

# Michigan Farm News

Michigan Farm Bureau's

ACTION

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FARM  
BUREAU

SEPTEMBER, 1977

## Should Farmers Remain "Neutral" in Politics?

### MFB Considers '78 Political Action Program

"Labor is effective in the Congress because they do things you CAN do, but choose NOT to do - such as political action and campaign financing," Congressman Ashbrook of Ohio told Farm Bureau leaders at a recent meeting in Washington, D.C.

Observations such as this, plus a growing concern to have agriculture's "friends" elected so the industry can remain viable, have caused Michigan Farm Bureau leaders to consider a more aggressive political action program.

They are proceeding with caution. Much as they envy labor's political clout, the tactics used to gain that strength and effectiveness are against their philosophy, both as individual farmers and as Farm Bureau members. Their challenge is to find a method that will retain freedom of choice and still be politically effective.

In April of 1977, the MFB board of directors approved the appointment of a Political Action Committee (PAC) to develop and recommend a political action program for 1978. Named to the committee were: Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca, chairman; Bill Spike, Owosso; Mike Pridgeon, Montgomery, and Bob Rottier, Fremont.

One of the first steps the committee took was to survey county boards for their input. This month's discussion topic for Community Groups will provide more guidance for the committee. A questionnaire, also included in this issue, will bring a broad base of member-input for the recommendations PAC makes to the board of directors.

#### "ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR NEUTRALITY?"

PAC held its first meeting on July 25 at Farm Bureau Center, where they heard suggestions from American Farm Bureau Federation specialists on how to conduct a successful state political action program. Committee members also took a look at the political action programs of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

Four state legislators were invited to express their views on Farm Bureau's political activities. Senator Richard Allen (R-Ithaca), Representative John Mowat, Jr. (R-Adrian), Representative Paul Porter (D-Quincy), and Elliott Smith, administrative assistant to Senator Anthony Derezinski (D-Muskegon), presented their appraisals of farmers' current political influence and their potential clout in the legislative arena.

They compared agriculture's "fragmented" political voice with the organized, effective voice of labor, and one legislator asked the challenging question: "Are you enjoying your neutrality?"

The legislators advised the group that farmers can't afford NOT to become involved in political action if they are to have people in office who understand and support agriculture. This cannot be done if farmers restrict their political activities only to voting, they concluded.

Farmers agree. Impetus for the PAC came from Farm Bureau grassroots membership, many of whom felt their farm organization must take a more aggressive role in political action. Increasingly, it is the non-farm lawmakers and special interest groups that have exerted a detrimental influence on the legislation which affects farming and farm communities.

"I truly wish it wasn't this way," says PAC member, Bob Rottier, "but let's face it - these are the political realities and agriculture must respond to the challenge."

Partisan political action would be a new venture for the state's largest farm organization. Historically, Farm Bureau has remained non-partisan. Traditional political activities such as county-sponsored meet-the-candidate meetings, and voter registration drives, have been encouraged, as well as emphasizing the importance of individual participation as precinct delegates and campaign

workers. These accepted avenues of political activity would be given new direction when, through the Farm Bureau structure, "friends of agriculture" would be identified.

It is conceivable, for instance, that the Michigan Farm Bureau President may call upon the membership to pledge their support to an incumbent legislator or promising candidate for political office. Legitimate, voluntary contributions dispersed on behalf of the Farm Bureau membership is yet another possibility which has proven effectiveness.

"The concept of political action might be better understood if we were to think of it in terms of citizenship," suggests Michael Pridgeon. "Every citizen in this country, because of our governmental structure, has the opportunity to become involved in politics. It's just good citizenship to take advantage of that opportunity.

"Within Farm Bureau, a program such as this - or any program - cannot be successful unless it has support from the counties - good, solid support," said Pridgeon. "The decision to go ahead in this new political role will be based upon how the members feel and whether the grassroots member is ready to get involved."

The work of the Political Action Committee is still underway and a final recommendation will not be presented to the MFB board of directors until all the political and legal ramifications of the proposal have been carefully evaluated.

"First of all," cautions Chairman Larry DeVuyst, "any recommendations this committee makes, if they are approved, will have an effect upon the entire Farm Bureau organization for many years. Therefore, we are going to move slowly and be extremely cautious before we do make a decision, because we want to make sure it will have positive benefits for the organization and for agriculture."



Senator Richard Allen (R-Ithaca) shared his views with the Political Action Committee.



So did Representative Paul Porter (D-Quincy), and Elliott Smith, administrative assistant to Senator Anthony Derezinski (D-Muskegon).



Representative John Mowat, Jr. (R-Adrian) gave his appraisal, too.



*From  
the Desk  
of  
The  
President*

## **Will Farmers Remain "Minnows" in Political Game?**

"Farmers are like minnows swimming with sharks in the political game." That's how Congressman Ashbrook of Ohio described our impact in the political arena compared to the effectiveness of organized labor.

Not a very encouraging observation, is it? Yet, it's very astute, I fear, especially here in Michigan, a strong labor state, where the voice of agriculture has been weakened by reapportionment and subsequent elections.

The 1978 elections are looming on the horizon and it is time for farmers to re-evaluate some of their traditions as they pertain to political action. Traditionally, we have maintained the stance of being NON-partisan in our development of policies on issues and BI-partisan in action supporting those issues. It is on this basis that our policy development - policy execution process operates. However, we must consider that our bi-partisan efforts will be useless if we do not have people in office who understand and support agriculture.

Agriculture and farmers who comprise the industry must be more aggressive and visible in partisan politics if we are to simply maintain our strength in the legislative and regulatory areas. I'd like to share with you some of the comments which were made at a recent meeting in Washington of the AFBF Labor Study Committee. Several influential legislators, reporters and government agency people there spoke about the influence labor unions exert over political issues and elections:

*"Farmers and their organizations have to get into the political business, including campaign financing, to offset the effective program that labor has built up over the years." -- Senator Hatch, Utah*

*"Labor is effective in the Congress because they do things you CAN do but choose NOT to do -- such as political action and campaign financing. Farm Bureau can be more effective if they become more active politically. If you are not active politically, then you are going to be observers rather than participants. Farmers are minnows swimming with sharks in the political game." -- Congressman Ashbrook, Ohio*

*"Labor's power is based on its grassroots efforts in the business of politics." -- James Hyatt, labor writer for the WALL STREET JOURNAL*

*"Unless business and agriculture wake up to reality and decide to get into the political arena all the way -- Congress will continue down the same road it has been heading -- and it is not the road you say in your policy booklet you want to go." -- Congressman Michel, Illinois*

It is not unusual to hear a member say: "Farm Bureau should stay out of politics," yet in the next breath proclaim: "Farm Bureau ought to do something about the growing power of labor unions." There is no way Farm Bureau can do something about it -- or nearly any other issue -- without "getting into politics."

The decision for Michigan Farm Bureau to effectively help farmers become active in partisan politics does not rest with your board of directors, or the newly-appointed Political Action Committee. The decision rests with you, the members. I strongly urge you to seriously consider the matter and share your viewpoints on the questionnaire which is included in this issue of the FARM NEWS. I believe it will be one of the most important decisions you have made.

Elton R. Smith

## **Farmers Reluctant to Share Views on Low Farm Price Solutions -- But Government Has Ideas**

*(Editor's Note: In last month's FARM NEWS, the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors executive committee urged members to share their ideas for finding solutions to the current farm price problem. With a potential of nearly 62,000 responses -- more if other members of the Farm Bureau family had ideas -- only SIX "What do YOU think?" replies were received.*

*We share some of the ideas these six Farm Bureau members have regarding the problem and remind you that it isn't too late for your input. Perhaps the conclusions of those in government -- also printed here -- will spur your input.)*

### **"IT'S OUR OWN FAULT"**

"I think government should stay out of farming completely; I mean NO farm program. Farm Bureau leaders should have enough guts to make a farm program and sell our grain overseas and leave the government out. . . . Everybody waits to see what the government is going to do. Forget the government! Let's do something for ourselves before it is too late. We are losing a lot of good farmers every year. Don't blame the government for low prices; it is our fault." -- Branch County cash crop producer.

### **"CUT PRODUCTION"**

"Cut production until we get the price we want. No other business produces unless they know what their profit is going to be." -- Gratiot County cash crop producer.

### **"FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE"**

"I think if every Farm Bureau member would lay up 10 percent of his land for five years, we could beat this surplus. Fight fire with fire." -- Bay County cash crop producer.

### **"PRODUCE GASOHOL"**

"AFBF and MFB promote the production of alcohol from grain (obtained from Farm Bureau) with large chemical firm to be blended with gasoline. . . . distributed by AFBF Petro-Division to farmers and others. . . . A 10 percent usage of alcohol could help the energy and grain situation and also the national balance of payments." -- St. Clair County grain farmer.

### **"DON'T BLAME THE FARMER"**

"Don't blame the farmer. This should have been looked into five years ago. We have an awful lot higher taxes and anything else we need for farming. We would have been better off if there had been a ceiling on everything you buy and anything you sold, including labor and property taxes. Please come to some solution so a farmer can make a little profit." -- Retired farmer.

### **OFFERS THINKING**

"No serious depression in this country's history ever occurred without 2-3 years of low farm prices preceding --

even before the federal reserve and income tax laws of 1913. I have offered to discuss my thinking. . . and make this offer again today." -- Hillsdale County dairy and crops farmer.

### **BERGLAND BELIEVER IN MARKETPLACE, BUT . . .**

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland is a strong believer in letting the marketplace work, "but he will not tell farmers to plant fence-row to fence-row unless he knows there are markets for that production," John C. White, deputy secretary of agriculture, said recently.

"At the same time, if supplies are so far out of relationship to demand that it jeopardizes farmers' incomes, he will announce a set-aside," White said. "And I can tell you right now that if he announces a wheat or corn set-aside, it's going to be tough. It will have measures for cross-compliance. It will have provisions making farmers ineligible for loans, deficiency payments, or disaster payments on all wheat and feed grains produced, if farmers don't comply with the set-aside."

The USDA spokesman said the Department realizes the absolute necessity of exports for farmers to have a better income and will be using every program available.

### **NO ALTERNATIVE FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION: TRAXLER**

Congressman Bob Traxler presented his message to the MSU Farm Management Tour luncheon by phone because he was needed in Washington to vote on the farm bill.

Traxler said he didn't like government intervention in agriculture, but it was his opinion that there was no alternative. "I don't want to stand by and see rural America go bankrupt," was his reason for going along with high government support prices.

"Government intervention isn't the entire solution," he said. "We need to remember what happened in the '60's. It is my hope that government programs will only be necessary this year and next."



### **Below Tolerance**

*The most ego-shattering experience for an editor is to invest an extra amount of time and effort building an article that will "move" readers -- and then have nothing happen. Didn't anyone read it? Weren't the words strong enough to motivate? Could there really be that much apathy? Or was there a lack of faith that farmers could accomplish something positive through their organization?*

*These are some of the questions your FARM NEWS editors asked themselves when only six members out of nearly 62,000 responded to the question, "What do you think should be done to solve the farm price problem?" That's a pathetic .00009 of the membership! We tout the proud message that this unique organization of ours is directed from the bottom-up, with opportunity for member-input and member-impact on vital issues of concern. Yet, when those opportunities arise . . . the response is below tolerance level!*

*We sincerely hope our encouragement, in the July issue, to write letters regarding the proposed safety regulations for agriculture and MI-OSHA's method of developing them, spurred more action than our latest effort (it's not too late). And we hope the several opportunities for member-input in this issue of the FARM NEWS will raise the sad "batting average" that's currently on the scoreboard.*

*If those in agriculture continually sit back and "let George do it," they're going to find that "George's" decisions aren't the best for their industry.*

*On the other side of the scale . . . the FARM NEWS made it in the "big time," quoted in the DETROIT FREE PRESS! In its "Tipoff" column, the writer "exposed" the fact that the "chummy relationship" between MDA and MFB continues with the naming of Calvin Lutz as executive assistant to Director B. Dale Ball. The article quoted our description of "Pete" as a long-time Farm Bureau member and former member of the board. The poor, uninformed writer failed to recognize that it would have been news if the MDA had named an agricultural leader who was NOT a Farm Bureau member. Such a person would be hard to find!*

# STOP THE PRESSES!

(Editor's Note: This late-breaking news item illustrates how farmers, working together through their organization, can have a positive impact on issues which affect their industry.)

## MASA Scores Victory for Agriculture

Following presentation of MASA's recommendations to the Occupational Safety Standards Commission on August 19, the OSSC took the following action:

—Withdrew their approval of three standards—one on conveyors, one on personal protective equipment, and one on face and eye protection—and sent them back to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for reconsideration.

—Did not consider four other proposed standards to which they were to give first approval, and sent these back to the committee.

—Directed the Department of Labor to reconsider current participating members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, expand that committee to include representatives of agricultural employers and agricultural employees, and include professional people who can act as resource people for the process of putting together safety regulations for agriculture. The Commission asked MASA to provide names for consideration to the Advisory Committee.

—Ordered the Department of Labor, upon completion of appointment of the committee members, to arrange a joint meeting of the OSSC and the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the purpose of defining responsibilities and assuring an effective, efficient process of developing safety standards for agriculture.

—Agreed that public hearings on proposed standards should be held in the winter months so farmers could participate.

—Directed the Department of Labor to publish notice of such hearings in farm publications which reach the farming community of Michigan.

Don Shepard, MASA Operations Manager, who presented the recommendations, is optimistic that the Commission's actions will result in more practical, feasible, effective safety regulations that will improve the work environment for agriculture. He credits the "victory" to the action of farmers who participated in the hearing last September and who wrote letters in response to concerns outlined in the July issue of the FARM NEWS—and also to the attitude of the Commission members.

"They are people who are deeply concerned and want to perform their responsibilities as outlined by law to the best of their ability," Shepard said. "They want to provide safety guidance that will be effective and that will be good for the farm family and the employee.

"Today those feelings were finally put into action," Shepard reported following the August 19th meeting. "I believe our presentation was simply the item that tipped the scales in favor of agriculture."

# MASA Asks for Withdrawal of MI-OSHA Standards

The 1,000 agricultural employers who make up the membership of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association "laid it on the line" to the Occupational Safety Standards Commission on August 19.

At the Commission's meeting in Detroit, MASA Operations Manager Donald Shepard submitted several recommendations, including withdrawal of three proposed regulations for agriculture regarding conveyors, face and eye protection and personal protective equipment. MASA also requested the Commission to demand an investigation, conducted by the Attorney General's office, to verify that Act 154 (which sets up MI-OSHA) has been followed to the letter in the promulgation of current agricultural safety regulations.

The lack of agricultural representation on the Commission received harsh criticism from MASA, especially in view of the fact that it is the number two

industry in the state, with 27 percent of Michigan's citizens deriving some portion of their incomes from agriculture. Shepard made several recommendations in regard to this situation:

— Request the Governor to expand the OSSC to 11 members, with one representing agricultural employees and one representing agricultural employers;

— Take action to see that agricultural employers are appointed to the Agricultural Advisory Committee who are representative of labor-intensive enterprises, such as fruit and vegetable production;

— Take action to see that all types of agricultural employees are represented on the Agricultural Advisory Committee -- full time, seasonal migrants and local seasonal.

MASA also requested the Commission to assign a qualified farm Extension safety specialist as a resource person to the committee to help assemble

facts which will lead to proper identification of hazardous areas on the farm and intelligent development of MI-OSHA safety regulations.

Shepard also asked the Commission to direct the Department of Labor to publicize public hearing notices in publications which reach the farming community of Michigan, and to hold these hearings at times that do not conflict with heavy work seasons for agricultural employers.

A one-year "lead time" for educational efforts between the publication of a final agricultural standard and its enforcement was recommended by MASA.

Shepard assured the Commission that MASA does not oppose safety regulations that will constructively improve the work environment for agriculture; however, its members believe they should be feasible and enforceable, apply to an area where a hazard exists and correct that hazard.



## Cash flow planning can actually help you make more money.

You probably have times when you need a lot of cash...and times when you have lots of cash coming in. But the two just never seem to come together at the right time! □ But when you know your farm's *cash flow*, you have a better idea of *when* you'll need a loan and *how much* you'll need to borrow. And you'll get the money in hand when you can do the most with it...which might even include *taking some discounts* that'll help cover the interest. □ Cash flow planning is important. See us...and we'll help you start.

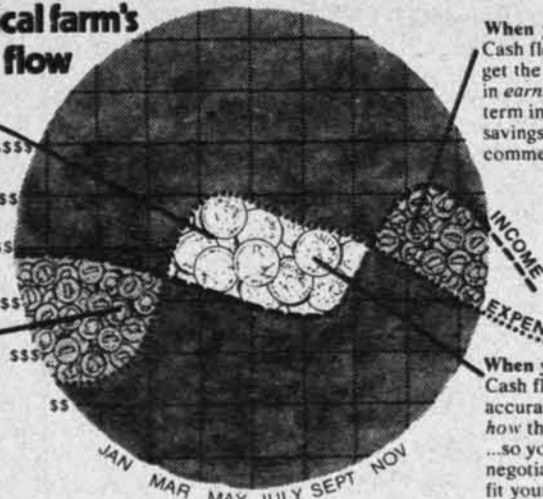
### Typical farm's cash flow

**When your cash is short:**  
Cash flow planning lets you precisely time your borrowing...not too early...not too late...so you can get volume purchase prices and take prompt payment discounts—sometimes more than enough to pay the interest on your loan.

**When you have extra cash:**  
Cash flow planning lets you pay up loans at earliest possible date to help keep interest to a minimum.

**When you have extra cash:**  
Cash flow planning lets you get the earliest possible start in *earning interest* from short-term investments such as savings accounts, bonds, or commercial paper.

**When your cash is short:**  
Cash flow planning lets you accurately predict *when and how* the situation will change...so you can confidently negotiate payment terms to fit your *anticipated cash flow*.



### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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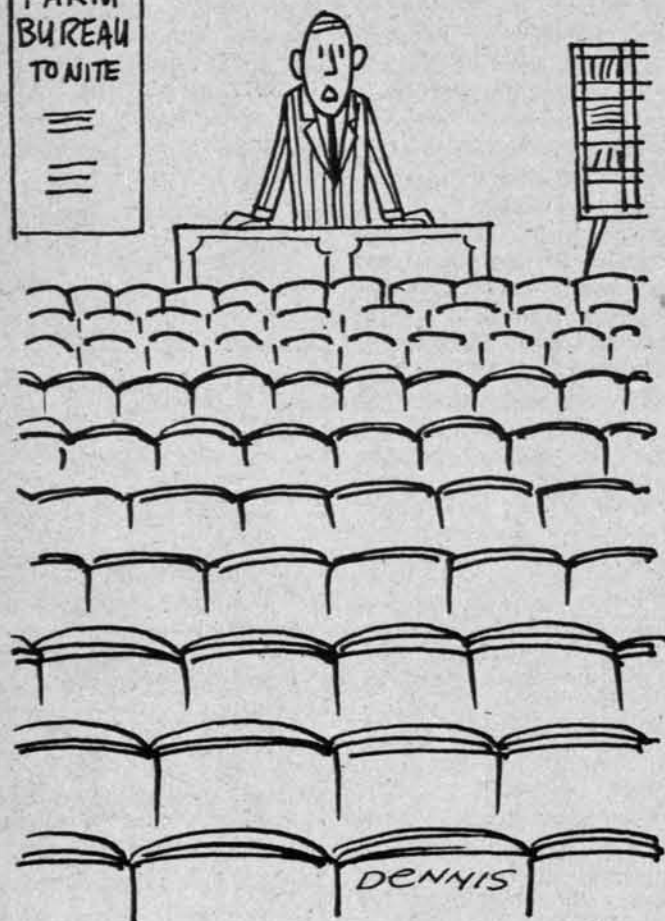
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# Take Time to Take an Interest

FARM BUREAU TO-NITE



"OUR FIRST SUBJECT TO-NIGHT IS ABSENTEEISM!"

In this issue of Farm News, art and copy call attention to the fact that County Farm Bureau members in some 69 counties will be participating in their local Annual Meetings this fall.

The by-laws of your County Farm Bureau, those legal documents drafted by the founders of the organization, require that these annual meetings be held. They are a legal requirement of your County Farm Bureau, but the overriding purpose of these meetings is to develop policy for the coming year.

Local Annual Meetings represent an opportunity for directors of County Farm Bureaus to discuss various aspects of the County Farm Bureau's operation and to plan for the future of the

organization. By the same token, they afford the interested members an opportunity to question directors regarding any area of the organization's operation.

Yes, Annual Meetings give members an opportunity to either criticize or compliment their Farm Bureau and its local operation.

Many of this fall's County Farm Bureau meetings will be quite effective. Some will be less effective primarily because of the lack of interest or concern by members. Is that because the farmer is so much busier than he used to be?

It is natural to be wrapped up in your own business and individual areas of responsibility, but we shouldn't neglect the broader perspective. Step back

and take another look at your farming operation, your County Farm Bureau, your community -- yes, even the nation in which they flourish.

We all need to take time to take an interest. Frequently we realize too late that we haven't taken an active interest in the many things that are dear to us, that are important and which we so often take for granted. Have you taken an interest in representing agriculture? Have you become involved in your County Farm Bureau and in your community?

Take time to take an interest in your Farm Bureau. Take time from one busy day to attend and participate in your County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting -- your annual meeting.

## We went to an expert at Michigan State University to get energy-wise tips on grain drying.



Professor Robert L. Maddex  
Extension Specialist in  
Agricultural Engineering  
Michigan State University

Detroit Edison asked Professor Robert L. Maddex, Extension Specialist in Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University, for advice on how to conserve energy on grain-drying installations. His tips also will help you save on electric bills. We're passing them along to you.

### Start Harvesting Below 30% Kernel Moisture

Kernel damage is reduced and the pounds of water that must be evaporated using fossil fuel are reduced when harvesting is begun below 30% kernel moisture. For example, drying from 30% moisture to 15% moisture requires approximately 29,000 BTUs per bushel while drying from 26% moisture to 15% moisture requires only 19,875 BTU/bu. The saving is 9125 BTU/bu. grain or 31%.

### Do Not Overdry

Grain can be stored safely at 14 to 15% moisture—do not overdry. Each additional percentage point of moisture per bushel removed requires more than 2,000 BTUs. Overdrying can increase the energy required from 5 to 30%. Reducing drying air temperature and drying time can reduce overdrying.

### Use a Moisture Tester


The only sure way to know what is happening in a grain-drying unit is to sample grain regularly and test for moisture. Testing moisture regularly provides the best information for adjusting drying time and temperatures. Adjusting a dryer for most efficient use also results in improved grain quality.

For other ways to conserve on the farm, write to the Agricultural Engineering Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.



## Attend Your County Annual

County	Date	County	Date
Alcona	October 17	Menominee	October 13
Allegan	October 20	Midland	October 11
Alpena	October 13	Missaukee	October 4
Antrim	October 11	Monroe	September 27
Arenac	October 13	Montcalm	October 12
Barry	October 6	Montmorency	October 28
Bay	October 25	Muskegon	October 11
Benzie	October 10	Newaygo	October 13
Berrien	November 2	Northwest Mich.	October 12
Branch	October 10	Oakland	October 20
Calhoun	October 11	Oceana	October 17
Cass	October 27	Ogemaw	
Charlevoix	October 5	Osceola	October 12
Cheboygan	October 18	Otsego	October 25
Chippewa	October 4	Ottawa	October 13
Clare	October 15	Presque Isle	October 12
Clinton	October 11	Saginaw	October 20
Copper Country	October 5	St. Clair	October 4
Eaton	October 6	St. Joseph	October 10
Emmet	October 10	Sanilac	October 5
Genesee	October 18	Shiawassee	October 10
Gladwin	October 4	Tuscola	September 27
Gratiot	October 5	Van Buren	October 29
Hiawathaland	October 15	Washtenaw	October 5
Hillsdale	October 12	Wayne	October 11
Huron	October 27	Wexford	October 18
Ingham	October 5	MFB	Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1-2
Ionia	October 17		
Iosco			
Iron Range	October 19		
Isabella	October 6		
Jackson	October 5		
Kalamazoo	October 11		
Kalkaska	October 6		
Kent	October 4		
Lapeer	October 13		
Lenawee	September 22		
Livingston	October ?		
Mac-Luce	October 3		
Macomb	October 12		
Manistee	November 3		
Mason	October 4		
Mecosta	October 3		

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# Management Tour is Success



CONGRESSMAN BOB TRAXLER (left), D-Bay City, management tour on July 27. Traxler was discusses trends in farm problems with Fred Dore, scheduled to be the noon speaker for the event Kawkawlin, whose 1220-acre corn producing and talked to the crowd by telephone when he had operation was part of the MSU state farm to be in Washington for vote on the farm program.

## Traxler Gives Message Via Phone

By Jim Bernstein

"If you don't have farmers, you can't have food production," came the words from the loudspeaker at the Standish fairgrounds on July 27.

The voice was familiar to most of the people gathered for the noon luncheon of the Michigan State University Farm Management Tour, but the voice had no face. The familiar voice was that of Congressman Bob Traxler of Michigan 8th District. Scheduled to speak at the luncheon, Traxler was needed in Washington to vote

on the farm bill that was being considered in the House that day.

So he talked to the audience by phone instead, giving about a thousand people the up-to-the-minute information on the one law that will effect them greater than any other in the next four years.

Traxler said he didn't like government intervention in agriculture, but it was his opinion that there was no alternative.

"I don't want to stand by and see rural America go bankrupt," was his reason for

going along with high government support prices. But he added, "Government intervention isn't the entire solution. . . we need to remember what happened in the '60's. It is my hope that government programs will only be necessary this year and next."

Eight farms in Bay and Arenac Counties were featured on the tour: two dairy, one swine, and five cash crop operations, all of which typified the agricultural practices of the area.

## Farm Employers Concerned About Minimum Wage Law

The added costs of increased federal minimum wage may be the final burden that puts many of our nation's food producers out of business, according to members of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association.

MASA, a Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate, has expressed this concern to Michigan Congressmen and asked them to oppose the amended version of H.R. 3744 in its present form. The formula outlined in the legislation would increase the federal minimum wage 36 percent by 1978.

In addition to agriculture being unable to pass on the higher costs of production, MASA also has concerns regarding the potential damaging effects the legislation would have upon job availability, particularly for women, youth, minorities and older workers.

MASA told the Congressmen the organization would favor legislation which would contain: No change in the federal minimum wage until January 1, 1978; no indexing which allows for automatic increases in the future, and initiation of an indepth study of the overall concept of minimum wage and its effect upon unemployment. The

Farm Bureau affiliate also asked that such legislation include provisions for employment of youth under 18 years of age at a rate of 75 percent of the regular minimum wage, and allows for a moderate increase in minimum wage in 1978 not to exceed 8 percent.

MASA urges Farm Bureau members to write their Congressmen urging their opposition to the amended version of H.R. 3744.

## Co. President "In the News"

Comments from a county Farm Bureau president were in the news statewide recently. Allan Prillwitz of Berrien County criticized the Farmers Home Administration's disaster relief program as unfair to farmers who are good managers, but suffer crop damages.

"The problem is that the main stipulation requires that a farmer be ineligible for loans from a lending institution. That means about 20 farmers in Berrien County qualified last year; 98 or 99 per cent weren't eligible and they were hurt just as bad.

"The reason I spoke out was for public image. Our friends in town will say, 'Every time farmers are hit by adverse weather, they're bailed out by the government.' I get tired of hearing that because it isn't true."

Prillwitz offers two alternatives to the present situation: revert back to a system allowing all farmers to be eligible or eliminate the program completely.

Berrien and Cass Counties recently qualified for disaster relief. Prillwitz's comments were made to a local radio station and later picked up by Associated Press in Michigan.

## SAFEMARK



FMS Over-the-Road Truck

Tube Type (TT)

16.5" TBL Tubeless Type



FTS Traction Truck (TT)



FTS 16.5" rim (TBL)

FOR GROUP PURCHASING CALL YOUR SAFEMARK DEALER

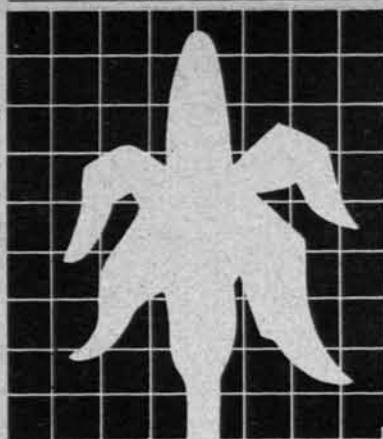
## FBIG Essay Winner on TV Show



Craig Taatjes (right), statewide winner of Farm Bureau Insurance Group's 1976-77 America & Me essay contest, talks with television host Buck Matthews on the set of the Buck Matthews Show. Craig, who was

a guest on the popular Grand Rapids television program July 15, talked about the America & Me contest and read his first-place essay on the show. A 13-year-old from Hudsonville, Craig won a \$500 savings bond from FBIG for his essay, which was

selected the best out of more than 6,200 entries from 332 Michigan schools. The ninth annual America & Me essay contest, open to any eighth grader in the state, will begin in the fall.



## Soybean Production Is Up

The USDA August crop report shows corn and wheat production down from last year's crops while soybeans are forecast at an all time high. U.S. corn production was pegged at 6,092 million bushels. This is 4 percent below their July projection. Michigan corn production is predicted to be 153,750,000 bushels.

Wheat production was placed at 2,041 million bushels, five percent less than last year. However, the supply - demand estimates still indicate a substantial carryover stock.

Michigan soybean production is expected to be up sharply compared to 1976 figures. In 1976 we produced 11,583,000 bushels, this year the projection calls for 17,280,000 bushels. Overall, the U.S. is forecast at 1,602 million bushels, 27 percent more than the 1976 crop.

# Marketing Outlook

## Soviets Will Buy U.S. Grain

Following several weeks of speculation about when the Soviets might re-enter the U.S. grain markets, several sales have been announced. Under terms of the five-year grain agreement between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., the

Soviet Union is obligated to purchase a minimum of six million tons of wheat and corn. Purchases are supposed to be split as equally as possible between the two grains. As of mid August they had purchased a total of

834,000 tons of wheat and 950,000 tons of corn, most of which will be delivered in the 1977-78 marketing year. Thus, the Soviets will be purchasing over two million tons of wheat and two million tons of corn at some point in the future.



## Price Supports for Sugar Discussed

On Tuesday, August 9, 1977, representatives of the Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association and the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors met in Lansing to discuss various issues affecting the sugar industry. Those meeting included: Elton R. Smith, President, M.F.B.; John Heusener, Chairman, F & M board; Jack Laurie, Vice President, M.F.B.; Clint Wackerle, F & M; Larry DeVuyst, M.F.B. board; Walter Frahm, M.F.B. board; Frank Kulhanek, Executive Secretary of F & M; Paul E. Kindinger, director, Market Development Division, M.F.B.

Major discussion during the evening focused on the sugar price supports being proposed under the new farm bill and international commodity agreements.

## Wheat, Corn Set-Asides Considered

USDA chief economist, Howard Hjort, indicated, following the August crop report, that the department was considering a wheat set-aside of up to 35 percent. While it is still too early to pinpoint an exact figure, non government sources are guessing the USDA will announce a 25 percent set-aside for wheat. Hjort said the odds are now about 60-40 that a program for wheat will be announced around the end of August. Plans for a corn set-aside are less concise at this time. It will be longer before a corn set-aside program might be announced.

## Free Hay Listing For F.B. Members

Michigan Farm Bureau is now making available a Hay and Silage Listing Service. Buyers and sellers can list their needs and offerings in the classified section of the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS. The service is free to Farm Bureau members. If you have hay for sale or want to purchase hay, simply mail your requests to:

Hay and Silage Listing  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
7373 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, Mich. 48909

Your ad, in 25 words or less, should include the amount and quality of hay or silage you want to buy or sell, plus your name, address and phone number.

## Mason County F.B. Gives Fairgoers Look at Farms



MECHANICAL CHERRY HARVESTERS are commonplace to Michigan fruit growers, but for visitors on the Mason County Farm Bureau - sponsored farm tour, a demonstration by Bruce Brown, Brown Farms, "shook up" some outdated ideas about the fruit harvest.

The West Michigan Fair at Ludington provided an appropriate setting for a rural-urban event previously untried in Mason County. On Friday, August 12, County Farm Bureau president, Daryl Peterson, and Mrs. Mary (Loren) Young, farm tour coordinator, greeted fairgoers with chilled apple cider and an invitation to visit nearby farms, owned and operated by two Farm Bureau members.

The county organization hosted tours to the Brown Farms and Jim Schwass farm, both located in Riverton Township. Accompanied by FFA tour guides, guests arrived at Brown Farms for a look at this two-fold farming enterprise. Farm host, Bruce Brown, described the family-run operation which includes orchards and beef feeder cattle. The family employs only limited seasonal help with work capably shared by brothers Bruce and Wayne Brown and the senior partner, Ellsworth Brown.

Toting bags of Duchess apples (enough for one pie!),



YOUNG AND OLD - The visitors to Schwass Springdale Guernsey Dairy Farm asked pertinent questions concerning the cost of farm machinery and dairy herd management.

visitors returned to the minibuses destined for Schwass Springdale Guernsey Dairy Farms. The original farm, established in 1892, is still owned and operated by the Schwass family. In addition to maintaining a top-notch dairy operation, the family has diversified its farming interests to include asparagus and sunflowers. Milk in half-pint cartons was

distributed at the Schwass farm, courtesy of Farm Maid Pure Milk, Ideal Dairy Division.

"Response to the farm tours was actually better than we originally anticipated," said Daryl Peterson. "In fact, we plan to make this a part of our annual fair events planning. It was fun for the members who were involved and for the many visitors."

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# Promoting Michigan Agriculture

## The Farmer's "Slice" of Bread

"The price of bread and wheat" was the theme of the Monroe County Farm Bureau Young Farmers' float which took second-prize in the fair parade on August 4. Designed by Mrs. Denise Drod and built by a crew headed by Young Farmer Chairman, Don Gaynier, the float illustrated with a small slice of bread the portion of the total price of a loaf of bread which goes to the farmer for his wheat. Also shown was the fact that a \$1.95 bushel of wheat ends up on the grocery shelf as 53 loaves of bread for approximately \$32.33.

In the Merchants Building at the Monroe County Fair, the Modern Pioneers Community Group displayed charts showing the income from an acre of wheat, and the expenses involved in producing it. Toy farm machinery was used, with price tags attached, to illustrate the high cost of equipment.

--Photo Courtesy of Monroe Evening News



## Family Fun Farm Fest

**PLEASE TOUCH** -- Under the watchful eye of his parents, this young fellow got acquainted with small farm animals at the St. Joseph County Family Fun Farm Fest. The rural-urban event, sponsored by the Michigan Pork Producers Association, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H, the St. Joseph County Farm Bureau and other area agricultural organizations, included on-the-farm tours in the surrounding



countryside. Farm machinery exhibits and displays representing Michigan agribusiness were set up at the Glen Oaks Community College Campus in Centreville.

In the warm August sun, cold glasses of sweet apple cider, offered by the MACMA Direct Marketing exhibitors, were

especially appreciated by the visitors. Following the afternoon activities, tour participants were invited to picnic style luncheon prepared and served by Farm Fest sponsors. The All-Michigan menu included shaved ham sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad and fresh, cold milk.



**MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE PROMOTERS** Scott and Dennis Foreback rehearse their lines before recording the radio public service announcements which are currently being heard throughout the state. This month they're promoting Michigan apples; next will be some other Michigan-grown food product. The two boys are grandsons of MFB switchboard operator, Alta Houghtaling, and nephews of MFB broadcast technician Sue Houghtaling.

## FB Women Focus on Consumers

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Program of Work will soon be published for distribution to the county women's organizations. The design of the 1977-78 program was a result of program planning meetings held during May at the Farm Bureau Center. Representatives for farm women in each of the state's eleven districts surfaced issues and program objectives reflecting concerns for agriculture, the farm family and rural communities. From these wide-ranging interest areas, programs and priorities were established for legislative, health and safety, public relations and consumer understanding activities.

program objectives find their relevance expressed in local member-involvement. The proven success of the Washington Legislative Seminar, rural-urban events such as farm tours and mall promotions, Speaker's Bureau and rural safety activities have earned the support of farm women and the Farm Bureau general membership. They will be continued in the 1977-78 Program of Work.

New emphasis will be given to the need to be involved in education and interaction with church organizations. These groups are exerting tremendous influence upon public opinion to support give-away food programs for the Third World Nations. The farm women will seek to provide sound agricultural

facts as an offset to the economically unsound, and often radical, policies these church sponsored organizations promote.

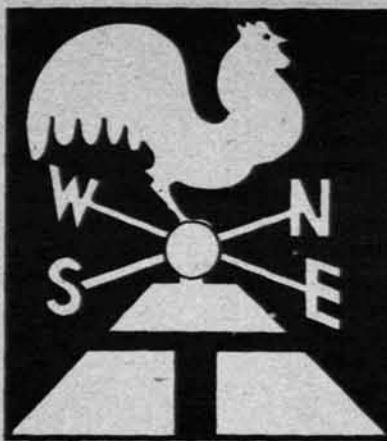
According to Claudine Jackson, Chairman of the MFB Women's Executive Committee, "Farm Bureau Women are directing their attention to world hunger and working with church-related organizations who fail to recognize the importance of production in feeding the hungry of the world. Through their involvement in these organizations we hope to share our feeling of urgency regarding having church organizations know the concerns of the farmer and agriculture -- the problems of the cost-price regulatory constraints and the frustrations of the industry".

## MFB Looks at Dry Bean Research



LeRoy Schluckbier (left), Tuscola County, and Stuart Reinbold, Saginaw County (center), discuss the Dry Bean research with Dr. Perry Markakis (right) of the Michigan State University Food Science Department.

These farm leaders recognize that statewide



## Agriculture, Consumers and YOU

By Connie Lawson

It is important, when attempting to inform the collective viewpoint that is termed "public opinion", to remember that this consensus is the sum of the information and attitudes of a great many individuals. Education, incomes and interests may be widely divergent, but to influence public opinion, the key which will open the door to communication is to deliver the message in a context that is relevant to the individual.

Shackled with this chain of philosophical verbiage, it seems unlikely that the Information and Public Relations Division would find it possible to produce a consumer - confidence slide-tape presentation that would inform public opinion and, at the same time, be interesting and entertaining to that diversified audience.

Yet to the surprise and delight of its creators, the recently completed production of "Gateway to Goodness" does promise to be interesting, entertaining and

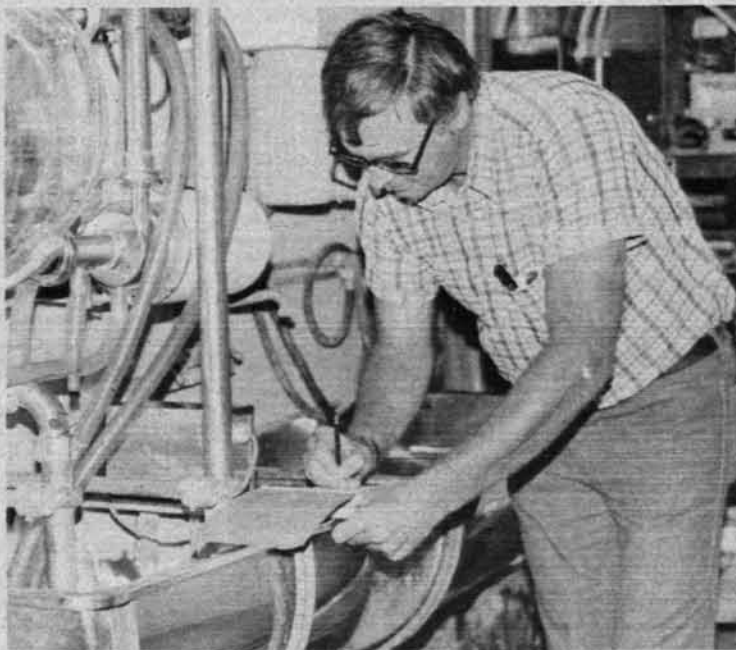
informative to the consumer. What was the key that released the topic from the mere droning of facts and figures? It was people - each individual contributing his or her special skills and understanding that has made the presentation an effort toward communication between the farmer and consumer.

The selection of the Michigan Farm Bureau Queen, Bunny Semans, as narrator for the "Gateway to Goodness" proved to be ideal. As a dairy farm partner, mother and nurse, her creditability as a spokesperson was tripled. Bunny was well-acquainted with the agricultural viewpoint and also understood the concerns of homemakers who demand safe, nutritionally - beneficial foods for themselves and their families.

Throughout the preparation of "Gateway to Goodness" the MFB "production crew" counted on the expertise and cooperation of resource

persons in the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University and the dairy industry. These men and women are involved daily in the research, education and inspection efforts which constantly strive to maintain a plentiful and safe food supply for the citizens of Michigan and the U.S. These individuals were concerned, too, that the public was finding it increasingly difficult to distinguish the difference between factual, research - based information and emotional attacks upon the healthfulness and safety of the food supply.

It was for this reason that "Gateway to Goodness" stressed the quality of the raw agricultural product, and the cautious use of agricultural chemicals in production. Additionally, emphasis was placed on the many laws and accompanying regulations that are administered by the food industry and government to protect the consumer.



**QUALITY CONTROL MEASURES** that are routine in the dairy industry were captured on film by MFB photographer Marcia Ditchie when she accompanied milk hauler Wendall McCreery to his stop at the Jack Miller farm. These on-the-farm visuals are part of a new MFB slide-tape presentation called "Gateway to Goodness." Both the Millers and McCreerys are members of the Clinton County Farm Bureau.



## DOLLARS and \$ENSE

BY MIKE ROGERS

### "Truth-in-Menu"

Maybe it's distaste for Mom's cooking, or perhaps it's a crush on Ronald McDonald. But whatever the reason, Americans seem to have gone restaurant - crazy. More than any other time in history, people are going in droves to the neighborhood eatery. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 18 percent of all meals are gobbled away from home, and consumers are spending 36 percent of their food dollars eating out.

As a result, there has been more concern about exactly what it is people are buying and eating.

If you purchase something fresh off the farm or from a grocery shelf, you can usually take a look at it to see what you are paying for. But what about the things listed on a menu? Is that 100 percent all-beef really 100 percent? Did the meat in that chicken salad sandwich really come from a clucker? Was that fresh whipped cream beaten in a

bowl or squirted from a can?

To try to get a handle on this problem, the 1,600 - member Michigan Restaurant Association has developed what they call a "truth-in-menu" policy.

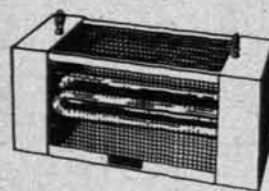
"Simply what it states is that if a customer goes into a restaurant, he should expect to get what is on that menu," says Jim Constand, public relations chairman for the Association. "What it primarily is concerned about is to protect the consumer."

The Association has no formal regulations, but relies on voluntary cooperation. "I think there are guidelines put down by the individual's conscience," Constand says. "You simply state the truth."

The policy is loosely based on Los Angeles, California, regulations that govern menu content. Michigan is reportedly the only other state in the country to have a "truth-in-menu" policy.

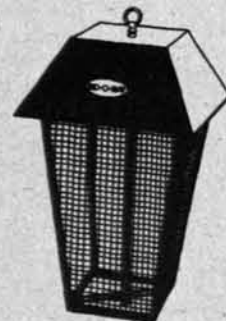


**CAPTURING A SMILE** on tape is a challenge to the narrator and sound technician alike. On the third take, it becomes a test of talent, patience and good humor. Recording the script of "Gateway to Goodness" at the Farm Bureau Center sound studio, narrator Bunny Semans demonstrated these invaluable traits time . . . and again.



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# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager Member Relations

## PAC *Everybody's Doing It -- Should We?*

The construction industry does it. The Michigan Citizen Committee for Workman's Compensation Reform does it. United Steel Worker's does it. The Associated Underground Constructors does it. But the largest farm organization in the state, Michigan Farm Bureau, does not do it and the question has arisen as to whether or not it should.

### An Exception to the Rule

What the above organizations and organized labor do that Farm Bureau does not do is endorse candidates to political office. The exception to this policy was in 1974 and 1976 when Michigan Farm Bureau endorsed farmer candidates to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

Some say the future of our system of government is in danger due to the excessive power of labor unions. They claim the political power of organized labor is much greater than it has any right to be. Yet a look at the statistics shows that organized labor is only about 25 percent of the nation's work force. The strength of unions is declining -- now only 17-18 percent of the private employments sector is represented by unions.

For years, Farm Bureau has emphasized such political activities as meet-the-candidates meeting, information on ballot issues and statewide candidates, voter registration and get-out-the-vote. And in 1976, Farm Bureau encouraged members forming Farmer-Support-Committees to work for the

election of candidates of their choice.

### What Labor Does

The question is often asked as to why organized labor is so effective in working with legislators. There are several reasons, among which are these:

- a. Organized labor does things Farm Bureau can do but chooses not to do -- such as political action and campaign financing.
- b. Organized labor does things Farm Bureau would not do -- dirty tactics, violence.
- c. Organized labor does things Farm Bureau cannot do because they have gotten some laws on the books which give them special privileges -- "in-kind" campaign services financed from dues.

d. Organized labor leaders work from the top down while Farm Bureau works from the bottom up. Labor leaders could care less what the members think about policy or public issues.

### A Moral Responsibility

Farm Bureau members believe that individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles. Contributions to political campaigns are a personal privilege and responsibility. While members support the limited use of deductions and credits to encourage personal contributions, they oppose the use of tax dollars, through a

check-off or federal appropriations, for this purpose. Perhaps it is time, as we look ahead to the 1978 elections, for all Farm Bureau members to become more active politically. If they are not active politically, they will continue to be observers rather than participants.

### Time for a Change?

Perhaps it is time to get in there and support the candidates with more than just words. Perhaps it is time for Farm Bureau to start servicing and supporting conservative candidates of both parties, and withholding support from those who demonstrate their liberalism with the public's money and confidence.

(Continued Next Page)

## POLITICAL ACTION 1978- -WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The 1978 elections will be important to farmers. Michigan Farm Bureau wants input from every member to develop an effective political action program designed to help elect candidates who understand and will support agricultural issues. Please express your opinion about an effective 1978 Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Program by completing this special form and returning it in the pre-addressed envelope.

1. Prior to 1976, Farm Bureau emphasized such political activities as meet-the-candidate meetings, information on ballot issues and statewide candidates, voter registration and get-out-the-vote. How do you rate the importance of these educational activities?

	Significant	Moderate	Unnecessary
Meet-the-Candidate Meetings	_____	_____	_____
Ballot Issue Information	_____	_____	_____
Statewide Candidate Information	_____	_____	_____
Voter Registration	_____	_____	_____
Get-Out-the-Vote	_____	_____	_____

2. In 1976, Farm Bureau emphasized members forming Farmer-Support-Committees to work for the election of candidates of their choice. How do you rate the importance of this political activity?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Significant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moderate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unnecessary

3. Do you feel you have enough information about candidates when entering the voting booth? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you find comprehensive voting records of your State and U.S. Representatives and Senators helpful? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. From your personal knowledge of voter turnout in your township, what percentage of farmers actually vote on election day?  
75-100 percent \_\_\_\_\_ 25-50 percent \_\_\_\_\_  
50-75 percent \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recent election reform laws allow organizations such as Farm Bureau to organize a special Political Action Committee. This Committee can raise funds and distribute the funds to candidates who would best support the organization's philosophy and policies. Several groups such as Chambers of Commerce, Manufacturers Associations, Michigan Education Association and American Medical Association have established Committees under this law. Should Michigan Farm Bureau consider establishing such a committee for 1978? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7. If such a committee were established, how do you think farmers would respond to a request for a voluntary contribution of \$25 or less to raise funds for candidates considered to be most supportive of agriculture?

- Good \_\_\_\_\_
- Fair \_\_\_\_\_
- Poor \_\_\_\_\_

8. Except for farmer candidates to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees in 1974 and 1976, Michigan Farm Bureau has not endorsed candidates to public office. Should Farm Bureau publish a list of "Deserving Candidates" from among incumbents whose voting records indicate support for issues considered important to agriculture? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

9. Should Farm Bureau make a strong effort in 1978 to have every member register and vote? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

10. Please write additional suggestions you may have for an effective 1978 Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Program.

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Signature (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

# Discussion Topic: Should We? (Continued)

Recent surveys lead one to believe that the young people of the nation are conservative, in spite of the fact that the facilities in most of the colleges have been one-sided and have been force-feeding them liberalism for many years. As these young people establish themselves, Farm Bureau needs to find ways to communicate with and work with these rural and suburban non-farm voters.

## "Friends" and "Enemies"

Farmers have a reputation for being friendly. They look upon people as friends and have virtually no enemies. Perhaps it is time for a friend-enemy approach - a list of "friends" and "enemies" to the agricultural industry, the last real bastion of the free enterprise system left in this country.

Farmers have been referred to as minnows swimming with sharks in the political game. To change this image, farmers should unite to serve agriculture and support those political candidates who can and will turn the basic policies of government around. Thus, perhaps,

the time will come when elected officials will not automatically jump when organized labor yells or even whispers.

Organized labor not only donates substantial funds through COPE and other political action committees, but the law allows them to use union dues for "in-kind" campaign services, such as registration drives, member education on candidates, get-out-the-vote campaigns, etc.

Recent election reform laws allow organizations such as Farm Bureau to organize a special Political Action Committee. This Committee could raise funds and distribute the funds to candidates who would best support the organization's philosophy and policies. Membership monies cannot be used for this; however, individual members could voluntarily contribute funds for a specific candidate.

## '78 Elections Important

The 1978 elections will be important to farmers. Michigan Farm Bureau wants input from every member to develop an ef-

fective political action program designed to help elect candidates who un-

derstand and will support agricultural issues. Let us hear your opinions about an

effective 1978 Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Program.



## Homefront

### Notes from Community Groups

The Watchful Few Community Group, Saginaw County, held their monthly meeting and picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmar Rodammer. Before the meeting started, everyone came early to see the Chessie steam engine go by the farm. For the children it was a thrill to see the passenger train and the black smoke following it.

Joseph County. His replacement, Allen Hersick, showed a colored film on the various projects, types of soil, and ways to control erosion by cover crops. The 320,000 acres in St. Joseph County will be mapped and soil typed in the next few years. The irrigation of field crops was discussed. At present 55 deep wells are in operation in the area.

Mr. Oxender, Chairman, Triangular Community Group, introduced Joe Pahl, the retiring County Conservation Service employee who has served 28 years in St.

The Belle River Bottoms Community Group, St. Clair County, recently toured the Detroit Diesel Allison Division of General Motors Corporation. The guide told

the group that they were the first farm group to tour the plant. Since the company would like to see more diesel engines in use on farms, they would like to see more agricultural groups take advantage of the tour they offer. To appease the ladies of the group, the entire afternoon was spent at Greenfield Village.

Due to the temperature being in the upper 90's, the Lucky Fifteen Community Group, Huron County, began their meeting with a swim. Their guest Anders Nordstrom of Sweden gave an interesting talk on life and social customs of his country.

Some dedicated members like Hildegard Elowsky of Alpena County, will even walk to a Community Group meeting. Recently, while her car was being painted she walked through the forest to attend a meeting of the Leer Community Group. Hildegard declined to say whether or not she met the big bad wolf in the forest.

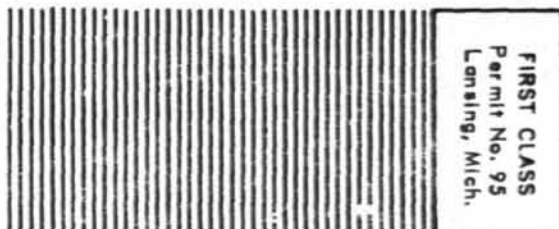
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# DNR Sets Deer Permit Areas



"One of our major objectives is to try to improve the relationship between the hunters and the landowners, and we thought one of the best ways to do this would be to give the landowners a privilege." So said Dave Arnold, supervisor of the Forest Wildlife section of the State Department of Natural Resources, in explaining the department's experimental landowner limited permit program for antlerless deer.

The program, in effect in 10 of Michigan's 75 deer management units, would allow a farmer landowner with 40 or more acres to obtain a permit to hunt doe on his property. In exchange, the farmer must allow someone besides himself to hunt on the land.

Arnold explained that a farmer must first apply for a regular Hunter's Choice Permit. If he is not selected to receive a permit, he should — between November 7 and November 11 — take his rejected application to a DNR field office in one of the 10 selected units. After he signs an affidavit that he qualifies as a farmer landowner, and

that he is willing to allow someone besides himself to hunt, the farmer will be given his special permit. Arnold pointed out that each member of a farmer's immediate family, living on the property, is also eligible for a permit.

The permit entitles the farmer to hunt on his land and on adjoining private lands, if he gets the owner's permission. He cannot hunt antlerless deer on public land.

Arnold said the department chose "areas where we thought this might have the best chance of proving whether or not the program would work. These are typically areas of high deer population and for the most part, they're areas where the general public has had an access problem."

The areas involved in the program include units 2 and 3 in Menominee County; unit 5, Charlevoix and Antrim counties; unit 24 in Kalkaska County; unit 31 in Missaukee, Osceola and Clare counties; units 37, 38 and 39 in Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco and Gladwin counties; unit

107 in Montcalm and Ionia counties; and unit 134 in Livingston, Jackson and Washtenaw counties.

"The fact that (a farmer) owns the land and he can't do something on his own land that somebody else can do makes a little hard feelings," Arnold said. "And these areas are typical of the areas where this problem has been foremost."

There are a limited number of permits available in each hunting unit. "We took the ASCS figures on farms and we took platbooks and figured out the ownerships of 40 acres or more within these units," Arnold explained. "We then, just as a rule of thumb, figured probably half of these people were hunters, and maybe two-thirds of them would make applications. So we set the quotas in view of the data we had."

The DNR office in Lansing said the quotas in each unit would be: 1,185 in unit 2; 2,555 in unit 3; 400 in unit 5; 500 in unit 24; 300 in unit 31; 200 in unit 37; 1,500 in unit 38; 900 in unit 39; 1,120 in unit 107, and 350 in unit 134.

"The landowner quota is set high enough that there will be very few disappointed, if any," Arnold said.

The landowner permits are over and above the number of antlerless deer permits

available statewide, so there have been some complaints of a potential overkill. But Arnold said, "The deerherd is high enough this year in all of these areas so there is enough resilience in the herd that there isn't any danger that the herd will be overshot. We're not in the least bit concerned."

Arnold said his office is already getting reactions to the program from farmers. "The feedback that we have gotten is that they're pretty much in favor of it," he said. "Many landowners have expressed the opinion that they would feel more kindly toward hunters if they had a permit."

## FB Support of Program Not "Anti-Sportsman"

Michigan Farm Bureau policy supporting the new antlerless deer program should not be made an issue of landowners against sportsmen, according to Elton Smith, president of the state's largest general farm organization.

"On the contrary," says Smith, "the program can do a great deal to improve the relationship between property owners and hunters."

The program would allow a landowner of 40 acres or more to obtain a permit to hunt doe on his property. Currently, ten deer management units are targeted for the experimental program. Without the new program, a landowner who doesn't get a regular permit would not be able to harvest deer that have been feeding on his land, sometimes damaging his crops. "Let's face it," Smith explains, "one of the things that upsets landowners and farmers in particular, is that hunters can harvest the deer while they can't."

Smith is fearful that if this continues to occur, farmers may increase their denial of hunter access. The Caledonia dairy farmer continues, "However, if farmers can get permits, their attitudes will improve about letting hunters come on their land. This is not meant as a subtle threat, but a statement of fact."

Michigan United Conservation Clubs are seeking a court injunction against the plan, while the Michigan Farm Bureau will file a brief supporting the program and the Department of Natural Resources. However, Smith points out that in the past the Farm Bureau and MUCC have worked closely on many projects. "Trespass laws, the recently-approved hunter access law, wetlands legislation, and distribution of sportsmen's land use passes are just a few of the cooperative projects. We see this new program as another method to strengthen the relationship between landowners and hunters, not to sever it."

## Come to the Fair

The Saginaw County Farm Bureau Women invite members from other counties to stop by their booths at the upcoming Saginaw Fair, "the largest county fair east of the Rocky mountains," September 10-17.

The two booths will be located in the Farm Bureau Building at the Saginaw fairgrounds. One will be a commodity booth, featuring a different product each day — dairy, sugar beets, navy beans, soybeans and wheat, fruit, beef and corn, pork, and pickles. The other booth will feature sales of orange and apple juices by the glass.

About 60 volunteers will be manning the booths during the 8-day event, reports Mrs. Delia Butzin, Saginaw County Information Committee. "The wonderful response we have had from the public in previous years is a criterion to the goodness of Michigan foods," she said.

Every farmer should go straight to the top for credit.

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

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

To get loan funds, the Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul go straight to the top money markets. Sale of farm credit bonds raises funds to finance full- and part-time farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

When it comes to ag credit...think of your Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank Association, or Bank for Cooperatives. It's the way for every farmer to go straight to the top—to the Farm Credit System.

THE COOPERATIVE **FARM CREDIT BANKS** OF ST. PAUL

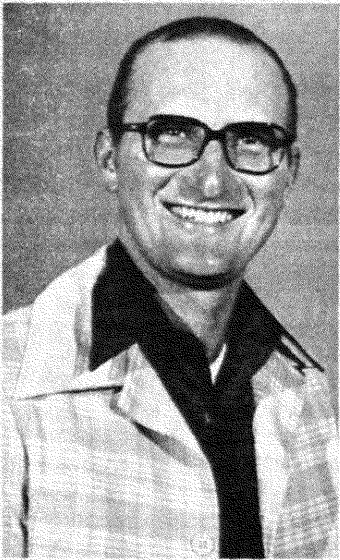
Federal Intermediate Credit Bank (for your PCA)  
Federal Land Bank (for your FLBA)  
Bank for Cooperatives (for your cooperatives)

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

# Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Radio Network

Michigan farmers, who help feed the state, the country and the world, are a vital part of the American agriculture industry. Each week, the Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group recognize Michigan farmers for their contributions to agriculture and the community through the Farm of the Week Award. Recipients of the award are chosen for the quality of their farming operation and for their involvement in community and agricultural affairs. Size of the farm is not important. Past winners have included farmers with more than 3,000 acres and farmers with less than 200.

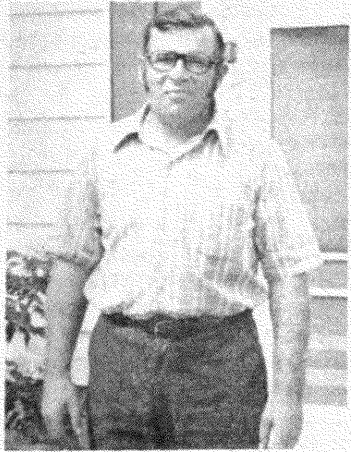
The Farmers of the Week winners for July are:



**Week of July 18 - Frank Orns,** a dairy farmer from Ceresco in Calhoun County. Orns, a local board member of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn., is a member of the County Farm Bureau and served as Young Farmer chairman and member of the FB County executive board. He farms 200 acres. Orns and his wife, Susan, have two children.



**Week of July 25 - Henry Jennings, 40,** who raises 1400 acres of corn and beans near Swartz Creek in Genesee County. Jennings, an active Farm Bureau member for the past 20 years, served as Young Farmers chairman and local Farm Bureau chairman. He also served on the Federal Land Bank board of directors for five counties. Jennings is a frequent competitor in tractor pull contests in eastern and central Michigan. He and his wife, Linda, have four sons.



**Week of July 4 - Daniel Taratuta, 46,** a Farm Bureau member who milks 130 cows and farms 1,165 acres near Posen in Presque Isle County. A Michigan Milk delegate and board member of the Posen Chamber of Commerce, Taratuta has seven children. His wife's name is Lucy.



**Week of July 11 - Robert Gleason, 55,** who milks 50 cows and farms 300 acres near Lapeer in Lapeer County. He is a member of the Hadley Township Board of Review and served as County Farm Bureau President for five years. He has been farming all his life. Gleason and his wife, Ila, have one child.

## FBS-FPC Kick Off Members-Only Program

Michigan Farm Bureau members can add another benefit to their membership, thanks to a new program initiated by Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative. The members-only program, which starts September 1, features monthly specials on popular products. Farm Bureau members will be treated like the "special people" they are when they show their membership cards at participating dealers, according to Ron Sprinkel, vice president of the Farm Supply Division.

For example, from September 1 through 30, mem-

bers can purchase Farm Bureau Dog Power dog food at a special price of \$3.50 for a 25-lb. bag or \$6.90 for a 50-lb. bag.

Future specials may include smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, coffee makers, battery chargers, or other popular items.

In addition to providing another membership benefit, the Michigan Farm Bureau affiliates hope to build stronger relationships between members and the FBS-FPC dealerships.

Clip the attached notice and use it as a reminder to take advantage of this new members-only program.

Where Your Farm Comes First

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

MEMBER ONLY PRICES

REMINDER NOTICE

Your Farm Bureau Membership Card is good for DOG POWER dog food at only \$3.50 for a 25-lb. bag, or \$6.90 for a 50-lb. bag. Put this reminder in a prominent place and get to your nearest participating Farm Bureau Dealer before—

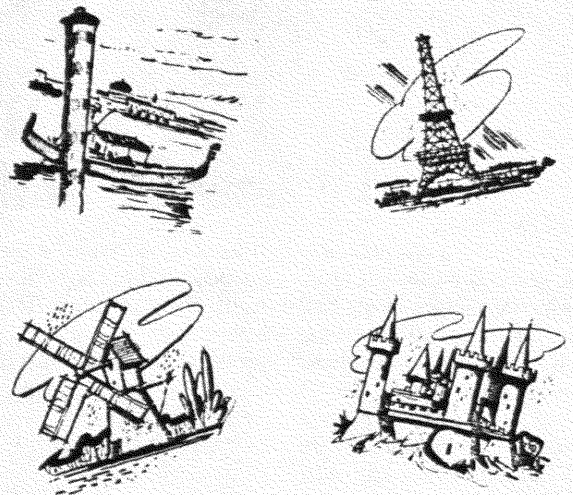
Offer Expires  
On  
October 1, 1977

Where Your Farm Comes First

FARMERS PETROLEUM

## MAKE THAT VACATION

## "DREAM" COME TRUE!



15 NIGHTS AND 16 DAYS IN LONDON, ARMSTERDAM, COLOGNE, MUNICH, VENICE, LUCERNE AND PARIS!

### Join the AUTUMN

## "FARMFEST" EUROPE TOUR October 17—November 1, 1977

\$1139.00 PER PERSON (BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)  
\$73.00 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

### YOUR AUTUMN "FARMFEST" EUROPE TOUR INCLUDES:

- Scheduled economy class air transportation via Pan American World Airways from Detroit to London, and return via Air France and Pan American Airways to Detroit.
  - Superior tourist class hotels with private bath and/or shower throughout Europe for 14 nights (first night in flight).
  - Farm visitation to six (6) farms.
  - Sightseeing, farm visits and all transfers as outlined in the itinerary conducted by a professional multi-lingual travel guide using private, deluxe motor-coaches.
  - Day ferry from Harwich to the Hook of Holland.
  - Rail transportation from Lucerne to Paris.
  - Demi-pension meals throughout Europe (Continental Breakfast and Table D'Hote dinners). Exceptions: Dinner is not included in London and Paris on the 3rd, 14th, and 15th evenings.
  - Special features as outlined in the itinerary.
  - Tips and taxes: Hotel service charges, state and local taxes, baggage and hotel gratuities.
  - Services of a professional multi-lingual travel guide throughout Europe.
  - Services of a Howe Travel Host throughout.
  - All necessary travel documents and travel information.
- Not included: Passports, health documents, items of a personal nature, insurance, gratuities to Inter-European drivers and guides.
- Rates based on 40 persons or more traveling.

(See August Farm News for Itinerary and Agency Responsibilities)

MICHIGAN Farm Bureau  
Travel Headquarters  
26400 Lahser Road - Suite No. 9  
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(313)354-4693

European Farm Tour  
Enclosed please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 as deposit,  as payment in full  
for \_\_\_\_\_ number of persons.

Make check or money order payable to: HOWE TRAVEL.  
\$200.00 minimum deposit per person. Final payment due 35 days before departure. Please print, and if more than one couple, attach a separate list with complete information as below.

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include first name(s))

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home and office, please)

DEPARTURE CITY \_\_\_\_\_

smoking or  non-smoking section of plane  single occupancy.

If individual, and not requesting a single accommodation, name of person sharing room \_\_\_\_\_

Return this reservation immediately to assure space. Rates based on double occupancy. Single accommodations available. Rates for children under 12 on request. Tour prices are based on rates and tariff in effect as of June 9, 1977. Howe Travel reserves the right to adjust tour prices in event of rate and tariff changes over which it has no control.

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW!!!  
for  
Mexico Tour or Texas/Rio Grande Valley  
and  
AFBF Annual Meeting



For more information, contact Kenneth Wiles,  
Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960,  
Lansing 48909. Telephone (517) 321-5661.

# SUPPLY REPORT

By Greg Sheffield

## GENERAL

In looking over the past planting season, this was a banner year of service to farmers for co-operative farm supply businesses. Exceptional quantities of fertilizer, seeds, and pesticides were needed to satisfy patron demand. Now large harvests are expected for corn, wheat, other grains and navy beans.

## FERTILIZER

Anhydrous ammonia supplies are plentiful for fall plow-down. Potash supplies are in balance, but just adequate. Immediate shipments of most fertilizers can be made with the exception of potash. Potash shipments, at this writing, late August, are subject to two to three weeks delay. However, no major crisis or problems are foreseen for fertilizer supplies.

## SEEDS

Field seeds have been fairly tight in availability, especially in some of the most popular varieties. Alfalfa is in tight supply but Farm Bureau Services recently got in more FFR Weevlcheck Alfalfa and farmers are urged to order while it lasts. Most FFR, Farmers Forage Research, seeds are sold out to dealers and will not be available until the next seed crop. FFR seed varieties are developed at our own co-operative seed research farms.

Bluegrass seeds are on the upswing pricewise; perhaps bluegrass may go as high in price as its ever been. So, buy your bluegrass seeds now to avoid even higher prices.

Seed wheats such as Tecumseh white and red wheats look adequate in supply.

## FEEDS

Feed sales have been steady, with slightly increased feed consumption and cooler weather.

A new product now available from the Farm Bureau Battle Creek Animal Foods Plant is Pork Linco Pack 341-7. This is a convenience product for pork producers to use at the farm with his on-the-farm mixing equipment. Lincomycin is for the control and-or treatment of swine dysentery.

Orders for LSA, Liquid Silage Additive, 100 percent protein supplement have been coming in steadily.

## ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS

Dealers have excellent buys for their farmer patrons as a result of a successful animal health products booking program from Farm Bureau Services. Dealers ordering large quantities received excellent discounts.

## HARDWARE

While the lumber supply is getting short, with much building activity through the summer months, building

hardware and general hardware has been in good supply. However, with the steel strike and higher labor contract costs, all hardware items made from steels are going up. So, purchase now from present inventories. There's much interest in grain storage bins. Delivery on bins is taking 6 to 8 weeks lead time.

Twine is in good supply at

Farm Bureau stores and prices are good.

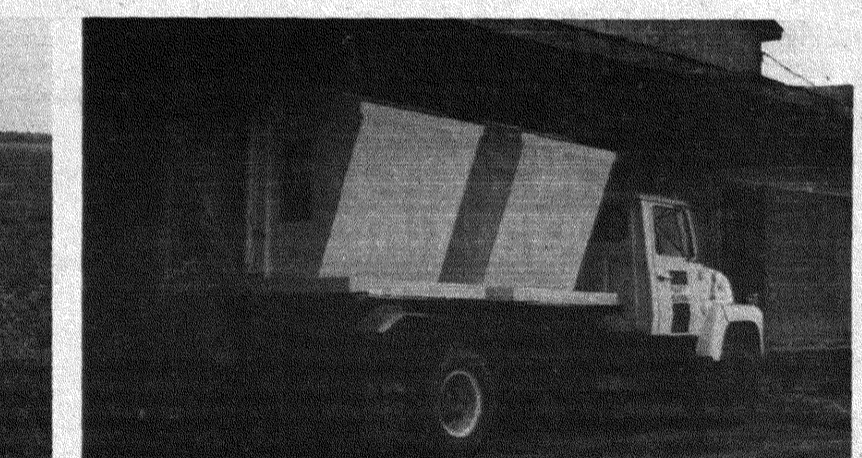
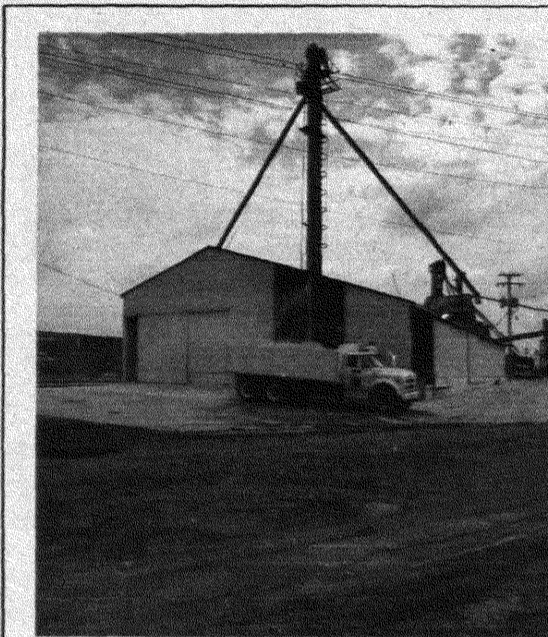
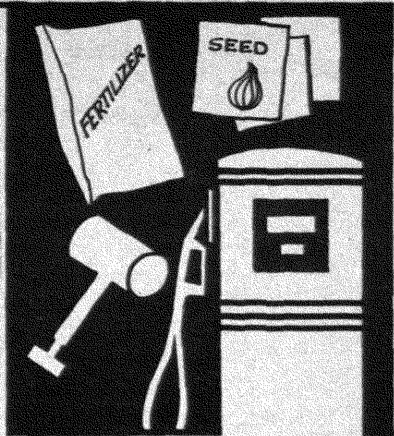
## NEW FUEL OIL ADDITIVE

Farmers Petroleum Co-op has a new CO-OP Fuel Oil Antifreeze and Rust Inhibitor. It's designed to prevent heating oil line freeze ups, inhibit rust, and overcome moisture from condensation in fuel tanks by holding the moisture in suspension. It can also be

added to diesel fuel tanks for the same purpose.

## BUDGET PAY PROGRAM

The Heating Oil Budget Payment Programs at Farmers Petroleum dealers around the state are being expanded with much interest and success. Also, a number of stores now have bank card services for patrons who use Visa and Master Charge plans.



## 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.



# NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

## Farm Program Awaits Decision

When Congress reconvenes on September 6 from its summer recess, a new farm bill in final form will be ready for consideration. The bill is the result of marathon sessions by a Conference Committee to work out differences between separate bills passed earlier by the House and Senate. The conferees reached agreement on August 5 which was the beginning of the summer recess.

Major provisions of the conference bill which will expire at the end of 1981 of interest to Michigan farmers are as follows:

### Wheat

The target price for 1977 crop wheat is \$2.90 per bushel. The target price for 1978 crop wheat is \$3.00 if more than a 1.8 billion bushel harvest and \$3.05 if less than a 1.8 billion bushel harvest. After 1978 the target price will be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of production.

The loan rate for 1977 crop wheat is \$2.25 per bushel, rising to \$2.35 in 1978 and remaining at that level for the duration of the Act.

### Corn

The target price for 1977 is \$2.00 per bushel. The target price for 1978 crop corn is \$2.10 with annual adjustments thereafter to reflect changes in the cost of production.

The loan rate for 1977 crop corn is \$2.00 per bushel and will remain at that level for the duration of the Act.

### Soybeans

A loan rate is required but the level is discretionary with the Secretary of Agriculture. No target price is authorized.

### Sugar

The price of 1977 and 1978 sugar beet and cane crops are required to be supported through loans and purchases at a level not more than 65 percent of parity nor less than 52.5 percent of parity, but not less than 13.5 cents per pound raw sugar equivalent. The Secretary is authorized to suspend operations of the loan program if an International Sugar Agreement is executed to maintain a U.S. raw sugar price of 13.5 cents per pound. The Secretary must also establish minimum wage rates for agricultural employees engaged in the production of sugar.

### Dairy

The price of milk will be supported at not less than 80 percent of parity through March 31, 1979. The Secretary is required to adjust the support level semi-annually during the marketing year through March 31, 1981 to

reflect estimated changes in the parity index. Also, the Secretary may, at his discretion, adjust the support price on a quarterly basis.

The dairy indemnity payment program is expanded to include not only milk that is quarantined as a

result of pesticides, but also contamination from nuclear fallout and chemicals through no fault of the farmer.

### Other

The conference bill also includes numerous other provisions including the establishment of a farmer-

held grain reserve, repeal of the purchase requirement to obtain food stamps and research and extension authorizations to mention just a few.

If approved by Congress following its return from summer recess, the bill will

Washington D.C.

go to the White House where President Carter is expected to sign it into law.

# NU PRO TM

## Dairy Feed

**Now High  
Producing Herds Can  
Produce Even More Milk!**

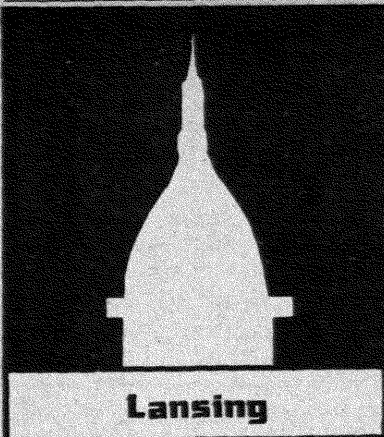
Farm Bureau Services' Cooperative Research Farms has discovered a new way to increase milk production. Nu Pro Dairy Feed helps regulate\* soluble and insoluble proteins within the cows' rations. Field tests show that regulated protein aids in producing even more milk in good dairy herds! Make more milk production your goal. Ask your Farm Bureau feeds man about Nu Pro Dairy Feed today. He'll tailor a program to your herd's needs.

Where Your Farm Comes First

**Farm  
Bureau**  
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

\*Patent pending





Lansing

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## Taxation Issues on Legislative Agenda

### Single Business Tax

When the Legislature returns September 14th, there will be several taxation issues that will receive consideration. Some of them may go into the next session in 1978.

Legislative committees have been considering this complex issue throughout the summer. Farm Bureau has testified before the House Committee, outlining farmers' concerns with this new tax.

Farm Bureau policy favors repeal of the tax, and there is also a bill that would exempt agriculture. As of now, it is not expected that the legislation will be repealed nor is it likely that agriculture will be exempted.

However, it is likely that some amendments can be made to make the tax far more equitable for farmers and other small businesses. For example, one suggested change would provide an alternative tax based only on net income plus wages or salary that the owner pays himself. There would be an exemption of \$25,000 for the farmer and each partner, if any. The tax rate on the remainder would be 5 percent. Other proposals would include raising the present exemptions.

Farm Bureau has pointed out in testimony that the SBT affects different types of farms in different ways, often being an extreme burden on individuals. Farm Bureau policy supports elimination of the interest component, as well as changes in the taxation of the depreciation component. In many areas, however, the most important taxable item is the labor cost component. It may be possible to have some type of formula that would put realistic limits on each of these components in order to prevent burdensome inequities.

Most farmers are not affected by the tax, but in individual cases, the tax can be severe.

All farmers, however, are eligible for the property tax cut, resulting from the increased limit in the "circuit breaker" from \$500 to \$1,200. This was passed as companion legislation to the

Single Business Tax. Some legislators maintain that, if changes are made in the SBT, then the \$1,200 tax rebate should be cut. There is ample reason for the \$1,200 to remain the same, as all farmers are eligible for it and it helps to reduce burdensome property taxes, therefore helping to retain good farm land.

There is also ample reason for the SBT, if not repealed, to have major revisions. According to MSU Telfarm records, on 1,075 farms with sole proprietors, 216 or 20 percent of those farmers had a tax to pay. Of the 216, 122 had an average tax of \$263; 33 had an average of \$952; 36 an average of \$1,526; and 25 an average of \$3,427. Of 307 dairy farms in the program, about 70 had a tax to pay which averaged \$705. Of 59 cash crop farmers, 16 paid a tax which averaged \$776. Of 26 fruit farmers, 15 had an average tax of \$963. The fruit farmers' tax would be higher primarily because of labor costs.



STATE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE members met in Lansing for their first meeting recently. The committee heard several experts on a broad variety of subjects. They will meet several more days to become familiar with the many issues

which affect farmers, before presenting recommendations to the delegate body at the MFB annual meeting in Grand Rapids on November 29-30, December 1-2.

### Property Tax Reform

HJR "C", introduced by Rep. Roy Smith (R-Ypsilanti), is a proposed constitutional amendment which is on the House floor already for debate. If passed by a two-thirds vote in both houses, it will be on the 1978 ballot.

It cuts the present total property tax limit in the constitution from 50 mills down to 23 mills. The present 15-mill tax limit is cut to 12½ mills, which would be allocated as follows:

County	7.00 mills
Townships	1.50 mills
Community College	1.00 mills

Vocational Education	1.00 mills
Special Education	1.00 mills
Community Schools	0.25 mills
Building & Grounds, K-12	
Maintenance	0.25 mills
Intermediate	0.50 mills
Total	12.50 mills

The voters would be permitted to vote 10½ mills for the following purposes:

County and or Townships	3.00 mills
K-12 School	
Enrichment	6.00 mills
Community College	1.50 mills
Total	10.50 mills

The amendment would do several other things. It would require uniform general Ad Valorem taxation of EACH CLASS of real property. It provides a base on the property tax for various school agencies such as community colleges, intermediate school districts,

special ed, Vo-ed, community school programs and building and site maintenance programs. It provides for earmarking for educational purposes, a uniform statewide tax basis for industrial, utility and commercial property over and above the 23 mills. It has a provision designed to maintain local control of personnel and programs by local school boards. It removes the constitutional prohibition against the graduated income tax.

It is estimated that the state income tax would have to be raised 2 percent in order to make up for the loss of property tax revenue. This would be known as Proposal C and, in many ways, is very similar to the Proposal C that was on the ballot in 1972. However, it is also considerably different. One difference is that it makes a graduated income tax possible.

### Option for Schools

There are three proposals on local income tax options for schools:

1. H.B. 4478 would permit a school district, by a vote of the electors, to adopt a 1 percent income tax and a 0.8 percent increase in the Single Business Tax. The property tax would be reduced by 9

mills.

The new taxes would be paid to the state as part of the regular income and SBT taxes. The state would reimburse the district for the amount that the 9 mills would have raised. This, in many cases, would subsidize the district as the revenue from the new taxes would not replace the 9-mill property tax reduction. The issue would be put on the ballot by the school board.

2. Another proposal would permit a local school board to levy an income tax without a vote when two millage elections have been defeated. The tax yield would be equalized by the state.

3. A third proposal, H.B. 4029, would permit local school districts to vote in an income tax of up to 1 percent. The yield would not be equalized by the state.

### Assessment Reduction

Another constitutional amendment may be introduced to establish a dual system of property classification. Residential and agricultural property would be assessed at 25 percent of market value (present requirement is 50 percent). Other property, industrial, commercial, timber cut over, etc. would continue to be at 50 percent of value.

Property taxes would be cut by \$952 million. To replace this lost revenue, \$100 million would come from reduced payouts under the

"circuit breaker". The rest would come from an increase in the state income tax from the present 4.6 percent to at least 6.7 percent.

There are many other ideas for property tax reform or reduction. However, every proposal must be considered on its merit and the fact that it must shift taxation to other means of revenue.

The "circuit breaker", limiting property taxes, including farms, to 60 percent of the difference between 3½ percent of household income and the amount of the tax has been quite effective in reducing property taxes. The program is more liberal for the elderly, blind, certain veterans, disabled, etc. The tax rebate limit is \$1,200.

Farmers also have the option of using the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (PA 116), which uses the "circuit breaker" idea to limit taxes, to return all property taxes on farm land in excess of 7 percent of household income and to exempt farm land from certain special assessments such as sewers, water, lights, and non-farm drainage. To qualify for this program requires a contractual arrangement guaranteeing to retain the land in its present use for at least ten years. Latest reports show that nearly a quarter of a million acres of farm land are in the program in 58 separate counties.

It is interesting to note that the State of Wisconsin has just passed a similar program patterned after the Michigan law.

# Policy Development in Process

A series of district meetings are being held throughout the state for county policy development committees, county presidents, women's committees, young farmers and others in the annual Farm Bureau P.D. Program. The 12th annual Policy Development Conference has also been held in Lansing with Farm Bureau leaders throughout the state and other outstanding speakers.

The state P.D. Committee has held its first meeting which is the beginning of the major effort to prepare recommendations for the delegates at the state Annual Meeting. The most important part of the process will be the action of the members at their county annual meetings.

At the first meeting, the committee heard several experts on a broad variety of subjects including Dr. John Ferris and Dr. Don Mitchel, agricultural analysts and economic specialists from M.S.U. They outlined the agricultural outlook for the coming year as well as

providing useful information. Their predictions for the agricultural economy were somewhat gloomy. They pointed out that we have had another record 2 billion bushel wheat crop; the corn and soybean crops are also expected to be record crops, together with a large carryover from the previous year. It is equally true that there have been record crop yields reported throughout much of the world including Russia and major wheat exporting countries such as Canada, Australia, Argentina, etc.

Such facts drive the price of grain down in the world-wide competitive markets and limits the markets for U.S. grain. They pointed out that soybean exports are ahead of last year and world demand will continue strong for this crop. However, competition will get stronger as Brazil is increasing production as a major soybean producer. Palm oil from Malaysia also is a serious competitor in the world market with soybean oil. China, however, has poor

prospects for a wheat crop and has been importing wheat.

Problems for grain producers result in a better feed "grain-ratio" for livestock producers and encourages expansion in hogs, cattle feeding, broilers, eggs and milk production. It was pointed out that the dairy situation may be a major problem in 1978 and that USDA dairy product purchases are running well above a year ago.

The committee also heard reports from Farm Bureau affiliates on numerous issues including the need for federal marketing and bargaining legislation, many fruit and vegetable crops, and the Capper-Volstead law protection issue, etc.

One recommendation was the strengthening of Farm Bureau's present policy to try and convince the Chicago Board of Trade that white wheat should be permitted to be deliverable against future contracts. Such a change would put Michigan's white wheat into a better price

relationship with red wheat.

Crop reporting is another issue as Michigan's program has been cut by more than \$40,000 which has resulted in a reduction of surveys and reports for fruits and vegetables. There has also been a cut in grain and bean reports. Such information is essential for effective planting and marketing as farmers have no other way of having adequate information, the same as the major international grain handlers.

Another area where farmers can help themselves is making it possible for cooperatives to have direct exporting capabilities by forming joint ventures for agricultural facilities for overseas sales. There are presently 75 companies exporting grain; 6 of them have 90 percent of all the business.

Donald Shepard, Manager of MASA, briefly reviewed with the committee the numerous and complex labor issues that farmers presently must cope with and others that could become law. This includes a probable rewrite of

the worker's compensation law for Michigan and the need for separate sections that recognize the particular problems within agriculture. It also includes controversial issues on minimum wage, farm labor contracts, unemployment issues, OSHA and MIOSHA, illegal aliens, etc.

Other divisions within Farm Bureau reported to the committee on issues that would effect farmers in agriculture. These included Farm Bureau Insurance Group, MACMA, Farm Bureau Services, and the Market Development Division.

The Committee will meet several more days to become familiar with the many issues that affect farmers. The recommendations proposed to the delegate body at the annual meeting will be based on hard facts. The committee will be able to provide whatever information is necessary to help reach decisions that reflect farmers' opinions.

## Meet Your State P.D. Committee Members

Committee members and the districts they represent are:

**District 1** (Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties)

Ted Kirklin, owner-operator of a cash grain and hog farm near Kalamazoo. He has served as a member of the county Board of Directors, chairman of his community group, and as a delegate to the MFB annual meeting for two years. Kirklin has also served as director of the Kalamazoo County Agricultural Society Fair Board for nine years.

**District 2** (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee Counties)

A. LeJean Marshall operates a dairy and crop farm near Allen in Hillsdale County. Serving his second year on the State Policy Development Committee, he is also a member of his county Policy Development Committee. Active in community activities, Marshall has served 17 years as a director of the Southeast Michigan Production Credit Association, a member of the Allen Township Board and Branch County Bank Board and as an officer with MMPA.

**District 3** (Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties)

Richard Sharland operates a cash crop and turkey farm in Canton, Washtenaw County. He has served for two years as county Farm Bureau President and three years as vice-president. Sharland has attended the last six state

legislative seminars as well as the 1970 Washington Legislative Seminar, and in 1975, served on the Insurance Agreement Committee. He is also a member of the Ypsilanti Farm Bureau Co-op Board of Directors.

**District 4** (Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent and Ottawa Counties)

Mrs. Fredrick (Doris) Erhorn is serving her second year on the State P.D. Committee. Doris and her husband operate a dairy farm near Nunica in Ottawa County. She is a member of the Ottawa County Farm Bureau Women's Legislative Committee and the county Public Affairs Committee. Her community activities include serving as a hospital trustee and Corresponding Lobbyist for MMPA.

**District 5** (Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham and Shiawassee Counties)

William Kissane of St. Johns is a cash crop and beef finishing farmer. His Farm Bureau activities include serving as county president, past roll call manager and a delegate to the state annual meeting. He has also served on the State Insurance Agreement Committee, state discussion topic committee and a member of the state annual meeting Rules Committee. Kissane is also a member of the Clinton County Planning Commission and the Michigan Livestock Exchange.

**District 6** (Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Sanilac and St. Clair Counties)

LeRoy Schluckebier,

Frankenmuth cash crop farmer, is serving his second year on the state committee. He has served six years as a county director, four years as president. Other Farm Bureau activities include chairman of the State Insurance Review Committee, member of the State Wheat Market Pool and Dry Bean Advisory Committees, and a member and chairman of the state Rules Committee. His community activities include serving as chairman of his church and chairman and board member of the Certified Seed Producers.

**District 7** (Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo and Oceana Counties)

Dale Carmichael operates a dairy farm near Evert in Osceola County. He is Discussion Leader for his community group and has served 18 years on the school board, as president and treasurer, chairman of the Administrative Board for his local church and as a delegate for MMPA.

**District 8** (Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw Counties)

Stuart Reinbold is also serving his second year as a member of the State P.D. Committee. He is a partner with his two brothers on a 2000 acre farm in Saginaw County, specializing in cash crops. His activities in Farm Bureau include serving on the State Crop Advisory Committee, State Bean Study Committee, county board member and 1976 mem-

bership chairman. Reinbold is also stewardship chairman of his church, township committee member and chairman of ASCS and a 4-H club leader.

**District 9** (Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford Counties)

Neal Lutke operates a dairy farm near Manton in Missaukee County. He is a member of the county Safemark Committee and the Missaukee County Board of Directors. Lutke is presently county road commissioner, a member of the county ASCS committee, and a township supervisor.

**District 10** (Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties)

Robert Hand, also serving his second year on the committee, has a dairy and beef farm in Afton. He has been on the Cheboygan County Board for a number of years and has served as county president. Hand is also active in the MMPA and the Michigan Animal Breeders Co-op.

**District 11** (Upper Peninsula)

Mrs. Fred (Ann) Jousma of Bruce Crossing is a partner with her husband on their Ontonagon County farm. She is second vice chairman of Farm Bureau Women for the western portion of District 11, a member of the Women's Speaker's Bureau and Community Group

Discussion Topic Committee. Mrs. Jousma has a special interest in promoting their local dairy with demonstrations and taking the Speaker's Bureau into schools.

Representing the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers are Robert Rottier of Fremont, David Peckens of Howell, and Jerry Heck of Ida.

Rottier operates a dairy and cash crop farm in Newaygo County. He is chairman of the State Young Farmer Committee, a member of the county board for four years serving on the executive committee for three, and a member of the state Dairy Advisory Committee. He has been a member of the DHIA board for four years, two as president, and a member of the Dayton Township Board of Review.

Peckens is in partnership with his father and brother on a Livingston County dairy and cash crop farm and is serving his second year on the committee. He is a member of the county board of directors and county and state Young Farmer Committee and has been county membership chairman. Peckens also serves as Deputy Township Clerk and Corresponding Lobbyist for his MMPA local.

Heck operates a 625 acre cash crop, egg laying operation and beef feedlot in Monroe County in partnership with his father and brother. He is a member of

(Continued on Page 17)



(Continued from Page 16)  
 the state Young Farmer Committee, chairman of the county State Affairs and Information Committees and assistant editor of the county newsletter.

Representing the Farm Bureau Women are Mrs. Larry (Kay) Wagner of Kingsley, Mrs. Thomas (Kathy) Middleton of Ortonville, and Mrs. John (Susan) Bahs of Nashville.

Mrs. Wagner and her husband operate a dairy farm in Grand Traverse County. Serving her second year as a member of the state committee, she is also a member of the State and National Affairs Committee, District Women's Chairman and second Vice-Chairman of MFB Women. She is also

active in 4-H, serving as chairman of the community council and a 4-H leader.

Tom and Kathy Middleton operate a dairy and cash crop farm in Oakland County. She is a member of the county Young Farmers, Policy Development and Women's Committees and the Farm Bureau Women's Speaker's Bureau. Kathy also has participated in the Queen and Outstanding Young Farm Woman Contests. She is secretary for public relations of the Organization for Better Education and president of the Parents Association and has been a volunteer tutor for three years.

Mrs. Bahs and her husband operate a 900 acre dairy and cash crop farm in partnership with her husband's parents.

She is a member of the Women's State Public Relations Sub-Committee, and chairman of the county Citizenship Committee. In 1976, she was a semi-finalist in the Outstanding Young Farm Woman Contest, and is a member of the Dairy Promotion Committee for the Barry-Eaton local of MMPA.

At-Large members on the committee are MFB Board of Directors members Walter Frahm of Frankenmuth, John Laurie of Cass City, and Donald Nugent of Frankfort.

Frahm operates a 500 acre dairy and cash crop farm in Saginaw County in partnership with his brother. He has served as an at-large member of the state board since 1964 and is a member of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and MACMA Boards. He is

also active in the Michigan and Saginaw Valley Guernsey Breeders' Associations and is Secretary - Treasurer of the Saginaw County DHIA. Active in community activities, Frahm serves on the Frankenmuth Board of Education and has been president since 1971, and is a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

Laurie, chairman of the State Policy Development Committee, farms 700 acres in Tuscola County, specializing in dairy and feed crops. He was elected as Michigan Farm Bureau District Director for District 6 in 1966 and to the MFB Board of Directors Executive Committee in 1970, and became the Board's Vice President in 1977. Laurie is

active in local Farm Bureau and community activities and was a member of the Kellogg Farmers Study Group.

Nugent is in partnership with his father on a 700 acre fruit farm in Benzie County, specializing in cherries, strawberries and apples. He represents District 9 on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors and is a board member of MACMA, MASA and FBIG Companies, as well as having served as Benzie County Farm Bureau President. In the fruit industry, Nugent is a member of the Michigan State Horticultural Society and is past Vice President of the Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society and is secretary-treasurer of Cherry Central Cooperative, Inc.

Ann Jousma  
District 11

Robert Hand  
District 10

Neal Lutkie  
District 9

Walter Frahm  
At Large

John Laurie  
At Large

Donald Nugent  
At Large

Dale Charnichael  
District 7  
(Photo Not Available)

Stuart Reinbold  
District 8

LeRoy Schluckebier  
District 6

Mrs. Susan Bahs  
Rep. F.B. Women

Mrs. Kathy Middleton  
Rep. F.B. Women

Mrs. Kay Wanger  
Rep. F.B. Women

Mrs. Doris Erhorn  
District 4

William Kissane  
District 5

Richard Sharland  
District 3

Robert Rottier  
Rep. Young Farmers

Jerry Heck  
Rep. Young Farmers

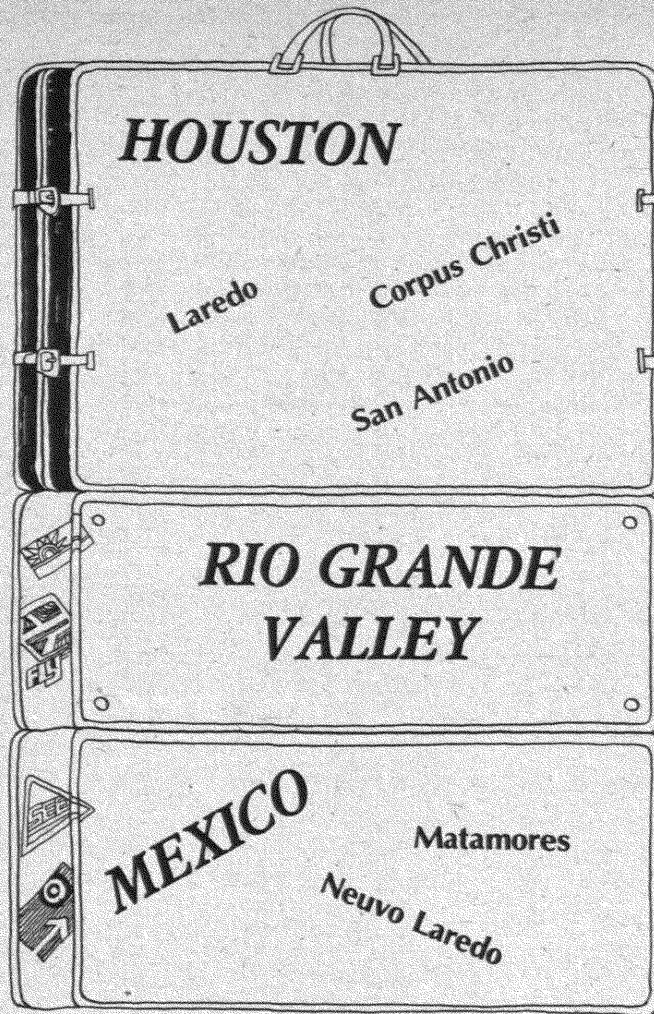
David Peckens  
Rep. Young Farmers

Ted Kirklín  
District 1

A. LeJean Marshall  
District 2

**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY**

**Pack Your Bags for AFBF Annual Meeting Tours**



January, 1978 is a long way off, but Michigan Farm Bureau members who plan to attend the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Houston, Texas have some planning to do now.

The convention will be held January 8-12, 1978, and there will be several options available for travelers to get to and from Houston, and two alternative side tours are in the making for those who wish to do sightseeing following the meeting.

Those who simply want to fly to and from Houston on special chartered airplanes will have the opportunity. However, reservations must be made by November 23 as this option is limited to 200 persons.

Following the convention, two tours are planned from Houston. One is a bus tour visiting many of the well-known areas of Texas and Mexico. The other is a tour to several areas in Mexico.

No matter what the selection, reservations must be made early since Houston will be in the peak of its convention season, and demand is already brisk for rooms at the luxurious Stouffer's Greenway Plaza Hotel where the Michigan group will be staying.

For the 1978 convention, there are four possible options available and the reservation coupon is divided into sections to make the task easier. For the 1978 convention, the corresponding sections are (B) THE CHARTER FLIGHT WAY, (C) THE TEXAS-RIO GRANDE WAY, (D) THE MEXICO WAY, (E) TRAVEL ON YOUR OWN.

**B (CHARTER FLIGHTS)**

The charter way is for those members desiring only to attend the convention and who will not be participating in either post convention tour. Travelers will leave Lansing by charter flight for Houston and return following the convention. (PLEASE FILL OUT SECTIONS (A), (B) AND (C).)

**C (TEXAS-RIO GRANDE)**

For those selecting this alternative, separate flight arrangements will be made. Following the convention, the air conditioned bus tour will leave Houston on January 12. Stops include Houston; Corpus Christi; King Ranch; Brownsville; Matamores, Mexico; Rio Grande Valley; Laredo; Neuvo Laredo, Mexico; and San Antonio. Departure back to Houston is January 17 for connecting flights home.

If going by air (FILL OUT SECTIONS (A), (C) and (E). If traveling on your own (FILL OUT SECTIONS (A) and (E). NOTE: Charter plane cannot be selected for persons going on post-convention tours.

**D (MEXICO TOUR)**

Separate flight arrangements will be made for Farm Bureau members who select this tour to Mexico following the convention.

Travelers will depart Houston January 12 for three nights in Mexico City where they will be staying at either the Aristos or Maria Isabel Hotel. Planned tours plus ample free time has been designated.

Next will be one night in Taxco at either the De la Borda Hotel or Holiday Inn. The world famous Ballet Folkloriro, and the Palace of Fine Arts will be visited enroute to the silver city of Taxco.

January 16 tourists will depart for three nights in Acapulco with reservations at the Fiesta Tortuga or Paraiso Marriott. Highlights include the Spanish Fort San Diego, highdiving by native beach boys, and a sunset cruise. Plenty of time is planned for shopping, swimming and sight-seeing on your own. (PLEASE FILL OUT SECTIONS (A), (D) and (E).

**E (TRAVEL ON YOUR OWN TO HOUSTON)**

Those Farm Bureau members desiring to take personal transportation to the Houston convention site MUST still make their hotel reservations through Michigan Farm Bureau to be assured of rooms in the Stouffer's Greenway Plaza Hotel. (FILL OUT SECTIONS (A) and (E).

Those wishing to drive and participate in the Rio Grande-Texas tour should (FILL OUT SECTIONS (A), (C) and (E).

Those wishing to drive and participate in the Mexico tour should (FILL OUT SECTIONS (A), (D) and (E).

It is of utmost importance that reservations be made promptly. Rooms not reserved by November 23 must be released. If additional information is desired on the tours, write Kenneth Wiles, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or phone 517-321-5661, extension 229.

**(A) RESERVATION REQUESTS**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room With \_\_\_\_\_  
 Air Reservations From \_\_\_\_\_

**BE SURE TO CHECK HOUSTON HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED IN SECTION (E).**

**(B) CHARTER FLIGHTS**

Please enter my reservation for the following trip to the Houston Convention: Charter airplane from Lansing to Houston and return (check charter requested below):

CHARTER NO. 1 ( )  
 Departs Lansing, Saturday morning, January 7. Returns Wednesday afternoon, January 11.

CHARTER NO. 2 ( )  
 Departs Lansing, Saturday afternoon, January 7. Returns Thursday morning, January 12.

Total cost, including transportation, baggage handling, tips, transfer to and from hotel and the Michigan Breakfast on Monday, January 9 is \$150.00 per person.

A \$25.00 deposit per person should accompany reservation request, fully refunded in case of cancellation before November 23, 1977. Full payment due December 1, 1977.

**(C) TEXAS-RIO GRANDE TOUR**

Please enter my reservation for the post convention Texas-Rio Grande tour. We wish to leave from and return to:

- ( ) Lansing - \$515.00 per person
- ( ) Saginaw - \$525.00 per person
- ( ) South Bend - \$512.98 per person
- ( ) Grand Rapids - \$525.00 per person
- ( ) Fort Wayne - \$512.98 per person
- ( ) Detroit - \$513.00 per person
- ( ) Houston - \$319.00 per person

Commercial air reservations will be made for you from your city of departure, on Sunday, January 8, 1978.

A \$75.00 deposit per person should accompany the reservation, and full payment is due by December 1, 1977. A \$25.00 cancellation charge will be made if cancellations are made after the final payment date.

**BE SURE TO CHECK HOUSTON HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED BELOW.**

**(D) MEXICO TOUR**

Please enter my reservation for the post AFBF convention tour to Mexico with hotel accommodations as checked. The price includes transportation from the city checked to Houston for the AFBF convention and return, but does not include meals or the hotel in Houston.

Boarding At	First Class Hotel	Deluxe Hotel
( ) Detroit	( ) \$507.85	( ) \$551.85
( ) Lansing	( ) \$519.32	( ) \$563.32
( ) Grand Rapids	( ) \$513.32	( ) \$557.32
( ) Saginaw	( ) \$526.32	( ) \$570.32
( ) Chicago	( ) \$456.32	( ) \$509.32
( ) Houston	( ) \$334.00	( ) \$379.00

A \$75.00 per person deposit must accompany the reservation request. Full payment will be due no later than 40 days prior to departure. A \$25.00 cancellation charge will be made if cancellations are made after the final payment date.

**BE SURE TO CHECK HOUSTON HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED BELOW.**

**(E) HOUSTON HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS REQUEST**

Please make the following hotel reservation for me at the Stouffer's Greenway Plaza (where the Michigan delegation will be staying).

Double Room (rate will range from \$48.00 to \$52.00 per night for 2 persons)  
 Single Room (rate will range from \$38.00 to \$42.00 per night)

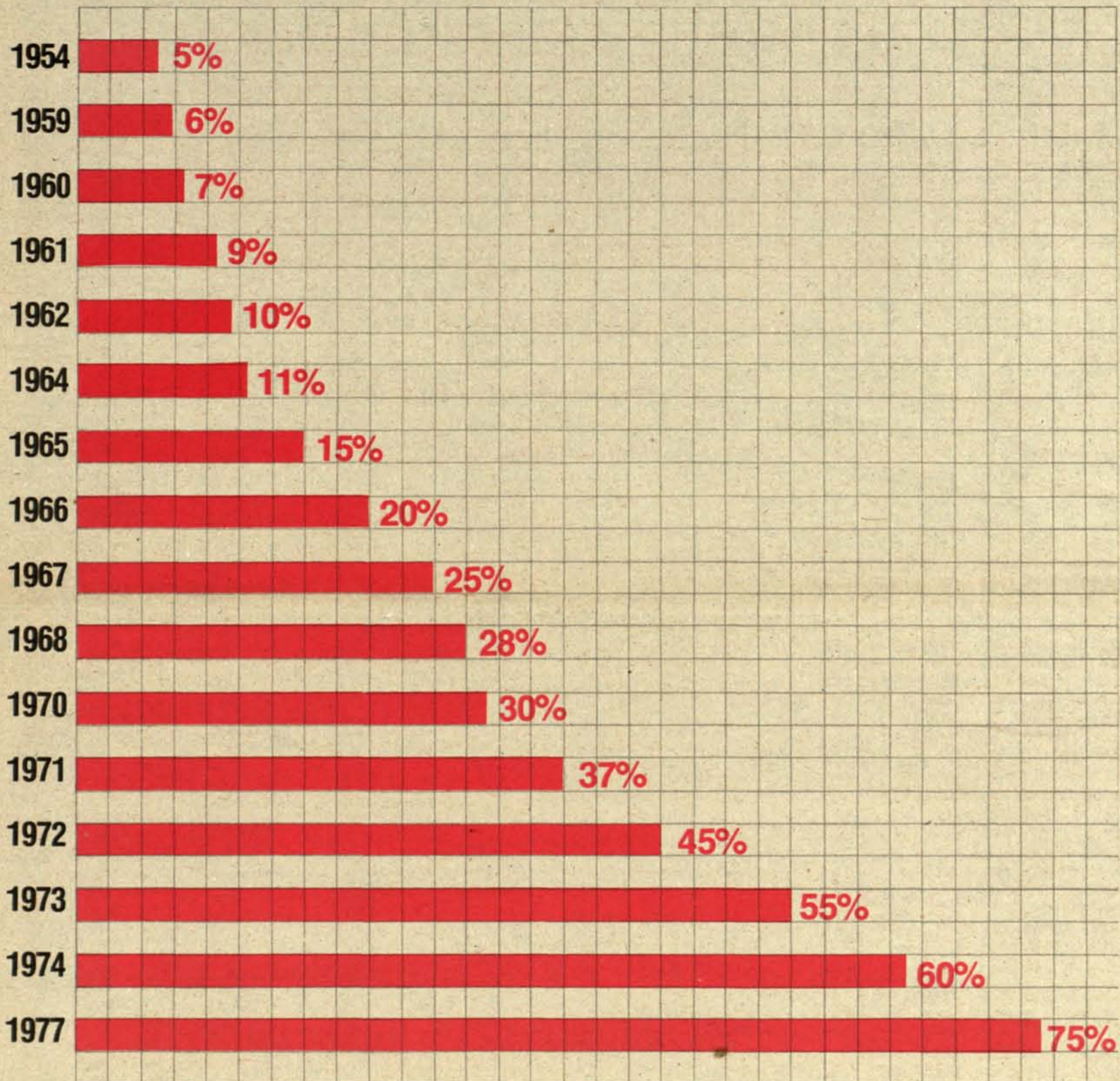
If you are traveling to Houston by transportation other than the charters or tours mentioned above, please state what nights you will want your room for.

Mail this reservation form and deposit check to:

Kenneth P. Wiles  
 Michigan Farm Bureau  
 P.O. Box 30960  
 Lansing, Michigan 48909  
 Make checks payable to: Michigan Farm Bureau



# 16th CHARTER LIFE DIVIDEND INCREASE



## COMBINED REGULAR AND SPECIAL DIVIDENDS RETURN UP TO 120% OF ANNUAL PREMIUM

Back in 1951, a handshake and a promise created Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan. The handshake sealed a pact and pledge between Farm Bureau Members and the employees and agents of fledgling Farm Bureau Life.

The pact was a Charter Life policy issued to members, their children and grandchildren.

The pledge was strong investment returns for Charter Life policyholders.

The 16th special Charter Life dividend increase . . . 75% of original annual premium . . . becomes effective September 20.

For most Charter Life policies total dividends now exceed annual premium by a minimum of 9.5% up to a 20% maximum. The pledge is being fulfilled. And Charter Life policyholders are reaping the benefits.

**FARM BUREAU  
INSURANCE  
GROUP**



**DEPENDABILITY . . .  
A FARM BUREAU LIFE HALLMARK.**

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