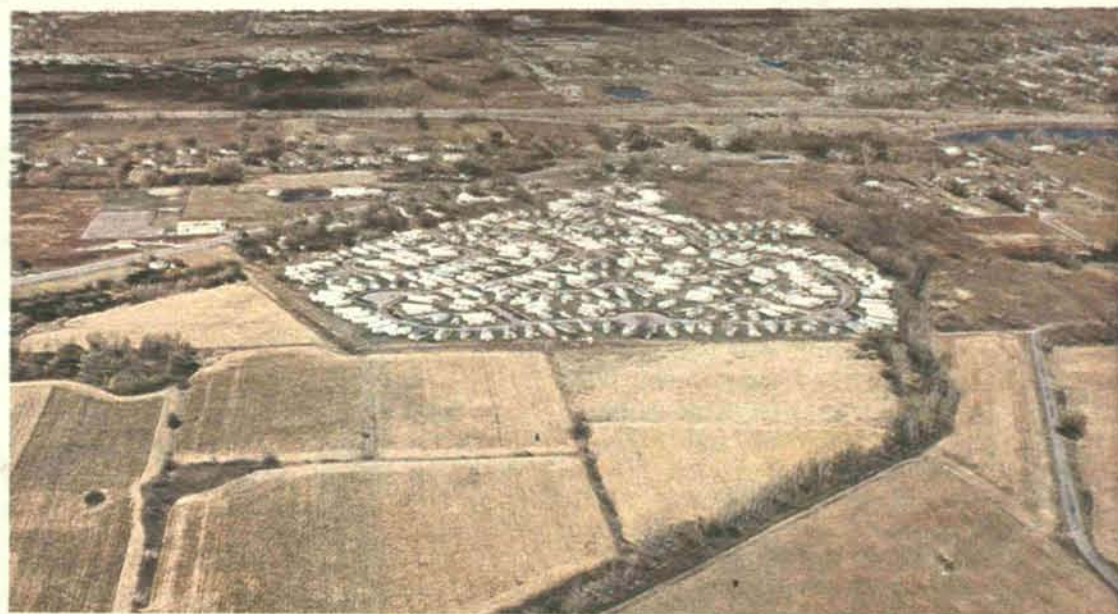
A dairy farmer from Hillsdale County has been elected chairman of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. Gary Nye, 29, of Jonesville, Michigan, was elected to the post during the organization's annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, January 9-12. Nye and his father and brother have a dairy operation in Hillsdale County.

He is the past chairman of the Young Farmers Committee of the Michigan Farm

Bureau and has served on the American Farm Bureau'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.

Nye says 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.

As chairman of this committee, Nye will serve on the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors, representing the young farmers throughout the nation who are members of the organization.



Trailer parks are just one part of the expanding urban land use movement encroaching on Michigan farmland. The Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources are working together to find ways to help preserve the state's essential farmlands. As a part of its CRITICAL ISSUES'77 series, Michigan Farm News will examine this problem in detail, starting with this issue.

### At AFBF Annual

## 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 "Politicians use a lack of public understanding to call for federally - controlled grain reserves, and for excessively high loan rates and target 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 down-swings in some price cycles to keep large numbers of farmers from going broke through no fault of their own.

"We ask that the market-price 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. But, these risks are more predictable than political risks of Congressional appropriations actions.

"For some time now, American agriculture has

been relatively free from government involvement. Realized net incomes have been substantially up, with only about 2 percent coming from government programs, compared to almost 30 percent in 1969."

The national Farm Bureau president listed several public policy areas about which farmers should be

(Continued on page 2)

## 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 Skubitz (R., Kansas) amendment to the current appropriations act.

## 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.

Present plans include:

"Soybean Production in Brazil"

"Japan as a Continuing Soybean Buyer"

"Foreign Trade"

"Soybean Varieties for

Michigan"

"Soybean Spray Programs for 1977"

"Michigan's Role in Soybean Research and Promotion"

"Current & Projected Markets for Soybeans"

"Weather Modification & Trends in Agriculture"

"Soybean Provisions of National Farm Legislation"

"Marketing is a Management Tool"

Mark your calendar for MARCH 1ST and watch for further details in your Soybean Newsletter or call the Market Development Division at (517) 485-8121 ext. 222.

## From the Desk of



## 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 action battles 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 local control. It spells out specifically what we strongly believe must be done to halt the urban sprawl which is moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. If we work with determination to execute this policy, there is no room to be a "nice guy."

What Mr. Shuman meant when he talked about going down to defeat supporting a sound policy position could be illustrated by a recent happening here in Michigan. The I-69 link connecting the interstate highway between the Indiana border and Flint 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 \$10 to \$12 million annually, not only in farm products, but in the amount farmers buy in goods, services and machinery.

The local planning commission went down to defeat in this issue, but its testimony and involvement made an impact. One of the state's highway commissioners said later: "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 to farmers."

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 ours 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, many local decision-making groups that need input from the agricultural community. Don't wait to be asked! Volunteer your services. Even if you can't serve in an official 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 -- to pay for the very controls and regulations that further strangle us.

"We have selected, and supported, members of Congress who have used 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 away the value of every dollar we own."

"Most damaging of all has been excessive regulation of 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.

"The countryside has been flooded with directives, standards, inspections, investigations, regulations,

rulings, deadlines, pronouncements and penalties."

The AFBF president said farmers must "expose and resist arbitrary and unwise decisions" by regulatory groups such as the Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA.

The consumerist 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 serve its causes. They remain silent about worker rights stolen by union shop compulsion, they say nothing about featherbedding, make-work rules or excessive wage demands robbing the consumer."

## DONNA

## You Blew Your Image

Farmers once had the reputation for using the "sob-sister" approach to try to win public support. I think, to a degree, they earned that reputation. In fact, they did such a good job that the adjective "poor" was almost always attached to the word "farmer."

Times have changed and so have agricultural public relations methods. Farmers have done much to update their public image through their person-to-person communications with consumers at mall promotions, fair projects and speakers' bureau appearances. Their goal has been understanding -- not sympathy -- and they have been tremendously effective.

Farmers took another step toward "blowing" their poor-farmer image when they selected Hawaii as the site of their American Farm Bureau annual meeting, and nearly 12,000 of them attended. There may be concern on the part of some farmers that consumers will think they helped pay for that Hawaiian trip through their food prices. But the majority, I believe, will be glad to have the last traces of the old straw-hatted, bib-overalled characterization erased from the minds of the public.

Being a positive-natured creature, I'm glad to see it go. I think the public can "relate" to farmers who strive for a piece of the "good life" -- a nice home, college for their children, a trip to Hawaii -- a lot easier than they did to the farmer who

depended upon government subsidies to keep him in business.

The speaker at the recent Agricultural Conference legislative dinner told farmers that "consumers judge you from where THEY are -- not from where YOU are." That struck a chord with me because in my work to gain public support for farmers on a particular issue, I always attempt, somehow, to relate how what happens to farmers will effect the consumer. This is not always easy, especially since farmers can't pass their increased costs along to the consumer like most businesses can.

Les Dowd, an aggressive young farmer who serves as president of the Van Buren County Farm Bureau, gave me a clue to solve this challenge the other day, and it fits in with this "new image" farmers are creating.

Les was preparing himself to talk to a group of university women and one of the things he was going to tell them is that the well-educated farmer of today, with a large investment in his business, has an alternative. If he does not make a profit, if he is over-regulated by government beyond endurance -- he does not have to stay in the agricultural profession. He will use that education, that investment, that ability, in some other business or profession. If the Dowd farm, and others like it, are not producing food -- the consumer will be affected -- like no American consumer ever has before!

Now THAT computes!

In AFBF president Allan Grant's address at the annual meeting, he talked about personal responsibilities and the need for involvement in local government and local issues. He quoted William Jennings Bryan when he said: "Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice."

We have a choice. We can help shape the destiny of Michigan agriculture. We have taken a step in that direction by adopting a sound policy. Now we must turn those words into ACTION -- not only as an organization, but individually.

Elton R. Smith

## Pesticide Antedote Guide Available

A clinical handbook on pesticide poisonings is now available. Recently completed by Dr. Donald Morgan, Director of the University of Iowa Epidemiologic Studies Program, it's a treatment manual with the title, "Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings."

Each major class is grouped with a listing of the general chemical structure, pertinent toxicology related to poisoning, symptoms, methods to confirm diagnosis, and the latest info on treatment of poisonings.

To obtain a copy for physicians in your area, write to: (WH-569), Waterside Mall, Rm. 409, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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## Farm Bureau

# Ag Legislators Feted at Annual Banquet

An overflow crowd of farmers, legislators, and ag-related organization representatives 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 "loot 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 producer industries.

Four legislators received honors from the Ag Conference for their "legislative service to Michigan agriculture." They were Representative Loren 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."

Winners of the legislative door prizes were: Rep. Stephen Stopczynski and Senator Gary Byker, steaks contributed by Michigan Cattle Feeders and Michigan Livestock Exchange; Rep. Thomas Sharpe and Rep. Wm. Jowett, 60 lbs. of sugar from Farmers and

Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association, and Rep. Ernest Nash, a market basket contributed by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

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.



Henry Jennings, Genesee County membership chairman, receives congratulations from MFB Central Region Representative Bernie Bishop, for leading that county in its achievement of being the first county FB to reach 1977 membership goal. Genesee reached its goal of 1,385 member families on January 3. Jennings reports that the membership total is now well over 1,500.

# 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 on 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 goal 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 chairmen reporting goal and comprising the "Fabulous Fifteen" as of January 19 are:

In the 1-350 membership category are: Kalkaska - Foster McCool, chairman; Chippewa - Frank Schwiderson, chairman; and Iron Range - Eleanor Honkala, chairman.

In the 351-650 member category is Cheboygan County with membership chairman Paul Koviak; 651-1200, Oakland County - Jim Vantine, chairman, and Wayne County William Ruhlig, 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.

### STATE STATUS 1976-1977 Membership Comparison

as of January 19, 1977	
	1976 (1-23-76)
Goal:	61,586
New:	1,711
Renewals:	51,633
TOTAL:	53,344
Percent of Goal:	86.62 percent
Needed for Goal:	8,242
1977	
	61,589
	2,673
	54,020
	56,693
	92.05 percent
	4,896

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PCA people tell it like it is... so you know where you stand.

## Straight-talk from PCA

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

All of the forces tugging and pulling on agriculture affect urban people, too. And that's why we're telling the world. "Farming is everybody's bread & butter." □ The share of the consumer dollar going back to farmers and ranchers goes down year after year. And when you compare paychecks and food prices with 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!*

**Production Credit Associations of Michigan**

We're spreading the word.

**Farming is everybody's bread & butter**



Senator John Hertel, 2nd district (D-Harper Woods) receives his Legislative Service to Agriculture Award from Bill Brook, president of the Michigan Agricultural Conference, during the Conference's 29th Annual Legislative Dinner. Brook served as master of ceremonies for the dinner.

# CAPITOL REPORT

## Milliken's State of The State Message



Governor Milliken gave his annual state of the state message on January 13 to the 79th Michigan Legislature. He welcomed the 14 new members of the House of Representatives and assured them that it was his desire to work with the Legislature on constructive and productive legislative issues. He pointed out that our nation is entering its 3rd century, and our state is entering its 141st year of statehood. He said there could be no doubt that the means to expand our economy and jobs must 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 95 pieces of legislation. Some major issues included:

**BUDGET** -- He indicated that his general fund budget would be ready within a few weeks, and that there would be "no call for increased taxes" for the "general fund." However he did indicate that in the transportation message that will follow there may be a request for increased taxes for transportation, including highways, railroads, public transportation, mass transit, etc. He also pointed out that there may be requests to repair some of the existing tax laws primarily to provide relief for small businesses and to provide business incentives for job expansion. He said that he would specifically support corrections to the Single Business Tax wherever there are inequities. The Michigan Efficiency Task Force's 41 recommendations when implemented are expected to save about \$46 million.

A "Budget Stabilization Fund" was recommended. He said that this budget will contain a recommendation for creating a fund to set aside surpluses during the good years to be used later during the bad years. Many call this a "rainy day fund." Such a fund will contribute to responsible budget planning. It is hoped that a large amount can be set aside this year (perhaps \$100 million).

"Sunset Legislation" was proposed. He mentioned that citizens are frustrated with the rising cost of government. There have been many attempts to limit 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 expiration dates for various programs which means they must be reenacted if they are to be continued.

**AGRICULTURE** -- Governor Milliken pointed out that last year Michigan farmers received \$1.7 billion for their cash crops, and other marketable produce. It has been estimated that the total value of agriculture in Michigan for that year was \$8.5 billion, when outlay for processing, marketing and transportation of agricultural produce is included. He said that agriculture employs more than 200,000 workers on 80,000 farms. This number of farms is slightly under half of the 161,000 farms in Michigan as recently as 1950. The average farm size in Michigan has increased from 111 acres to 155 acres. He said that everything that can be done should be done to "preserve, protect and encourage this basic Michigan industry and those who derive their livelihood from it."

He said there are no easy solutions for some of the problems facing the agricultural industry, as like other businesses, it is confronted by steadily rising costs for utilities, equipment, 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 with domestic and foreign marketing programs.

He briefly outlined some of the more recent legislation affecting agriculture including the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974 (P.A. 116). He said that more than 900 development rights agreements have been approved, representing more than 160,000 acres of valuable farmland.

He pointed out that the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act has been extended, thus giving farmers a "permanent marketing tool which helps protect them from discrimination and other unfavorable practices on the part of handlers and processors and allows producers to equalize their position in negotiations for commodity sales." He also indicated that the New Farm Produce Storage Act, which is better known as the "Price Later Law", will require all grain dealers and truckers to be licensed and will allow the Department of Agriculture to take action 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 continuation of the fair at Detroit as it is conveniently situated to serve the needs of the residents of urban areas as well as outstate areas, and that funds are needed to improve the fairgrounds.

The report mentions the Michigan Council on Rural Development. The governor pointed out that Michigan rural areas have more than 2,000,000 residents and they are entitled to a fair share of government funding for state and federal service programs. It is his intention 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.

Another area of concern to agriculture was the governor's recommendation on chemical contamination. He pointed out that presently when a contagious disease erupts in epidemic proportions either in human beings or livestock, we usually mobilize quickly to provide any necessary assistance. However, chemical contaminations 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 unit to coordinate the activities of three departments concerned with these problems (public health, D.N.R., and agriculture). He also directed the D.N.R. to develop a proposal for private participation in monitoring toxic waste disposal 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 of precious land resources and that erosion of land based industries including farming, forestry, mining and tourism must not continue. He pointed out that agricultural production potential has been cut by 1/3 during the past 20 years due to unwise land use, and that the northern forests, once a supplier for lumber for the entire midwest, 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 10,000 acres of irreplaceable wetlands which have been lost. Wetlands are essential to preventing flood loss and are natural water filtering mechanisms in addition to providing for breeding areas for wildlife.

The governor will also seek revisions in Michigan's zoning enabling statutes in order to give local units of government a better tool with which to work and to provide greater uniformity and equity in zoning. He urged the Legislature to reduce detergent phosphate levels to zero in order to protect the Great Lakes and other waters from phosphate pollution. Household detergents presently contain 8.7 percent phosphate. This was an issue in 1976. The final bill eliminated phosphates in detergents for household use, but exempted agriculture processors and others that must use detergents in order to meet health requirements for food products. Other environmental areas included nuclear waste and construction grants for water treatment facilities and local recreational programs.

**LABOR** -- One very controversial area of concern is the need to reform the Workers Compensation law. This will include improving benefits for injured employees and relief from abuses suffered by employers.

The new budget will include \$10 million for a Youth Employment Program. About 1/2 of the unemployed in Michigan are under the age of 25. Michigan's unemployment insurance program is in serious trouble. More than \$600 million in federal loans must be repaid by Michigan employers.

The governor will work with the federal government to achieve full or partial forgiveness of the loan. The Michigan unemployment law must also be amended to comply with the new federal act (farm labor is now partially covered by federal law. This means it will be a state issue this year). The governor urged that inequities and abuses be removed from the system. He said "It boils down to the simple truth that without business there are no jobs." (One example of abuse of unemployment compensation was just exposed by a survey of schools. It was found that 41 percent of school unemployment costs (\$560,000) went to people who voluntarily quit!).

**ENERGY** -- Governor Milliken points out that Michigan is an energy "have not" state. The oil embargo in

1973 seriously affected the economic condition of the state. U.S. petroleum imports since then have risen from 30 percent of needs to almost 45 percent and continue to increase. Domestic production has fallen from 9.2 million barrels a day to 8 million barrels a day -- the lowest in 10 years. Natural gas will be 22 percent short of demand during this winter. Michigan produces only 8 percent of its oil needs, 10 percent of 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 over a year ago. It is imperative, the governor said, that unnecessary energy use be eliminated. He mentioned several areas of energy conservation being undertaken by state agencies and also areas of energy research and development -- such as appropriation for funds for a national solar energy research institute which is expected to be located in Michigan. Also the passage of certain legislation which offers tax incentives to those who use solar power and other sources of energy.

**HUMAN SERVICES - WELFARE** -- The governor said that "we have no patience for welfare cheaters, whether they be individuals who refuse 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 unneeded 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 were made on Public Health, Mental Health, Medicaid, malpractice, etc.

**CRIME** -- "Crime is one of our greatest problems" in both urban and rural areas. In a survey, more than 65 percent support this contention. Michigan is a high crime rate state. He listed several priority programs

(Continued on page 18)

# NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

## 95th Congress Convenes

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 be weaker than it has been during the last eight years. The Republicans have lost one of their most forceful allies -- the presidential veto. Overall, the Democrat majority in the 95th Congress will be 292-143 in the House and 61-38 (with 1 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 are now open 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 committees 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 chairman 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 the time this issue of 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 was won by Harold Sawyer (R-Grand Rapids) who defeated incumbent Richard VanderVeen in the Fifth District - the one held by President Ford prior to his being named Vice-President. Overall, the 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-Plymouth) replacing incumbent Marvin Esch, who lost in his bid for the United States Senate; David Stockman (R-St. Joseph) replacing incumbent Ed Hutchinson who retired; Dale Kildee (D-Flint) replacing Don Reigle, who was elected to the United States Senate; and David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens) 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. Thousands 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 in late 1978.

Perhaps the most important issue of direct interest to agriculture to be considered by the 95th Congress will be legislation to replace the Agriculture and Consumers Protection Act of 1973. This legislation will be considered early in this 1977 Session. The present act expires 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, including higher support prices and creation of a food reserve with the stocks being held by government and farmers.

At the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention held January 9-12, voting delegates adopted a policy statement which represents a major shift in previous policy regarding current government farm legislation. The change is a shift from 1976 policy which did not endorse the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. The policy adopted for 1977

reads in part -- a continuing effort should be made to achieve a prosperous, productive agriculture through economically sound measures with a minimum use of price and income support measures -- It should be a national objective to avoid the need for such measures -- if support programs do become necessary as a cushion against disaster, it should be recognized that this need reflects a failure to achieve a sound national program -- Support programs must be carefully designed and implemented to avoid conditions which are self-perpetuating to protect our competitive position in world markets, and to avoid undue interferences with market-oriented adjustments in production and marketing -- We favor a market-oriented 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 and target prices are not set so high as to interfere with the market system. This AFBF policy is expected to play an important role in the drafting of new farm legislation to replace the current act.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
**FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY**  
**OF MICHIGAN**

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan on Wednesday, February 23, 1977, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1977  
W.S. WILKINSON Elton Smith  
Secretary President  
Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

1977  
Elton R. Smith  
President

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
**FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF**  
**MICHIGAN**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Tuesday February 22, 1977, beginning at 1:30 p.m., and for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1977  
W.S. WILKINSON ELTON R. SMITH  
Secretary President  
Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Community Service Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Monday, February 23, 1977, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1977  
W.S. WILKINSON Elton R. Smith  
Secretary President  
Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

## Stepped-Up PBB Program Includes Infant Exams

A stepped-up program of PBB examinations and surveillance has been announced by the State Health Department. Major elements in the program include arrangements for testing of breast milk for nursing mothers; comprehensive pediatric examinations of infants born to mothers in highly exposed families; formation of an expert panel to review and advise the Department on the findings of Dr. Irving Selikoff's Environmental Science Laboratory Study. Examination of children born to mothers exposed to

high levels of PBB will be conducted in conjunction with specialists from Michigan State University, Wayne State University and University of Michigan Schools of Medicine. These infants will be examined in pediatric field clinics and will, if necessary, be referred to appropriate medical centers. The infants to be included in the study will be selected from those born since 1973 to women from quarantined farms. The expert panel will be chosen from the top national and state experts in

toxicology and medicine to review the findings of the Environmental Science Laboratory headed by Dr. Irving Selikoff, and to make recommendations for necessary follow-up. In addition to advising the Department on policies and action, the expert panel may recommend specific research on methods of treating persons heavily exposed, if health problems related to PBB are identified, either through Dr. Selikoff's study or through the Department's own long-term study which was started this summer.

## MFB Soybean Producers Need More Members

Michigan soybean growers and anyone else interested in the crop are encouraged to join Michigan Farm Bureau Soybean Producers in 1977. This year's membership goal is 710, says Dr. Paul Kindinger, director of the MFB Market Development Division. "We are providing a multitude of services to 400 current members of the association, for five dollars a year," Kindinger says. MFB Soybean producers

were influential in securing passage of the Michigan Soybean Promotion and Development Program, Kindinger points out. They are also working to improve the amount and quality of soybean research done in Michigan. Members receive "Soybean Info", a newsletter published six to eight times a year, have the opportunity to attend the organization's Soybean Day for first hand technical information, automatically

become members of a county Soybean Division and, for the first time in 1977, have an opportunity to compete in the Michigan Soybean King contest. "Membership also insures that your voice as a soybean producer will receive special attention in matters before the state legislature. To become a member producers should contact their county Farm Bureau office.

## Critical Issues '77

## 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, ones that would work to preserve agricultural land from urban development. The following article is 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 systemized method of assuring adequate amounts of land for various elements of society is well recognized now and laws exist that protect 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 had planned for it? This "right to property," to do what one wishes with one's own land, has 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 wide-ranging land use program for the best public benefit, some segments of society are going to 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 compensatory direction.

According to Michigan State University agricultural economist Larry Libby, there have been three approaches to land use planning throughout the country. 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, once considered for Michigan, was the acquisition of land by the state for agricultural purposes. Landowners would keep their property, but the state would have the development rights. The enormous cost of this concept prevented it from being enacted in Michigan.

"The third concept, presently in effect in Michigan, is the incentives program, where a landowner is compensated for promising to keep his land for a certain purpose for a specified amount of time," Libby says.

The Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and many other institutions concerned with 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 counsel. "Presently about 760

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 Farmland and Open Space 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 if 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 that he will not allow the use of 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

(Continued on page 7)

## Critical Issues '77

## 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 still is behind that in many rural states. Among its 83 counties, the 50 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 downplay of family medicine in medical schools, the number of general practitioners and family physicians has declined in both rural and urban areas. Family medicine practitioners are considered most essential to rural areas.

Total rural health care is also significantly affected by a lack of dentists, nurses and other health care professionals, too many specialized instead of general treatment centers and the lack of comprehensive emergency medical services programs. But the "country doctor" is still the cornerstone of rural health. His absence hurts the most.

"The real problem is that Michigan is losing its family doctors faster than its medical centers and teaching hospitals are tuning them out," says John Doherty, executive vice president of the Michigan Health Council. "Only 27 doctors completed their family practice residencies in 1976. This is only about ten per cent of the annual total of family physicians that the Michigan Health Council feels is needed to provide comprehensive general medical care in both rural and urban areas."

Through the Health Council, many organizations are working to help reorganize rural health structures, provide incentive programs for doctors to work in rural areas, and instruct communities on how they can encourage physicians to work in those towns, Doherty says. The Michigan Farm Bureau has been a contributing member of the Michigan Health Council for 30 years.

As a part of its 1977 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 Michigan medical students to take their internships and residencies in the state. MFB has also commended the Michigan Health Council for its efforts to place physicians within the state. It has urged the health organization to develop a system which would assure Michigan rural youth the opportunity to enter Michigan medical and dental schools, and to set up practice within the state.

"The state's medical schools are now under pressure from the state legislature that controls the schools' funding, to promote their family medicine departments and encourage their graduates to take up rural residency," Doherty adds. "This pressure has led to an increase of family medicine graduates from five per cent of all graduation classes to 20 per cent. Still, this alone is not enough to reverse the trend."

The University of Michigan, in particular, has been placing emphasis on

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Frank Smith Jr., Michigan Vegetable Council, presents Representative Raymond Kehres, 39th District, (D-Monroe) with his Legislative Service to Agriculture Award during those ceremonies at the Michigan Agricultural Conference's 29th Annual legislative Dinner. Three other legislators were also recognized with such an award.

## 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 overtime? Will piece-rate 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 MI-OSHA hit agriculture next?

These are just a few of many labor issues facing 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 toward the 1977 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 and membership 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 use sludge generated at municipal wastewater treatment plants in the fertilization of agricultural lands.

"These communities are utilizing their waste, instead of just disposing of it," Lee Jacobs, Michigan State University soil scientist says. "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 sludge usage development, along with a comprehensive application guidance program. The cities of Allegan, Cadillac, Nashville, Petersburg, Hastings, Bad Axe, Traverse City and Tecumseh also have some of the most 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," Jacobs pointed out. "The 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 partly due to the amount of trace elements present in domestic waste, Jacobs points out.

"However, waste is not a balanced fertilizer," the soil expert clarified. "The substance is usually low on potassium, and this element may have to be added. With the proper loading ratio of nitrogen already present in the sludge, though, the proper amounts of phosphorus should also be present."

Two disadvantages of using liquid waste will prevent widespread application of the organic fertilizer instead of commercial fertilizer, though, Jacobs says.

"One is that nearly all the needed crop nutrients can be applied during one application of commercial fertilizer," Jacobs explains. "Waste is usually 95 percent

water, so many trips must be made to the field to apply a comparable amount 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 cost of the application or the manpower. In some cases, both are provided.

"If a farmer can work out such a relationship 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 no comprehensive guidelines yet established as to how much material can be applied while maintaining a safe level of heavy metals in the soil.

"Heavy metal contamination of domestic and industrial waste is the major public health consideration in the use of sludge as the fertilizer of crops for human consumption," Jacobs says.

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Perc Reeve, Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association, congratulates Representative Loren Armbruster, 84th District, (R-Caro) for earning the Legislative Service to Agriculture Award presented at the 29th Annual Legislative Dinner. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Agricultural Conference.

## MASA Annual February 24

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) annual meeting will be held February 24 at the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids. Scheduled in conjunction with the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) annual meeting, the MASA program will begin with a noon luncheon and adjourn at

approximately 3:30 p.m.

Keynote speaker will be Keith Molin, Director of the Michigan Department of Labor.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Luncheon tickets may be ordered from the MASA office, 7373 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing 48904.

## 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."

The act is also 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 mandatory state or federal program," Smith emphasizes.

Smith is also encouraged because the law received a considerable amount of support from metropolitan legislators, right from when 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 urban development, for the greatest concentration of land under P.A. 116 contracts is close to or between urban areas.

All in all, Smith feels that P.A. 116 is the most advanced law for farmland preservation in the country. "When we were first putting the law together, we drew from successful voluntary 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."

Taxes play a major role in the land use question, Libby points out. "Many, even most local governments depend entirely on property taxes for local revenues." The MSU ag economist explains. "Thus, increased local spending requires more taxes, based on the higher land values that come with the development of open land, benefiting owners of that land. Preservation of farmlands and open space has pretty low priority under such circumstances."

Zoning is the major regulatory land use concept that a local government uses to assure itself a dependable tax income base. Property values in certain zones remain relatively stable because a rapid shift to a more lucrative land use is restricted.

"Zoning helps to reduce the physical impact that varies from one land use to another," Greg Lyman, planning and zoning specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Division of Land Resource Programs. "Zoning also gives land owners some certainty in terms of investment."

In spite of the benefits of zoning, the concept initially met with widespread resistance. Only 38 percent of the local units of government in Michigan had planning

commissions and only 31 percent had zoning commissions (update) in 1972. Now nearly the entire state is by these structures.

"Zoning is a useful practice to help preserve agricultural lands and should be utilized," Lyman says. "It's certainly not the best or only answer, but it can be used as one tool in a balanced land use program."

One benefit of using zoning to protect essential agricultural land is that urban people are familiar with the concept, Lyman points out. Because of zoning practices, some urbanites have become sensitized to the need for agricultural zones.

"However, most of the public often takes for granted that there will always be enough agricultural lands to supply their food needs," Lyman says. "We know all too well that this is not the case. In certain areas, too, land that is uniquely suited to certain kinds of agricultural production is threatened with urban development."

In a publication entitled, "The Use of Zoning to Retain Essential Agricultural Land," experts from Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State and the DNR have outlined a practical program.

This booklet projections that show unless present land use concepts are taken advantage of, vital agricultural land will be lost at an ac-

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## 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 is the multi-commodity marketing association affiliated with the Michigan Farm Bureau. The Association includes thirteen operating divisions through which marketing services are provided to members who produce processing fruits and vegetables, feeder livestock and operate retail farm markets.

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 Stuckman, "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 mem-

bership 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 accredited associations 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, placed the burden of proving 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 American Farm 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 this challenge unless they receive adequate rewards and incentives." Dr. Hannah spoke at the marketing conference 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 that simple. More 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 1950," 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 of below average... the starving, hungry, or grossly malnourished people, most of them children."

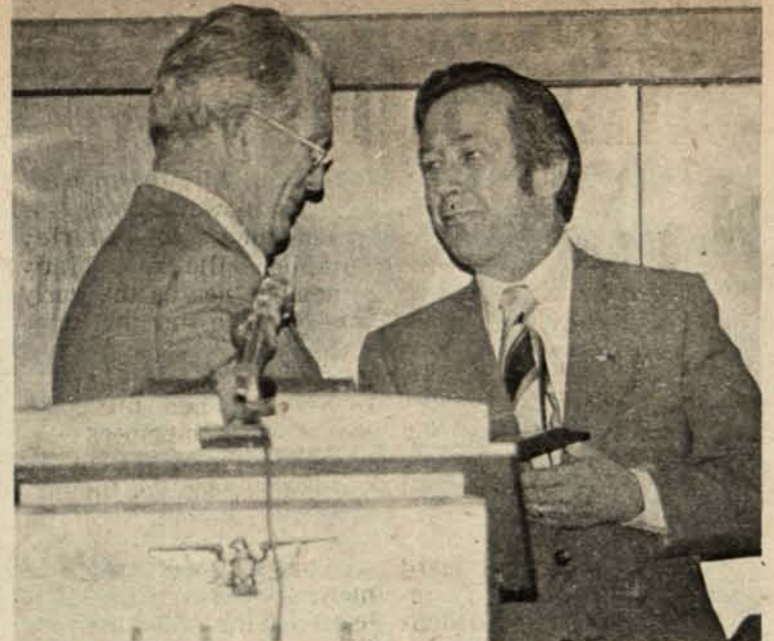
Dr. Hannah said that most malnourished people live in Asia, Africa and in some of the Latin American countries. "The first challenge is to increase food production in these developing countries." The second challenge is to see to it that the increased food supplies are actually consumed by those people who need additional food most.

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 discussions 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 the world food problem has been dramatically presented and then quietly allowed to drift from the minds of those who were concerned. The World 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 ways to accomplish the desired objectives will be brought to the attention of international agencies and national governments."



Perc Reeve, Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association, gives Senator Robert Young, 35th District, (R-Saginaw) his Legislative Service to Agriculture award. The award was presented to Young, along with three other legislators, at the 29th Annual Legislative Dinner.

## New Penalties for Violating Ag Labor Act

Civil money penalties have been established for 35 different violations of the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act (FLCRA), according to Wage and Hour Administrator Ronald J. James, 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 obtain the 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 to hold 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 users 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 illegal alien worker knowingly employed. This could raise the total money penalty above \$1,000 for this type of violation, depending on the number of illegal aliens.

Lesser penalties have been established for such violations as failure to properly post working conditions at the work site (\$50); failure to make proper money payments 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 December 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.

of their uptake by plants."

Signs of plant toxicity seem to show up before any kind of danger level of toxic metals in the edible crop itself, but it is not certain if this is always the case, Jacob adds. He is involved with more research to see if such metal uptake occurs at all from sludge.

"Domestic sludge, that from smaller municipalities, is the least likely to have concentrations of heavy metals," Jacobs points out.

"Industrial sludge, particularly that from auto plants and 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.

## 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 receive adequate supplies throughout the balance of the winter, Bill Rockey, FPC executive vice president, says.

"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 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 material to a part of the country less fortunate than Michigan", Rockey points out. "This could tighten up our supplies even more and is another reason why farmers should conserve."

## Sludge

(Continued from page 7)

"Before the concept can go into widespread application, we must know how long a farmer can keep using waste before his crops absorb an unsafe level of heavy metals. We also need to know what this unsafe level is."

The Michigan Farm Bureau, together with Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Public Health, Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is working to establish these guidelines.

"The use of sewage wastewater and solid materials on agricultural land is seen as a viable means to help solve water pollution problems," says Al Almy, MFB Legislative Counsel. "We can also see where the program could be of substantial benefit to Michigan agriculture. However, options for adopting land application of wastewater and sludge to private agriculture need to be developed to protect both the farmer and the municipality."

MFB and the other institutions are also working on an informational booklet that can be used as guidance for farmers and municipalities interested in the use of sludge and wastewater as fertilizer.

"Cadmium is the metal that causes most concern to public health officials when analyzing uptake of the toxic heavy metals found in varying concentration," Jacobs explains. "This metal will accumulate in the soil as more sludge is added and seems the most likely to be taken into plants. Lead and mercury are very immobile in soil, so there is little chance

## FB Mutual Increases Worker Comp Benefits

Because of mounting losses caused primarily by rising 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 organization establishing rates for Farm Bureau Mutual and many other insurance companies operating in Michigan.

Although rates went up for almost all classes of coverage, the average in-

crease is less for agricultural workers than for other classes.

Coverage for agricultural workers will raise an average of 9.04 per cent, compared to an overall average increase of 16.5 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.



# 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 58th 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 watering pineapple and sugar cane are nearly empty. This is of major concern to Hawaiian agriculture.



Representative Dennis Cawthorne, 98th district (R-Manistee) loads up his "loot 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 to sample "Michigan grown goodness."

# Many Changes in Ag Labor Laws in 1977

Donald Shepard, operations manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, reminds farmers 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 seasonal employee to work 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.

# MSU to Hold 62nd. Farmer Annual

Michigan State University's 62nd annual Farmers' Week, the oldest continuing farm event of its kind in the nation, is March 21-25.

This year's theme, "Learning Your ANRs" 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, the 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

# 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.

"One of our major goals in 1977 is to establish a closer working relationship with FFA members," Don Currey, manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Program, says. "Whatever county FBs can do to help highlight FFA activities during their special week would be most useful."

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.

FFA Week is traditionally celebrated beginning the Saturday before George Washington's birthday (February 22) and ending the following Saturday. The FFA recognizes Washington in their ceremonies during FFA Week because of his significant contributions to American agriculture.

# 'Saving 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 "Saving 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 for 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.

# mfrn farmers of the week

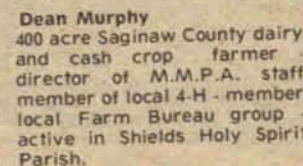
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**John Kronmeyer**  
740 acre Chippewa County dairy farmer - President of County Farm Bureau and local D.H.I.A. - Chairman township zoning board - Treasurer of state D.H.I.A. Board - Secretary of U.P. Experiment Station Advisory Council - member Kellogg Farm Study Program Group I.



**Michael Pettigrew**  
240 acre Clinton County dairy and cash crop farmer - chairman county Farm Bureau Young Farmers - member of county Farm Bureau Board member of community Farm Bureau Group.



**Dean Murphy**  
400 acre Saginaw County dairy and cash crop farmer - director of M.M.P.A. staff member of local 4-H - member local Farm Bureau group - active in Shields Holy Spirit Parish.



**Leslie Dowd**  
1,050 acre Van Buren County fruit farmer (Dowd Orchards, Inc.) - President of County Farm Bureau - member MASA board of directors - member Michigan Department of Public Health Labor Camp Advisory Comm. - Past member MFB Young Farmers, Policy Development and State Study Committees - Member Hartford Federated Church.

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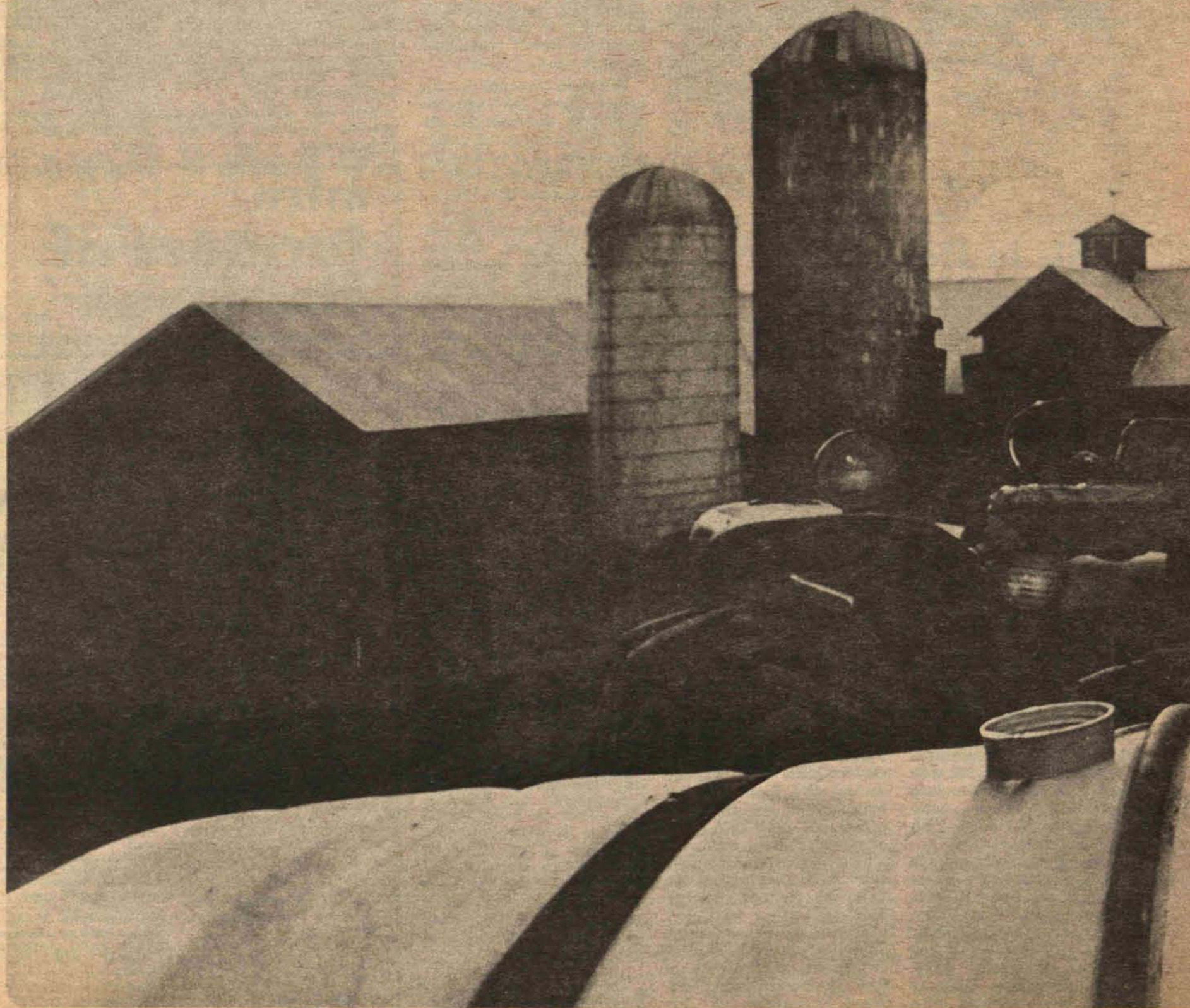
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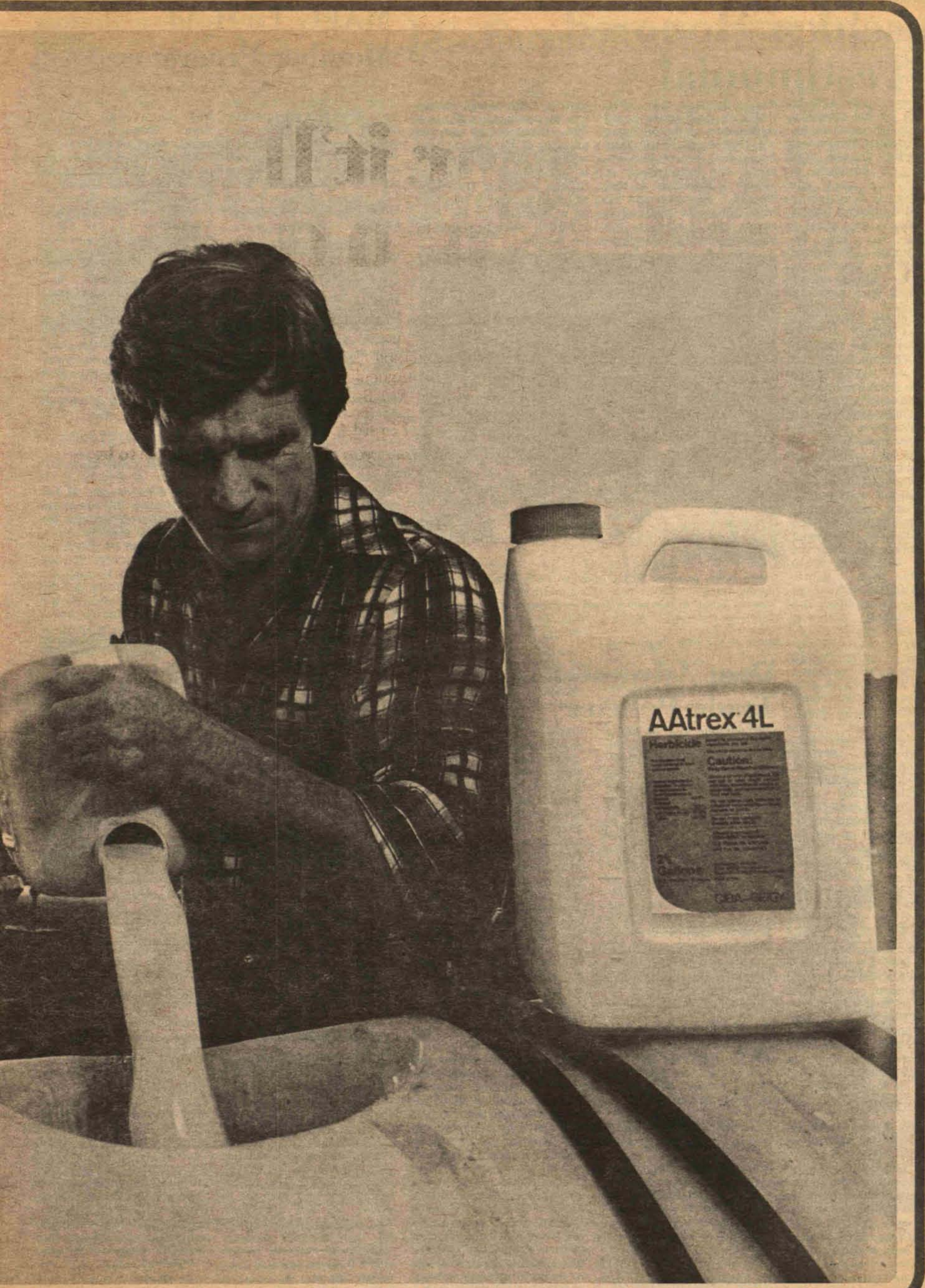
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# Buschlen Honored at Testimonial

Living up to a legend can be a full-time job, but according to "testimony" given at the M. J. Buschlen Retirement Testimonial Dinner and Hearing on January 4, "Busch" has met the challenge. Evidence presented by invited friends and associates praised Buschlen for his accomplishments throughout his 40-year career in agriculture. The speakers also shared their personal, and often humorous, reminiscences with the assembled guests.

Directors of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) were seated as members of the "hearing board". Joined by Mrs. Lillian Buschlen and the Buschlen's eldest daughter, Beth, the hearing board reviewed the testimony presented by representatives of Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliated companies. Representing various sectors of Michigan agriculture were Allan Shapely, Michigan State University; Richard Pfitzer, Michigan State University; Perc Reeve, Farmers and Manufacturers Sugar Beet Association; and William Brook, Michigan Agricultural Conference. Mr. Brook, on behalf of the Michigan Agricultural Conference, also presented Buschlen with a plaque as a tribute to Mr. Buschlen's contributions to Michigan agriculture.

After a brief conference, the following recommendations were presented by President Elton Smith: "WHEREFORE, the Hearing Board having heard argument and testimony in the said proposal on the 4th

day of January, A.D., 1977, ORDERS: 1) that the Board of Directors of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association accept and endorse the retirement of Merrill J. Buschlen; 2) that Merrill J. Buschlen and his wife, Lillian, be required to enjoy two weeks in the tropical islands of Hawaii; 3)

that a "Hawaiian" money tree be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Buschlen as an expression of the sincere best wishes of their many friends in agriculture; 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.



Elton Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Merrill J. (Busch) Buschlen and his wife Lillian await the decision of the "Hearing Board" as to whether Busch would be allowed to retire as operations manager of MASA. With the endorsement of his retirement, Busch and Lillian were "required" to spend two weeks in Hawaii at the AFBF Convention.

## Dent Advocates Export Trade Policies

A call for the incoming Carter administration to continue "export-oriented" trade policies, and a warning against unwarranted holding of grain reserves were voiced by ambassador Frederick B. Dent, the nation's special

representative for trade negotiations.

"Any increase in the price support level which would peg U.S. prices above the world market would undercut our objectives" Dent told a general session of the American Farm Bureau Federation at Honolulu's Elaisdell Center. He warned that such a course would price our products out of world markets, weaken our role as a world food supplier, tie us down as a holder of price-depressing world grain reserves, and put us into the "uneconomic process" of subsidizing our surpluses into export markets at taxpayer expense.

The ambassador was critical of restrictive trade policies abroad. He charged that Japan, although our second largest export market, has built a six billion dollar surplus in trade with us with the help of unwise import controls that price many farm products out of reach of Japanese consumers and restrict development of its own food economy. And he noted that, while the European community remains our principle trading partner, restrictive policies that tie variable trade levels to domestic prices, and impose heavy subsidies pose a major competitive problem.

# 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 solid answers do not materialize, member relations often suffer, says L.A. Cheney, director of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

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, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"We're inviting all cooperative managers and others responsible for

developing member relations for the cooperatives to attend this conference," Cheney says. "Anyone in these capacities is welcome."

The conference will feature panel discussions and guest speakers. Owen Hallberg, president of the American Institute of Cooperation, Washington, D.C., will talk on member relations development. George Stachwick, associate program director for agriculture and marketing, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, will talk on how managers can determine member interest.

A luncheon will be served at the meeting. Those interested in attending should contact Mr. Cheney at Michigan Farm Bureau Center.

## Soybean Summit Feb. 24-25

Soybean Summit I, sponsored by the American Soybean Association, will be held February 24-25 in St. Louis. About 400 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.

## 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 secretary during the Blue Cross and Blue Shield open enrollment period, March 1 to March 15.

Over 80 percent of Farm Bureau members have trusted in Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage for many good reasons.

One of those reasons is the group protection and rates available through Farm Bureau membership. When you purchase coverage as an individual, you can't get the same type of extensive protection that you get with group coverage. Master Medical, for instance, is not available to the individual subscriber. Group rates are also much lower than individual rates would be.

Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield identification card is another good reason for joining. Wherever you go for medical treatment, it is always recognized.

Another major advantage is that you can never be cancelled because of health conditions or age. And you don't have to have a physical examination to join. Your coverage with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan will last as long as you live in Michigan. Even when you retire, you can continue to have similar coverage with Blue Cross and Blue Shield Complementary Coverage, which combines with Medicare to give you complete protection.

If you are part of that 20 percent of Farm Bureau members without Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection, why not reconsider and join at this time. Being without health care coverage can be an expensive mistake.

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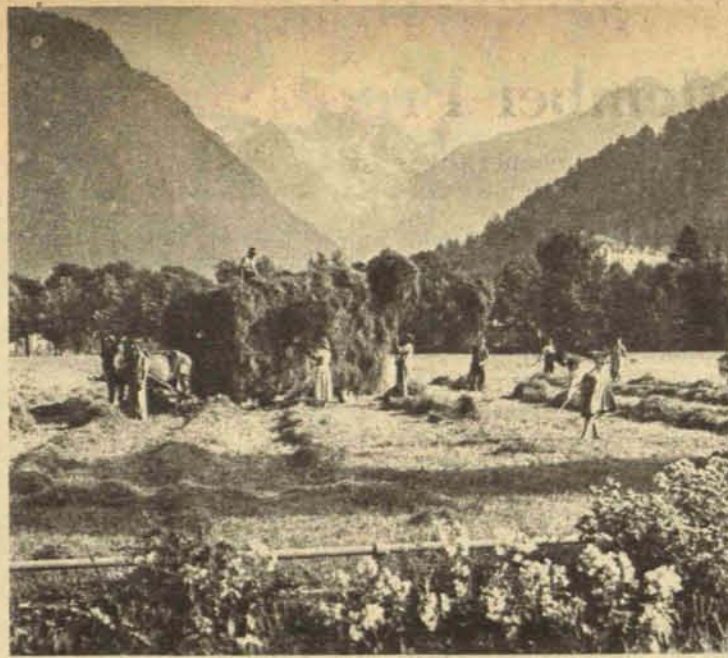
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Harvesting time in Switzerland's Golden Pass near Interlaken. This is one of the areas that will be visited during the Michigan Farm Bureau European tour.

## Beware of Telephone Commodity Sales

Telephone pitch men are calling thousands of consumers with offers of "guaranteed" profits on speculative commodity futures, a federal regulatory agency reports.

Consumers should be cautious about any sales offer that they get over the phone. They should also realize that investors in the volatile commodities market should be prepared to sustain a total loss, Commodity Futures Trading Commission officials say.

"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 attractive profits. But we have learned that there are some unsavory elements operating in a heretofore unregulated business," Commission Vice Chairman John F. Rainbolt said.

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 800-424-9838.

## 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 equivalent to a 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. His 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 purchaser.

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

may become very concerned that they may have been given the wrong prescription.

There was a major battle on this law in the Senate, as it is far more liberal than similar laws in other states. Some have suggested that the new act permits a kind of "bait and switch tactic" and denies, to a degree, the consumer's "right of choice."

The rest of the law does provide that, if the doctor feels that the patient should have the exact prescription that he prescribes, then he can write on that prescription the letters DAW, which means "dispense as written".

In the meantime, the consumer, for his own protection, should ask his pharmacist whether he is switching the prescription to a generic drug and how much the savings might be. The danger of not being fully informed of a substitution lies in the fact that neither the consumer nor the doctor would know whether any adverse reaction was the result of the substitution. Also, in many cases, it would be wise to ask the doctor whether the use of the generic drug would achieve the desired medical results.

## J.C. Farmers are MFB Members

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 5 and will travel to Bismarck, North Dakota, in March for the U.S. Jaycees award program.

The Outstanding Young Farmer Program, co-sponsored by the Michigan Jaycees and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, honors farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 in communities throughout Michigan for their contributions to agriculture, conservation and the community.

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

White, who farms 850 acres near Scotts and milks 88

cows, is active in his local Farm Bureau and served as county committeeman and new membership chairman.

White's other areas of involvement include serving as a township trustee, president and secretary of the township fire department, working with the Cub Scouts, past president of the Scotts Jaycees, member of the nominating committee 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 family farm until White bought it from her in 1963. He and his wife, Rene', have three children, ages 7 to 11.

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

Moore farms 635 acres and raises specialty crops, including hybrid seed corn, cucumbers and kidney beans, as well as corn for grain.

Moore, who holds a B.S. degree in Crop Science from Michigan State University, is a member of the Kent County Farm Bureau and served on the board of directors. He also served on the state advisory board on field crops in 1974 and is a member of the board of directors of Great Lakes Hybrids. Moore's family includes his wife, Ellen, and a 4-year-old child.

The second runner-up was Richard Wheeler, 35, of Whitmore Lake, who farms 307 acres in partnership with his father.

A Farm Bureau member for 16 years, Wheeler served as a discussion leader, member of the membership committee, and secretary of the county community group committee. He is a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

## Rural Med Students--More Apt to Return as Doctors

(Continued from page 6)

recruitment of potential family medicine physicians from rural areas. Health experts agree that such a person is much more likely to return to a rural area, rather than becoming a specialist who sets up his practice out-of-state.

"There is a need for more young men and women from rural areas to be accepted in Michigan's medical schools," Doherty says. "Of the total accepted into these schools during the 1976 school year, only 25 were from rural areas."

Also, Michigan medical schools accepted 105 students from other states and foreign countries. In contrast, several out-of-state medical schools told Michigan students they were not accepting out-of-state applicants. The Michigan Health Council has advocated that Michigan schools also not take out-of-staters to help keep physicians within the state.

But such control can have only a small effect, especially since the state legislature has caused the medical schools to cut back on the number of medical students being accepted for 1976 because of the lack of funds allotted to the schools to employ and keep faculty.

Meanwhile, according to Health Council figures, the 23 counties with the highest death rate are rural. Doherty says that this death rate is directly attributable to the lack of health care manpower in these counties.

Michigan has a ratio of one family or general practice physician for every 4,439

persons living in rural areas, while the national ratio is one such M. D. for every 3,570 persons, Doherty says. The American Academy of Family Physicians recommends a ratio of one family physician for every 2,000 residents.

The ratio of licensed physicians of all specialties varies considerably throughout Michigan. The Health Council's figures show that the best doctor-to-resident is in Washtenaw County where its ratio is 1 to 193. The worst ratio is in Keweenaw County, where there is no physician of any kind for its 2,264 residents. The Health Council is working, as a part of its regular physician replacement program, to help the communities most in need obtain family doctors.

But communities and influential state organizations need to take a more active role to encourage more to establish themselves in rural areas, health experts say.

"One of the most effective actions a community can take is to establish centralized office facilities close to an existing hospital," Doherty says. "New physicians often do not have the capital to rent or build their own office space, along with providing their own technical support equipment," he points out.

"Physicians close to a hospital can have their patients use the hospital facilities, and often the communities providing such office space make it available at reduced rent."

Hastings, in Barry County, has recently constructed a physicians' office building

close by its Pennock Hospital. Besides providing convenience for the doctors housed there, the Physicians Center has helped the community attract three new physicians to Hastings in the last two years.

The Michigan Health Council plans to use the Hastings "story" as a model by holding a Rural Health Conference there in early May 1977. Members of rural communities will be invited to find out how to go about starting such a facility.

The residents of Marcellus, Michigan recognized the need to attract doctors to their community, but they needed a motivating force to find a way to finance a clinic that might attract physicians. Ron Cripps, sales representative trainee for Marcellus Farm Bureau Services, provided that force. Through his efforts, a \$60,000 clinic was built.

"You would get nowhere without having something to attract a doctor," Cripps says. "Our hospitals are campaigning heavily for doctors to move into their areas without a building or facility for them to operate out of. I don't feel that a small rural community would attract a doctor unless he just took a liking to a town".

Another way to attract physicians to rural areas is to offer them a guaranteed minimum gross income. Local governmental officials should look into ways of raising such funds, Doherty urges. Since a doctor's overhead is so high, some communities have offered

(Continued on page 16)

# AFBF Annual Focuses Assault on Regulation, Restraints on Free Market

The American Farm Bureau Federation, under a convention theme of "Keeping America Free in Century 3," has launched a determined assault on the growing power of government regulatory agencies, restraints on access and development of world markets, interference with a market-oriented economy 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 government regulatory control has had the effect of "enacting more laws than the legislative branch." They asserted "it is time to bring these (regulatory) agencies under letter control" and to do this Congress should "show 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-destruct" termination date be written into all acts creating new administrative agency

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 governmental restrictions on the sale of agricultural products in world markets. Agricultural exports must not 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 necessary as a cushion against disaster but insisted that "support programs must be carefully designed and implemented to avoid conditions which are self-perpetuating, to protect our competitive position in world markets and to avoid undue interferences 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 wise use of 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 imagined abuses rather than cures for real problems," the convention concluded, adding that "a forced separation of functions in the petroleum industry (vertical divestiture) would not create any new energy supplies or lower energy prices. But it could create chaos throughout our economy and wreak havoc in 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 advisory powers" was opposed by the delegates.

In terms of farm labor

relations, the assembly resolved:

"... Farmers and consumers need some protection against strikes and boycotts during critical growing and harvesting periods, since they can destroy an entire year's income for farmers and result in the loss of needed food and excessive prices for consumers."

Farmers in Farm Bureau have a deep and abiding interest in clean air, water, and soils but the Congress and the administration should consider "energy, social, and economic needs," when examining environmental impacts.

The environmental impact statement (EIS) provision of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 has become a "tool of various special interest groups and is being used to preclude a balanced

consideration of all needs... the direct costs of developing an EIS and the inevitable indirect costs of court actions and project delays are excessive." The EIS provision, said Farm Bureau, should be repealed.

The wide-ranging policies adopted at this convention to cover the broad gamut of Farm Bureau interests will be in effect throughout the year until the 1978 annual meeting which will be held in Houston next January.

## CF Petroleum Now Energy Co-op

The Board of Directors of CF Petroleum Company has announced that effective January 1, 1977, the company will officially change the name of the organization to Energy Cooperative, Inc. (ECI). It is partly owned by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.

## County FBs Can Help Local Zoning Programs

(Continued from page 7)  
celerated pace.

"We estimate that Michigan will need between 7 to 8 million acres of farmland to sustain the state's populace and for agriculture to maintain its part of the state's economy," Lyman says. "If the trends of urban development and the lack of protective land use measures for farmland continues, there will be only about 2 or 3 million acres left for agricultural production. While increased crop yields allow more food to be produced in less space, we cannot expect land productivity to increase enough to compensate for the loss of so much agricultural land."

Once farmers become convinced that land use and zoning plans are essential to the preservation of agricultural land in their area, they must convince the other township or county residents that the zoning ordinance is to everyone's benefit, Nelson says.

"The local government and public must not feel that the real reason farmers want the ordinance is to reduce land taxes or restrict certain elements of the community," Nelson emphasizes.

The zone planning hand-

book also cautions that considerable planning, with the use of agricultural and legal advisors, is vital to the success of the zoning ordinance.

"A suggested route is to first approach the regional planning commission that has responsibilities the area in question," Nelson points out. "14 multi-county regional councils have been designated by the governor to provide a broad base for more uniform land patterning structures, as well as a multitude of other problems."

County Farm Bureaus have a real leadership role to play in the organization and implementation of agricultural zoning districts, Nelson says. A number of counties have taken some action, but much more needs to be done, he sums up.

"Once the movement has been started, and the importance of the agricultural industry has been well documented, the essential agricultural lands must be designated. The third step is to present a plan that will form the basis for actual construction of the zoning ordinance provisions and the zoning map."

Descriptions of the

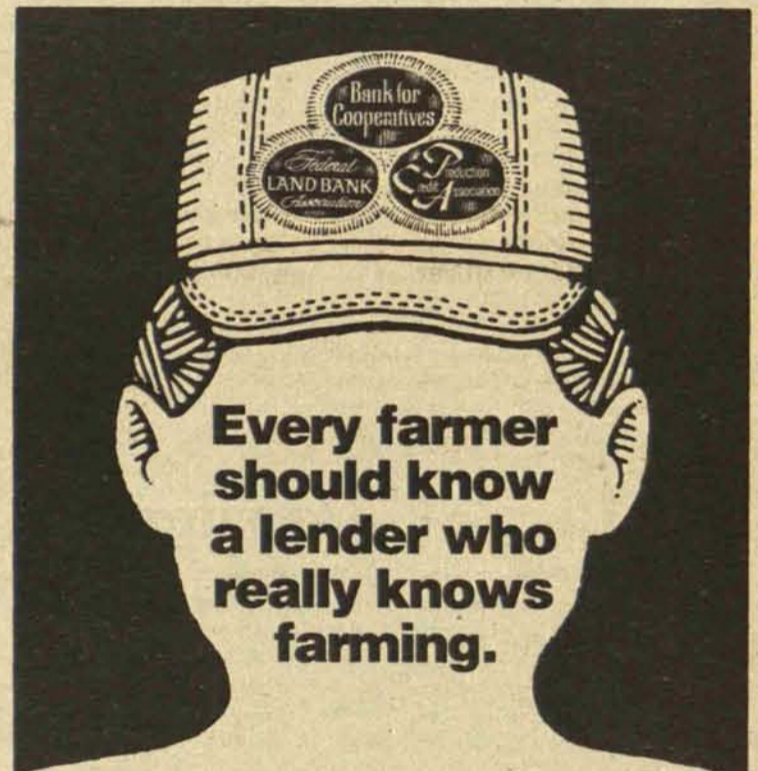
suitability of prime and unique agricultural land in the township should consider all factors, such as soil quality, land contour and other convincing factors. When the agricultural lands have been identified the legal boundaries of the zoning ordinance should be considered.

"The ordinance should emphasize a strong legal basis for preserving the agricultural land, for this land is the core of the plan," Nelson says. "Zones for other industries should also be designated after the agricultural zone has been determined."

Agricultural representatives should establish all of the regulating policies for creating the zoning ordinance language also, Nelson emphasizes. Then when the ordinance is being considered, the agricultural group leaders should continue their public education as to why the ordinance is needed.

"Farmers must not feel, however, that zoning is the key to all land use problems," Lyman says. "It really is only one tool. Even with an agricultural lands zoning ordinance, not all land that should remain in agricultural production will be allowed to. Other land use planning programs, such as P.A. 116, should be encouraged to provide a sound basis for preserving farmland."

major competitive problem.



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# 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 Presidents 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 for deliveries now. 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 all 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 dealers with nearly all of the available supplies booked. There's but a small supply left of this new, highly competitive, quality product. Now, it's first-come first-served.

Quantities of most pesticides are now being moved to Farm Bureau dealers and will be available at competitive prices. Planning your herbicide, insecticide, and fungicide needs now and reserving your supplies, will assure you'll have fewer delivery problems, and no last minute pricing guesses when you should be concentrating on farm work.

## SEED

The supply outlook for spring is good for corn, oats, and alfalfa seeds.

Farm Bureau Services has lined up limited quantities of

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

requiring spring shipment 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.

A series of Key Dealer training sessions will be held on CO-OP Water Softeners. Also, Water Clinics will be promoted at 15 locations in January. Ask your dealer to consult with you on your water situation.

Adequate supplies of farm electric fence are now at our warehouses ready for pick-up or delivery by dealers. Farmers are encouraged to inform their dealers of their needs in fencing.

(Continued on page 17)



## Get The Most For Your Fertilizer Dollars

Ask the Farm Bureau people, they can handle any and all of your fertilizer needs. Cooperative buying power, efficient distribution and extensive mining and manufacturing capabilities are strong testimony to this promise. The Farm Bureau people are experts who can help you get the most from your fertilization program. We can advise you how to buy it... when to buy it... how to use it.

Through membership/ownership in CF Industries, we have dozens of large fertilizer manufacturing and distribution facilities in North America that exclusively serve coop-

erative patrons. We also have our own Farm Bureau Services fertilizer plant in Saginaw, plus numerous bulk blend plants around the state.

Your Farm Bureau dealer is backed by more fertilizer resources and more fertilizer knowledge than ever before plus the right equipment for application. See him today, and get the full story. Ask the Farm Bureau people.



# MFB European Trip a Winner With Members

Howe Travel of Southfield, Michigan, the agency coordinating the 1977 MFB Europe and Japan trips, reports that the European farm tour has drawn great response.

According to a Howe Travel spokesman:

Five farm couples sent in their reservations for the European trip the first week after the December Michigan Farm News issue reached subscribers. The issue carried the insert brochure announcing the European Farm Tour and the Orient Farm Tour Oct. 3-18, 1977. Wrote one of them "We hope the weather cooperates here 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 help on the educational end, Michigan Farm Bureau, through its Marge Karker Scholarship, 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 medical technology.

The Illinois Agricultural Association has a program that actually recommends rural students to the University of Illinois Medical School. Once accepted, the student is entitled to a loan at the rate of four per cent. About 35 students enter the university through this program annually.

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

"Contributions such as a \$115,000 grant 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 also sponsoring a rural Health Day May 19 in Hastings. As a part of Michigan Week, more than 100 rural communities will be invited to send physicians, hospital administrators and members of their physician recruitment committees to meet with young doctors completing their training to become family physicians. They will find out what Hastings did to successfully recruit four family doctors to that community.

"Such efforts will help

before we go and the weather should be great in Europe at that time."

This tour has been especially arranged for Michigan Farm Bureau members and your friends. The program includes a variety of farm visits... dairy, fruit, cattle, etc. as well as flower auction, cheese factory, sightseeing, musical stage show "Irene", a cruise on the famous Rhine River, special Dutch dinner

## 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 home from the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Hawaii. I can say without a doubt -- Hawaii is the only way to go!

I'm 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 your New Year's resolutions? If you are like me, you have probably forgotten or broken them already -- like that diet 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

provide more awareness of the rural health problem and hopefully help communities formulate 'action plans' to bring more doctors to their areas," Doherty says.

There's a lot that County Farm Bureaus can do to help assist communities obtain doctors. Farm Bureau is often looked to as a leadership group in rural areas. Now that county discussion groups have focused on health as well as safety, the organization can provide the motivating force to build medical facilities to attract new doctors.

"The first step is to determine the need in the community," Doherty says. "Once people realize how acute the problem is, a comprehensive plan for the establishment of the medical facility should be taken to the local governmental structures to see what assistance can be obtained.

Once a plan is established and funds are available, a community should go full speed ahead with their medical facility. It's still the best way to get doctors to a community."

at Restaurant Dorrius and many other memorable experiences. We have tried to include enough farm visits, mixed with other side trips, to satisfy everyone! Tour groups will be limited to 42 passengers.

Please make your reservations early so you can be sure all of your personal details can be finalized, passports obtained, etc. in ample time.

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 informed.

In the past few years, with so much emphasis on world hunger and rising food prices, we have had the opportunity to be heard; people have actually asked for our opinions! Farm Bureau has taken advantage of this situation, but it is also our individual responsibility to share our views with local urban 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 even more this year to be 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 reorganization 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.

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

Walter Frahm of Saginaw County 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 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.

There is no easy solution to rising property taxes. The above are a few suggestions of ways an individual can affect property taxes.

# mfrn farmers of the week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Edmund Picklemann  
400 acre Saginaw County dairy and crop farmer - member state advisory board at McDonald Dairy Association - member Frankenmuth School Board - member St. Lorenz Lutheran Church.



Dale Carmichael  
1000 acre Osceola County dairy farmer - member D.H.I.A. - member Dairy Heifer Co-op - 4-H Club leader - member Evart Public School Board - Administrative Board Avondale Methodist Church - Delegate MMPA.



Lawrence Karstan  
Presque Isle County dairy farmer - past president County Farm Bureau - past member MFB Policy Development and State Study Committees - member Michigan Milk Board - Hillman local - Secretary - Treasurer local board of MABC - Chrmn. D.H.I.A. Huron Shores Testers Association - member Emanuel Lutheran Church.



Robert Beck  
2000 acre Lenawee County crop farmer - member National Corn Growers Association - member Medina Twp. Planning Commission - Vo-Ag. Advisory Board - Morenci High School.

sponsored by

**MICHIGAN FARM RADIO NETWORK AND FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP™**



# Michigan Marketing Outlook

## Grain Markets

From now until spring planting time everyone will be trying to outguess the farmer who will in turn be trying to outguess the weather and the markets. The U.S.D.A., beginning in January, will issue planting intention reports. These reports, along with those of private forecasters, will give us our first look at what farmers are thinking in 1977. Of course, there are a lot of grain traders who are anxious also to see these reports. The fact that the reports are even issued will cause some commotion in prices but how much will depend on the report itself.

The farmer is spending his time meanwhile watching for some commodity prices to move upward. A lot, of course, will depend on the weather. Old man winter, while progressing along, has not left much in the way of moisture in many areas. His severe cold has or could cause damage to wheat especially if it is sparsely covered. Many of the upper midwestern and western 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 and nervous anticipation over spring 1977. The experts will be keeping a

close eye on available grain supplies domestically and world wide plus a close eye on moisture conditions in key crop producing areas. The relative surplus of 1976 could quickly become less burdensome depending on weather conditions and farmer intentions for 1977.

Where does this leave 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. A relatively major shift in any of these components either way can send prices for a ride (remember wheat in the spring of 1976)! Caution may well be the by-word for your 1977 marketing plans at this juncture.

Paul E. Kindinger, Director Market Development Division

## Swine

All of the predictions have indicated that hog prices should have dropped substantially before the date of this writing but they continue

movement has been because of the extremely cold weather. Many refineries have been limiting the size of shipments of Number 1 Fuel Oil to half of a transport load.

**FUEL OIL**  
Consumers with outside fuel oil tanks and small lines have been plagued with problems from plugged filters due to waxes. This is caused by the extremely cold weather.

Farmers Petroleum fuel dealers and personnel have been working around-the-clock to keep their patrons warm.

**TIRES**  
Sales have been staying at a high level with excellent prices for our quality products. Cash & Carry tire

to hold on or near the \$40 mark.

The steady to strong prices for hogs these past few weeks has been a very healthy sign for not only the pork producers but for all of agriculture. Part of the rebound strength can be attributed to the storm conditions across the country but I would put more emphasis on the general economy. With increases in income the first change in the average home is a better meal on the table and Mrs. Housewife has reminded us of this fact once more.

Hopefully our pork producers will not take this as an indication that the hard times are over for their industry. The fact is we still have a substantial increase in numbers of hogs coming to market and will see a decline in prices to the producer in the coming months.

Tom Reed, Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

## Poultry

Turkey growers in the 20 major producing states intend to raise 136 million turkeys in 1977 compared with 135 million in 1976 according to the Crop Reporting Board. The breakdown shows an intended increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds and a decline of 13 percent for light breeds. In 1976 there

sales are being maintained at a rapid pace even through the winter months, usually thought of as a slack period. Supplies of farm tires are improving daily. It's probable we will have supplies of all sizes in time for the spring planting season. We are still the only supplier with the new CO-OP Radial Tractor Tire and interest is strong. Radial truck tires are also showing good movement.

**REFINERY**  
The new name for "CF Petroleum" is now "Energy Cooperative, Inc." This name has been official from the first of January. The refinery has proved profitable for the first part of its fiscal year, and final figures will be available at a later date.

## Michigan Radio Network Wins Dairy Award

The Michigan Farm Radio Network's weekly "Dairy Report" recently received top honors at the National Milk Producers Federation annual meeting in San Francisco. Produced in cooperation with Jim Erickson of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, the program earned first place in the Federation's

annual communications contest.

Entries in the contest were submitted by the 62 dairy farmer cooperatives throughout the nation which comprise the National Milk Producers Federation membership, and were judged by a panel of communications professionals.

## Fruit Grape Study

Some time ago members of Farm Bureau involved in growing grapes requested a study of the grape industry, particularly that which affects Michigan. Market Development is now in the process of doing that study and have gathered some data that illustrates a couple of important facts.

First, as many of us may already know, the dessert wine industry has shown little or no growth in the past several years or more. Also, Michigan in the mid-fifties produced about 50 percent of the wine sold in Michigan. Now we account for about 12 percent. Total volume sold is about the same, but while the people who drank dessert wine 20 years ago still do, new wine consumers now favor table wine over dessert wine. This is the primary area in which Michigan sales has seemed to lose ground. This indicates that we may need to produce more table wine and then promote these on a state and regional basis.

Some new cultivars are desirable, but growers must know they can sell them before they go ahead and plant. Then, probably the growth in grape acreage should only be about 50 to 100 acres per year.

The report should be completed within the next month or so.

Gerald L. Nyberg, Marketing Specialist

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.

Tom Reed, Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

## Dairy

Milk output is still well above year ago figures but there may be a bright sign just ahead. Indications are that the increase in milk output is slowing and we could begin to see production level off soon. With prices dropping on all classes of milk and the price of feed inputs such as soybean oil meal steadily climbing the age old cost-price squeeze will cause more stringent culling of the borderline cows in our nation's dairy herds. Thus, production should decline in the months ahead.

Tom Reed, Marketing Specialist

## Supply Report

(Continued from page 15)

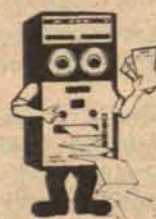
### FEEDS

Dairy farmers are reporting excellent results from their high producing dairy cows with NU PRO Dairy Feed. Animals thought to be giving the maximum amount of milk possible are now producing even more. NU PRO Dairy Feed is a patented and trademarked product. It's a result of CRF (Cooperative Research Farms).

Feed ingredient prices have been steady to strong the past month with formula feeds slow as a result of year end inventory taking. Production of protein equivalent continues at a good pace at the Battle Creek Feed Plant. Sow farrowings are expected to be up 10 percent for the first quarter. Farm Bureau Services has a complete line of medicated and non-medicated pig starter feeds formulated by a well qualified staff nutritionist.

### LIQUID FUEL

Movement has been very strong. Some suppliers are already placing fuel under allocation. Much of this heavy



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Good Farm Records make tax reporting a lot easier -- and save you both tax dollars and time.

Good Farm Records help you get the loans you need, keep interest costs down, and help you make more money on your operation.

What is your return per dollar invested? What enterprise best fits your situation? How Can you improve your net farm income?

Save time with Freddie Computer -- Just write down your income and expenses and send them in. Also -- if you want -- get complete family records too.

Interested in signing up for Freddie Computer? Then Send to: Market Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau for an enrollment application. Fill out the following form and

Send to: Market Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau P.O. Box 30960 Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# DISCUSSION

## TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**

Manager Member Relations

### Going Country With Crime

Jumps in the rural crime rate and rising demands for police services are pressuring rural law enforcement officers.

The FBI uniformed crime reports indicate that rural crime in 1975 climbed at a rate nearly equal to the national average. The national rate of increase usually has far outstripped rural rates.

Rising demands on rural police services are only partly due to the rising crime rate. Noncriminal police matters, such as noisy neighbors, domestic squabbles, runaway kids, and abandoned cars account for an increased load on police in rural Michigan departments, according to a recent survey.

Rural areas still do not have nearly the crime problems of cities. The FBI Crime Index—a group of seven serious crimes found to represent the most frequent crime problems — shows the metropolitan areas remain more crime prone.

#### METRO OFFENSES

In metro areas, 6,110 crime index offenses per 100,000 population were reported in 1975, compared with only 1,998 for rural areas. In other words, rural dwellers are a third as likely to be crime victims.

Nevertheless, rural crime is getting to be a bigger problem, as pointed out by other kinds of studies.

One of these studies is the annual Victimization Survey

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-violent crimes against people (those not involving confrontations with criminals) in non-metropolitan areas jumped 7.4 percent. Household larcenies soared 11.3 percent. (Other crimes — violent crimes, burglaries without confrontation, and auto thefts — showed no significant change.)

Nonviolent crimes nationally were up 1.4 percent, and household larcenies, 15.6 percent.

#### 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 especially difficult 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 lags, due to the volume of calls reviewed. This problem suggests some of the differences between rural and urban police work, and why it is difficult to compare the areas.

#### CRIME NATURE

Area covered is only one difference. The nature of crime encountered is another. Rural police are less likely to handle crime such as mugging and bank robberies, but more crimes such as larceny or breaking and entering.

Also, 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 city law enforcers share one common concern. The workload is getting heavier. **THE WORKLOAD INCREASES**

The increased burden on rural agencies may stem from these factors:

—A general growth in rural population.

—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.

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

—Rural dwellers expect more from their police than they used to. 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 on Rural Criminal Justice at Key Stone, Colorado, last year, these five needs were identified as the most critical:

1. Cooperation, coordination, and resource sharing among the law enforcement jurisdictions.

2. Consolidation of training facilities to serve several small, widely dispersed agencies.

3. Adequate salaries and benefits.

4. Alternative budget sources in the face of a tightening local tax base.

5. An effective way to involve citizens 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 and assuring all criminals that they will serve mandatory prison terms for many specific crimes. He said that the most effective deterrent to crime is the "certainty of punishment." More assistance will be given for community crime prevention in order to help local people to organize neighborhoods for volunteer area surveillance in cooperation with the police.

The governor said that in order to make a stronger court system, that he strongly supports the appointment of judges because of the greater potential for drawing to the judicial service persons of great ability. He favors a method that would insure retaining those judges who show excellence and have been elected. He enthusiastically supports the efforts of a citizens' group which is presently developing a proposal for the appointment of judges — providing that it still contains provisions for citizens to determine, by vote, whether a judge should be retained in office based on his record. (Farm Bureau is represented on that citizens, group, and Farm Bureau policies also support this approach).

There are several pages of specific recommendations on law enforcement, crime prevention, court reform, juvenile court reform, a

Traditionally, they haven't been motivated to take steps to prevent crime, particularly thefts.

With crime rates up, farmers should consider increasing security and installing outside lights. Farmers should be keeping a more watchful eye on their belongings.

It is becoming more common to see farmers bringing their tractors and other machinery back to the barn at day's end, rather than leaving them in the field for the next day. When implements are left out, they should be chained to a fixed object. There is increased interest in marking equipment to aid in identification.

#### HELPING FARMERS COPE

The rural police agencies are helping farmers cope with the problems arising from crime through educational programs. But there is still work to be done.

Increasing the size of the local police department may be too expensive.

An alternative is to "buy" police services from another government entity. For example, a small town may pay the county law enforcer — in addition to regular taxes — to augment the local police, either full or part time.

A joint cooperative effort, citizen and police, is a primary factor if crime is to be controlled.

greater emphasis on certainty of punishment, etc.

#### UPPER PENINSULA

Governor Milliken recognized that the UP faces special problems that deserve special attention. He said that he will soon convene "a conference of state officials in the UP to hear from UP citizens about UP problems." The conference will consider the UP economy including jobs, forestry, tourism, housing, transportation, energy and human services. UP employment has now reached 117,000, which is the highest in many years. They have experienced considerable industrial expansion in some areas. On the other hand, there have been other problems due to layoffs in some of the mining areas. He said that they will look for alternate uses for the Kincheloe Air Force Base. Every effort has been made to demonstrate to federal officials the inadequacy of their economic impact analysis on the air base, but if it is phased out, every effort will be made to work toward the protection of the economy of the area.

Project Seafarer has been the subject of public hearings and other hearings will be held this year. The governor said he will make his final decision on Seafarer Project no later than July 1.

**TRANSPORTATION** — The Governor will present a Special Message on this controversial issue to the Legislature. This will include

(Continued on page 19)

### 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, of course, the basis for 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 or in nearby 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 shoppers guides to promote their Safemark dealer in their area, exposing members and non-members to the fact that there is a member-only program that is available if they wish to be members of Farm Bureau.

Another area of interest as indicated by the Community Group minutes was the lack of comparisons between products which are available locally from equipment dealers in the tire and battery line, as compared to what is available in the Safemark plan. In the course of the last few weeks, there have been several opportunities to compare product, size and

price of two particular batteries as handled by the local equipment dealers. In one case, the equipment dealer had in his stock a battery for the requested piece of equipment which sold for approximately \$68.00. In the Safemark Program this size battery sold for \$40.10. A second comparison was made in which the local member purchased a battery for his tractor at a cost of \$104.00, and found that the Safemark battery price to the member to meet the specifications of this equipment would cost \$65.00.

Group Purchasing is not intended to always be the lowest possible price that you could pay for a product, but it is based upon the lowest possible price for the best possible product.



Can I plan my estate to reduce the tax bite?

Should I set up a trust fund?

# estate planning is 100 questions

SHOULD I MAKE GIFTS TO MY CHILDREN NOW?

DOES MY ESTATE HAVE TO GO THROUGH PROBATE COURT?

IS INSURANCE PART OF MY ESTATE, OR SEPARATE FROM IT?

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PROVIDE FOR QUICK WORKING CASH WHILE MY ESTATE IS TIED UP?

How should I word my designation of insurance beneficiary?

What are the pros and cons of making my spouse the owner of my life insurance?

HOW MUCH OF AN ESTATE DOES IT TAKE TO GET CHARGED INHERITANCE TAXES?

## ... and the right answers.

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.

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