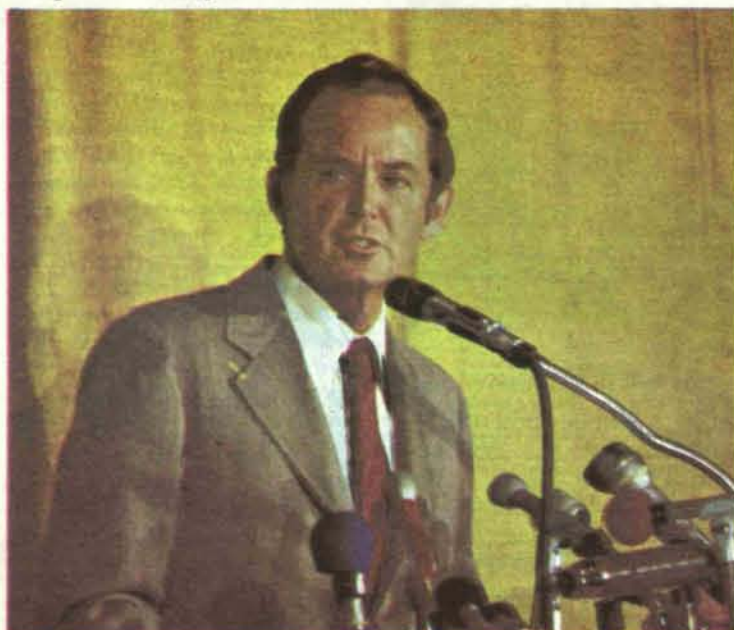


MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

58th ANNUAL MEETING



Ronald Wood and his wife, Neva, Mason County dairy and cash crop farmers, following announcement that he had been named "Distinguished Young Farmer." During the annual meeting, Wood was also elected to the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative board of directors. Runner-up in the "Distinguished Young Farmer" contest was Richard Beck of Ogemaw County.



Delegates applauded Governor Milliken's remarks on the Single Business Tax exemption and the MSU Soil Science building -- but did not agree with his thoughts on appointment of the Director of Agriculture by the Governor (See policy on Page 12).

Making Your Voice Heard

Voting delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting adopted policies which will guide their organization in the year ahead. A special section -- Page 11 through 19 -- contains these policies.

Cheboygan Makes Goal!

Cheboygan County Farm Bureau is the first county to report 1978 membership goal, reporting to the state office on December 5, 1977.

Congratulations to membership chairman Paul Koviak and all Cheboygan County workers.

The 1977-78 membership campaign began on September 1, 1977.

Michigan Farm News

Michigan Farm Bureau's

ACTION

Publication

VOL. 57, NO. 1

FARM BUREAU

JANUARY, 1978

President Calls for Freedom for Farmers

Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, addressed delegates of the organization's annual meeting at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids on December 1. The Caledonia dairy farmer called for freedom for farmers -- freedom from government intervention in the marketplace, freedom from labor monopoly, freedom to produce and export agricultural products.

"As farmers we have seen the market system work," he said. "Throughout history the times that our system has been rendered ineffective is when government action has interfered."

The Farm Bureau president criticized President Carter's energy proposals as an example of government interference in the marketplace. "It is little short of incredible that the White House would have designed an energy policy that would further discourage U.S. energy production," he said. "The administration's policy has been dominated -- not by the need to produce energy -- but by the desire to keep oil companies from making profits."

He called the government policy "misleading and

dangerous propaganda" and added, "how can investors be enticed to invest money in an industry that stands no chance of making a profit? Isn't this a capitalistic system in which we live? Since when is profit a dirty word?"

Smith also attacked labor monopoly power, charging that union practices contributed to lagging U.S. labor productivity. Unionized industry, he said, is "harnessed with featherbedding, jurisdictional disputes and many other problems." On the other hand, he added, "one of the reasons that agriculture has gained efficiency so rapidly is because farmers are an excellent example of the competitive enterprise system. With some 97 percent of the farms in this country being family operations, the owners-operators have the incentive to be efficient."

He criticized a labor-backed effort to pass cargo-preference legislation. "One proposal would have required that up to 20 percent of all liquid petroleum products coming into this country be carried on U.S. vessels. While the proposed legislation only dealt with petroleum, that would have been a toe in the door. Grain exports could

have been next. Right now grain can be shipped from a Gulf port to Egypt for 14 dollars a ton."

Smith also pointed out that another union action, the recent longshoremen's strike, "had a negative effect on this country's balance of trade. It depressed prices paid for grain to farmers. It encouraged buyers to look to other nations where they knew the product will be loaded on ships."

But the Farm Bureau president also added that he "was not critical of attempts by workers to better themselves through unionization. I am critical of attempts by labor unions to achieve monopoly power. Monopoly power by any group is dangerous to this nation."

Smith acknowledged that net farm income is at near "depression levels." But he also warned that government support payments, subsidies and controls "grant temporary relief", and are not a long range solution. "The answer lies in selling our products," he said.

"American agriculture has proven its ability to produce, its ability to compete." He pointed out that last year agricultural exports reached

(Continued on Page 20)



*From
the Desk
of
The
President*

Labor "Reform" Bill is Threat to Farmers

One of the most critical issues facing farmers in this new year is the so-called reform bill to rewrite the National Labor Relations Act. Still stinging from their failure on common situs picketing, organized labor has passage of this bill as their top priority. Add to this, strong support by the administration, and farmers have the challenge of putting forth even more effort than they did toward defeat of common situs!

Even though farmers are not yet directly involved with the Act, and the Senate bill does not propose to remove the agricultural exemption, let's remember that labor now gets more than farmers from every dollar consumers spend for food. If this bill is passed, the labor monopoly could very well move next to remove the agricultural exemption - and campaign again to repeal the right of states to enact the right-to-work laws which outlaw compulsory union membership.

Specifically, the bill (S. 1883) would make it easier for unions to force an election to coerce workers into voting for the union. On call of union leaders, such elections would have to be held within 15 days. It would violate property rights and stifle the freedom of speech of employers. The bill would allow union organizers to gain access to employees during working hours if the employer, in any way, communicates with the employees about the question of union representation.

It would place more decision-making in the hands of lower administrative ranks of the Labor Relations Board, making it easier for the unions to press charges of unfair labor practices. It would increase the size of the Board from five to seven, giving unions the opportunity to influence the appointment of the two additional members.

The bill would make it more difficult and much slower to get a vote by workers who are already unionized, on the question of throwing out the union. For the first time, it would involve the Board in punitive actions, which in the past have been left to the courts. For example, the Board could require an employer to - not only pay a worker back pay where unfair labor practices have been proven - but double pay and payment for all expenses involved.

Sharing our concern regarding this bill is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The organization's labor relations chairman, Robert Thompson, has charged that the bill would result in a government-supported program to unionize non-union workers in this country, with farm workers a prime target. A former general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, Peter Nash, recently warned that the penalties proposed for employers who violate the "reform" law would be harsh and unwarranted, particularly for small businessmen who operate on a slight profit margin.

We cannot sit by and wait until these predictions prove true before we act! That will be too late; organized labor's growing monopoly powers will have a grip on our industry that will spell ruin for American agriculture. NOW is the time to write to your two U.S. Senators, urging defeat of S. 1883. Don't delay -- do it today!

Elton R. Smith

Bulletin

Each year the Natural Resources Commission elects from among its members a person to serve as Chairman for the coming calendar year. At its December 1977 meet-

ing, Dean Pridgeon was elected Chairman for 1978. This makes Dean not only the first full-time farmer to ever serve on the Commission, but also to serve as Chairman.



"I'M GOING TO ASK THE FARM BUREAU TO INVESTIGATE... FRANKLY, I'M WORRIED..."

Farmer-to-Farmer:

"This is Why I Belong..."

(Editor's Note: In the November issue of FARM NEWS, Sanilac County sod farmer, Wallace Huggett, was featured in a story, "Where Does Enforcement End and Harrassment Begin?" It told of his experiences with the Air Pollution Control Commission of the Department of Natural Resources, its determination that Huggett's pelleting enterprise was a "pollution source" and orders to "cease and desist" operation. Following a recent hearing, the Commission voted in Huggett's favor. Here Wally shares his thoughts on the value of Farm Bureau membership.)

I have been a member of Farm Bureau for some 12 years now, but it wasn't until this past summer that we realized the full value of Farm Bureau membership services. It was during this time that my dehydration operation on my sod farm came under scrutiny and was enjoined from operation by the Air Quality Division of the DNR.

Who does one turn to when you are right - but up against "Big Brother"? My state representative, Quincy Hoffman, and good neighbors were most supportive, of course. But it was Farm Bureau's Public Affairs Division, under Al Almy, Ron Nelson and staff, that also came forward to offer the assistance in coordinating, organizing and testifying in my behalf before the Air Pollution Control Commission.

Without Farm Bureau's expertise and articulate testimony before the commission, along with that of Rep. Hoffman and my neigh-



Wally Huggett

bors, I would be forced out of business. The Air Pollution Control Commission, after hearing the testimony of all concerned, voted in my favor.

I strongly suggest that considering the dwindling number of farm operations and growing number of "Big Brother" operations - Farm Bureau membership is imperative.

Wallace Huggett



"Roots"

One of the lessons I've learned through my years of working for farmers is that you have to remain flexible. Policies change, attitudes change, priorities change - and the people who are hired to do a particular job for farmers must be able to adapt to those changes.

When I came back home to Farm Bureau about six years ago, the accent was on changing the public image of the farmer from a bib-overalled, straw-hatted, straw-chewing character with a red kerchief around his neck... into a business-suited, knowledgeable, articulate professional. It was a matter, really, of the public image, which had been reinforced by cartoonists and movie-makers through the years, catching up with the changes that had taken place so rapidly in the agricultural industry. With the help of farm men and women who were aware that the impact their public image had went far beyond the playground heckle of "dumb farmer," we did a pretty good job.

So... would we dare be so bold as to suggest that farmers get out their bibs and leave their tuckers behind for a special annual meeting event? Would we dare, for one night, put the red kerchief back around the farmer's neck? To be perfectly honest, we didn't know how acceptable a corny, hee-haw type, let's - all - have - a - good - time Jamboree would be. The sound you heard, when delegates said "It is good" the following day, was not the winter wind whipping around the Civic Auditorium; it was a collective sigh of relief from the idea-manufacturers.

Perhaps it wouldn't have been an acceptable idea a few years ago, while farmers were still adjusting the ties on their new image. But with self-confidence and self-satisfaction comes Class (with a capital C), a not-so-quiet pride in heritage, and a more aggressive sharing of basic philosophy.

Straw sprayed with fire retardant (a must at the Civic Auditorium) doesn't make for good chewing, but manure-kickers sure make for good dancing!

Renew Your

Farm Bureau

Dues Today

For Philosophical, Economic, Legal Reasons.

MFB Cannot Support Farmers' Strike

(Editor's Note: Frustrated by low farm prices, a group of farmers have formed a loosely-knit, Colorado-based organization called "American Agriculture." On Saturday, December 10, in several cities of the nation, including Lansing, the group formed "tractorcades" to present their demands of 100 percent parity at state capitols. If their demands were not met, group spokesmen said, farmers would "strike," - that is, they would not sell or produce any agricultural products or buy any agricultural equipment, production supplies or any non-essential items. A nationwide strike was set for December 14.

As this publication goes to press, demonstrations continued in various parts of the nation. However, no estimates of farmer-participation were available and no visible economic impact could be reported at this writing.)

Voting delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Grand Rapids December 2 refused to adopt a resolution which would have put their organization on record as opposing the farmers' strike. They did, however, support a statement by their president, Elton R. Smith, outlining the reasons why the organization believed a strike was not the answer to low farm incomes:

"There is no doubt that farmers need better prices and improved farm incomes. We do not, however, agree that a strike is the answer. We believe a strike would cause even more economic distress for agriculture. Refusal to produce or sell won't help the farmer meet his debt payment or provide income for his family. And it could have the same devastating effect on our foreign customer markets as past, ill-advised export embargoes.

"Both agriculture and consumers will suffer from a farmers' strike. We sympathize with the goals of the group called American Agriculture, but to achieve the goal of 100 percent of parity prices, farmers would be subjected to strict production controls.

"Another reason we - as an organization - are against strike action is that our involvement would make us open to civil, criminal and class action suits for violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Capper - Volstead Act. Farm organizations do not have the luxury of an exemption from the Sherman Anti-Trust Act

that organized labor does. This exemption permits labor unions to strike, to picket, and in some instances to boycott. That exemption, which they use - and occasionally use ruthlessly - is not afforded to agriculture, or to any group or organization."

At a press conference in Grand Rapids, and later during on-farm interviews, Farm Bureau leaders explained to newsmen that the organization would not support the strike for philosophical and economic reasons and could not become involved in it for legal reasons. Basically, these reasons are:

1. 100 percent of parity would price U.S. farmers out of world markets. With production from one out of every four acres being sold abroad, farmers cannot afford to lose these markets. In fact, they should be expanded to improve prices.
2. 100 percent of parity would require increased government interference in agriculture by imposing

quotas, allotments and other measures generally distasteful to farmers.

3. 100 percent of parity would require farm subsidies that would arouse consumers and taxpayers to demand action that would be devastating to agriculture.

4. A strike in agriculture is not economically sound.

Fixed costs continue. The product has to be stored, which costs money. Animals, unlike machinery, can't be shut off. Milking and feeding must continue.

5. Farm Bureau cannot support and actively engage in strike action because it is not exempt from the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.



(From left) Michael Pridgeon, Montgomery; Elton Smith, Caledonia, and Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca, tell news people at a press conference during the MFB annual meeting, that as farmers they do not believe a strike in agriculture is the answer to low farm prices.

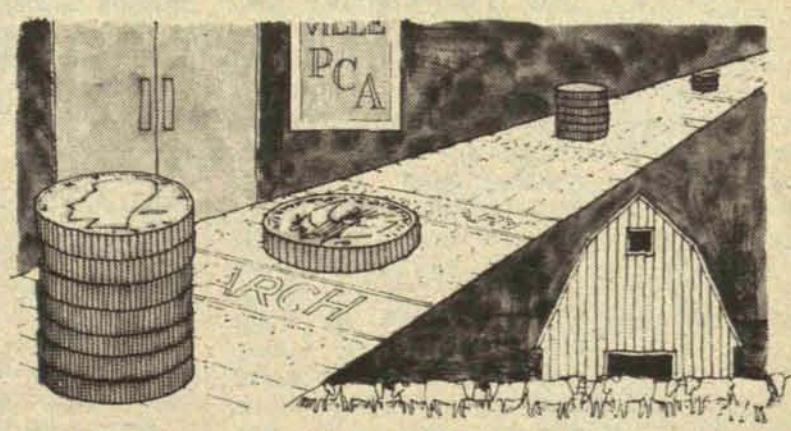


Farmers advocating a national farm strike if demands for 100 percent parity are not met, gather at the state capitol, under the "American Agriculture" banner, on December 10.



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MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

Farmers Exempted from Single Business Tax



Lansing

"X Disease"

H 5402, controlling "X Disease" in fruit, mostly peach and cherry trees, is making progress. The chokecherry bush harbors several species of leafhoppers which are carriers of the disease that can ruin peach and cherry trees. The legislation provides for destruction of chokecherry bushes that are close enough to endanger an orchard.

PBB Amendments

As previously reported, HCR 498 would have increased the payment to dairy farmers from \$10 to \$30 per animal and would also have reimbursed the farmer for any cull cow that might die or be reduced in value due to the waiting period after the biopsy. It further provided that farmers would be permitted to bury up to five animals on their own property if contaminated above the 20 parts per billion limit. The resolution passed the House, but was stopped in the Senate, as it was ruled that a resolution cannot change an enacted law. Representative Porter has introduced H 5811, to amend the Act to include some of these provisions.

Property Tax Relief Reminder

Taxpayers have now received their property tax statements. In most cases, they are higher than last year. Everyone should remember that Michigan has a "circuit breaker" program which bases property tax on income. The program applies to farmland as well as to the household. The tax rebate is 60 percent of the difference between 3½ percent of the household income and the property tax. In the case of senior citizens over 65, the rebate is even more liberal, being 100 percent of the difference between a percentage of income and the amount of the property tax. A sliding seal is involved. The total refund in each case is limited to not more than \$1,200.

Soil Surveys

HB 4080 has now been signed into law (PA 268). It requires the Department of Agriculture to make soil surveys on some three million acres of land over the next 10 years. This reduces the present timetable to accomplish soil surveys and will result in an inventory of all Michigan land.

On Thursday, December 15, Governor Milliken signed into law S.B. 734 which made numerous amendments to the Single Business Tax Act. The most important to farmers was the total exemption from the tax. The language in the bill exempting agriculture is as follows: "That portion of the tax base attributable to the production of agricultural goods by a person whose primary activity is the production of agricultural goods. 'Production of agricultural goods' means commercial farming including, but not limited to, cultivation of the soil, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, horticultural or floricultural commodity, dairying, raising of livestock, bees, fish, fur-bearing animals or poultry, or turf or tree farming, but not including the marketing at retail of agricultural goods." The bill has "immediate effect" and takes effect for all tax years "beginning after December 31, 1976." This means that the legislation also affects 1977 taxes. Farmers or others affected by the changes who have made payments on their anticipated 1977 tax will have those payments refunded.

The legislation also makes numerous changes that will be helpful to other kinds of



Governor William G. Milliken signed the Single Business Tax legislation on December 15. Looking on are members of the House-Senate Conference Committee: (left to right) Rep. George Montgomery, chairman, House Taxation Committee;

Rep. Martin Buth, Rep. Mary Brown, Senator Harry DeMaso and Senator Patrick McCollough, chairman, Senate Finance Committee. The bill, among other things, exempts agriculture.

small businesses. For example, small businesses with gross receipts of less than \$3 million will be eligible for a special formula that can cut their tax up to 50 percent.

The first bill to pass the Legislature was HB 4633, which contained the agricultural exemption. The Senate passed SB 734, an entirely different concept and

sent it to the House. The House then amended the Senate bill by substituting all of the House language. The Senate then rejected the House language substitution in SB 734 and the issue went to a Conference Committee. SB 734 is the bill that finally passed but contains most all of the House version including the agricultural

exemption.

Farm Bureau has been very active on the Single Business Tax legislation and supported the agricultural exemption. Farm Bureau has also been represented on the Governor's Single Business Tax Task Force and on other committees or coalitions concerned with this issue.

Transportation Funding is Complex Issue

For many years, Farm Bureau policy has strongly supported "user taxes" such as gasoline and weight taxes, to be used for the construction and maintenance of highways. When originally passed, this concept removed a tremendous burden from the property tax. The Constitution earmarked such funds for "highway purposes".

Over a year ago, it was proposed in the Legislature to create a "single transportation fund" that would be permitted to take money from the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and use it for other modes of public transportation such as mass transit, dial-a-ride, buses, non-motorized transportation, (bicycle paths), water and air transportation, etc.

Since that time, this issue has been highly controversial and Farm Bureau helped organize a Balanced Transportation Forum which includes such organizations as the townships, counties, county road associations, and

the Truckers' Association, to name a few. All groups were intent on maintaining the Motor Vehicle Fund and were opposed to fund diversion. The Michigan Supreme Court, however, delivered an unexpected blow when it ruled that highways could be interpreted by the Legislature as being any mode of transportation such as public transportation, water, air, etc. This effectively eliminated the protection of the Michigan Constitution.

Highways, especially county and local roads, are in desperate need of additional revenues even to just maintain present services. An agreement presently under consideration would maintain the Motor Vehicle Fund and increase revenues by increasing the gas tax 2 cents per gallon and the weight tax by 25-30 percent. Most of these additional revenues would be available to highways and county and local roads. Some would be diverted to public transportation.

Local bridges would be helped considerably by

raising the State contribution from the present \$1,000,000 up to \$5,000,000. The State's share of the total highway funds would be reduced from 44.5 percent down to 41.8 percent. The counties' share would be increased from the present 35.7 percent up to 37.4 percent. The cities' share would be increased from 19.8 percent to 20.8 percent. Four percent of the counties' share would be mandated for local roads. This is a 45 percent increase over the amount presently used for local roads.

A separate fund for public transportation would be created primarily from approximately 25 percent of the sales tax revenues that come from the tax on motor vehicle related items such as tires, batteries, repairs, etc.

In addition, the Forum would support constitutional amendments on the ballot in 1978 to guarantee in the Constitution that not less than 90 percent of the Motor Vehicle Fund would be earmarked for highways, roads and streets, and that up to 10 percent could be used for public transportation. The

amendment would also include earmarking a percentage of the sales tax from vehicle-related sales for the public transportation fund.

This has proved to be a very complex issue and even if agreement is reached, it will be most controversial as the legislation reaches the House and Senate.

Bottle Act Amendment

HB 5441 (PA270) has been approved amending the "ban on bottles" law which was passed by the voters in 1976 and will take effect in 1978. The amendment provides that refundable beverage containers having a refund value of at least 10 cents with a permanent marked brand name need not be further marked with a refund value and the state name. This assures that bottles such as Pepsi, Coke, etc., will come under the ban and at the same time will eliminate the costly need for those companies to replace all bottles.

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Improving Federal Government--A Status Report



Every farmer is painfully aware of the growing paperwork and regulations with which he must comply to avoid confrontation with the Federal government. Currently, there are about 70,000 pages of federal regulations that if packed together on one bookshelf would take up about 15 feet of space. A Federal Commission on Paperwork estimates that private and public sectors spend more than \$100 billion annually on paperwork - equivalent to about \$500 per citizen.

In his 1976 presidential campaign, President Carter promised to make federal government more productive, efficient and responsive. He also pledged to reduce the number of federal agencies, boards and commissions to no more than 200.

Reorganization was cited by the President as a tool to help achieve a more efficient government. By December 1977, three reorganization plans had been presented to Congress and approved. The first, to reduce the number of units and total staff within the Executive Office of the

President, took effect in October. The second, combined the U.S. Information Agency and the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs into a new organization entitled the International Communications Agency. The third, created a new Department of Energy which pulled several energy agencies together into one Cabinet-level department of 20,000 employees.

In terms of reducing the size or cost of the federal government, however, these three reorganization efforts have accomplished little. Only 1 percent of the 2.8 million Executive Branch workers are affected. However, it should be noted the President has promised that no federal worker would be fired because of reorganization. Any substantial reduction in the government work-force will come through attrition.

Perhaps more significant results in creating a more efficient and responsive government can be observed

in two separate additional actions.

First, since February the number of federal advisory committees has been reduced 40 percent from 1,189 to 709. Among the groups terminated were the Condor Advisory Committee, Board of Tea Experts and the National Peanut Advisory Committee. This reduction includes 78 of 110 advisory committees to the U.S.D.A. which represents a 71 percent reduction and the largest for any single segment of federal government.

The second significant action is an Executive Order issued by the President in November requiring that Federal regulations be as effective, reasonable and understandable as possible. All too often, regulations are written in technical or legalistic terms not understood by those who must comply with them.

To implement the requirement for effective, reasonable and understandable regulations, a

reform process by which agencies develop their regulations has been proposed for public comment. The process would require all Federal departments and agencies to:

1. Prepare regulations as simple and clear as possible. They should not impose unnecessary burdens on the economy, on individuals, or public or private organizations, or on State and local governments.

2. Determine which regulations are significant with consideration given to several factors including reporting requirements involved, number of people or groups affected, type and number of businesses affected and the impact on competition.

3. Publish each January and July in the Federal Register an agenda, brief description of subject areas for which significant regulations are being considered and name and telephone number of a knowledgeable agency of-

ficial to contact for information.

4. Prepare a regulatory analysis for significant regulations which may have major impacts on the general economy, individual industries, segments of the population or levels of government.

5. Review existing regulations to determine whether the steps summarized above are achieved.

Farm Bureau policy strongly supports the direction these efforts would provide towards initial regulatory reform and improved efficiency of federal government. Hopefully, the effort will go beyond these beginning steps to provide even greater results. But first federal government had to recognize the problem, and that has been accomplished.

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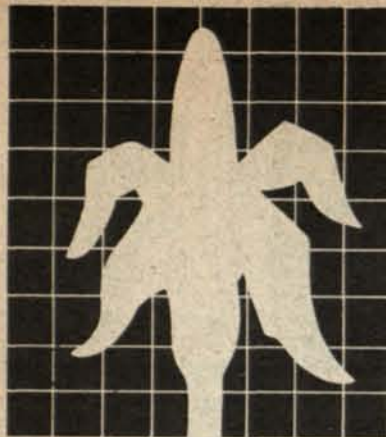
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Soybean Day Taking Shape

Circle your calendar! MARCH 7, 1978 is the day for SOYBEAN DAY VI. This year's annual event will be held in the beautiful new Sheraton Inn, Jackson, Michigan. Last year's Soybean Day drew over two hundred soybean producers from across the state.

There will again be speakers on hand to discuss various phases of soybean production and marketing. A full slate of seed, chemical, and irrigation equipment companies will also be on hand with exhibits and representatives to discuss your production problems and needs with you.

Jim Gill, Market Analyst for the Illinois Agricultural Association, will be the featured speaker. Jim will discuss how to market your soybeans in 1978. His accurate and penetrating analysis has won him national acclaim.

The only cost for the day long event will be a nominal charge for the noon luncheon. It promises to be bigger and better than ever. So don't miss it!

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, Director
Market Development &
Research Division

Oh, Those Delicious Cherries!



State Representative Connie Binsfeld (R-Maple City) presents Governor William Milliken with a new, cherry-red cookbook, *150 Cherry Recipes*, compiled by the National Cherry Festival. The recipes in the book were compiled after three years of collecting, testing selecting and rewriting the best cherry recipes the committee could find. Governor Milliken is no stranger to the delights of Michigan's cherries, of course, himself being a resident of the Grand Traverse Bay Area, long acknowledged as the ideal climate for producing cherries. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the cookbook should contact the National Cherry Festival, Box 141, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Marketing Outlook



Michigan Wine Sales Decline

Here is something for you wine grape growers to think about during those cold afternoons trimming in your vineyards.

While total United States wine sales continue to increase . . . the sales of Michigan produced wines lose markets. In fact, Michigan wineries sold twice as much wine in Michigan in 1964 than they do today.

There are several reasons why we lose sales when other wines boom. Changing consumer tastes and the availability of competitively priced and expertly promoted California and imported wines have satisfied the wine buying public's demand for drier table wine. Consumers can identify with the quality of west coast or imported wines. This so called

"quality" must also be in the mind of the drinker. If Michigan wines could convey this same image of quality then we could expect to increase sales and therefore create more demand for Michigan grapes.

The advent of French hybrid grapes and several relatively new premium wineries in southwestern and northwestern Michigan have done much to change the image of Michigan wines. But, they can't do the job alone. It appears that the time is now for the growers and wineries to unite forces and tackle the job of promoting Michigan wines. Ken Nye, Horticultural Marketing Specialist
Market Development &
Research Division

Vegetable Growers' Convention Set for January 24-26

The 11th annual Great Lakes Vegetable Convention, sponsored by the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service and the Michigan Vegetable Council, Inc., will be held January 24-26 at the Lansing Civic Center.

The three-day convention will feature some 20 educational sessions on crop

production, research and marketing and over 100 manufacturers of production equipment, agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, packages and other items related to vegetable production will be displayed.

The displays and educational sessions will all be open to the public. The trade show will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the educational programs will be run daily from midmorning to midafternoon.

Brand Re-Appointed

Gov. William G. Milliken Thursday announced the reappointment of Barry D. Brand of Sparta to the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board for a term expiring September 1, 1981.

The reappointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

Brand, Editor-Publisher of The Great Lakes Publishing Company, was first appointed to the bipartisan board in 1973 and serves as a Republican member. He resides at 153 King Blvd.

As a publisher of food, fruit, vegetable and various agricultural periodicals, he is familiar with many aspects of the farming and food industries. In 1978, he was awarded the Michigan Agricultural Development Award of the Year.

Members Re-Appointed

Gov. William G. Milliken announced the reappointment of Bernard M. Neuenfeldt, 13150 Geddes Rd., Hemlock, and John S. Pajtas, Sr., 4141 E. Copas Rd., Owosso, to the Michigan Soybean Committee for terms expiring September 23, 1980. Both reappointments are subject to Senate confirmation.

Neuenfeldt, a farmer, was first appointed in 1976. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the County Farm Bureau, State Farm Bureau Soybean Advisory Committee and recipient of the 1975 Conservation District Achievement Award and the Goodyear Conservation Award for Accomplishments in resource conservation.

Pajtas, a farmer, was first appointed in 1976. He is a member of the American and Michigan Farm Bureau Soybean Advisory Committees, Shiawassee County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and present vice-chairman of the Michigan Soybean Committee. A former township supervisor, he is presently serving as chairman of the Caledonia Township Zoning Board.

MSU Corn Symposium

Michigan State University's 1978 Corn Symposium will be held January 4-5 at Mt. Pleasant.

Being held in Central Michigan University's Warriner Auditorium, the two-day educational session will cover cultural, marketing and utilization of the crop. More than 100 commercial exhibitors will have corn production displays.

Crop and marketing specialists from MSU, Purdue, University of Wisconsin, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, U.S. Soil Conservation Service and Michigan agribusiness organizations are among the featured speakers.

Educational programs on the first day will deal with cultural practices such as guidelines for weed problems, soil erosion and efficient fertilizer application; and the second day will deal with marketing and utilization of corn by animals.

Livestock Prices for 1978

Profitability in livestock production still seems a little dim at the present time, with the possible exception of cow-calf producers. Profits for our livestock producers in 1978 will depend largely on higher livestock prices not necessarily low feed grain prices. Indications now are that next year's hog prices will be lower, fed cattle prices will rise only slightly, but feeder cattle could show a modest increase.

The fed beef supplies will continue to be large well into 1978, primarily because placements of cattle on feed during the last half of this year have swelled. However, the increase in fed beef supplies may not be sufficient to offset reductions in non-fed beef and therefore, total beef output for the first half of 1978 probably will be down from a year earlier.

Let's look at the broilers and hogs - the year-to-year increase in pork production may be near 10 percent but more moderate increases in broiler production are likely.

Prices for choice steers at the Omaha market may average near \$40 per 100 pounds during the first half of 1978, about the same as a year ago. Slaughter hog prices may slip \$5 to \$6 from previous years average of \$40 per hundred pounds and if reported farrowing increases for the fall quarter are realized, the increase in April-June hog slaughter probably will exceed the 10 percent figure.

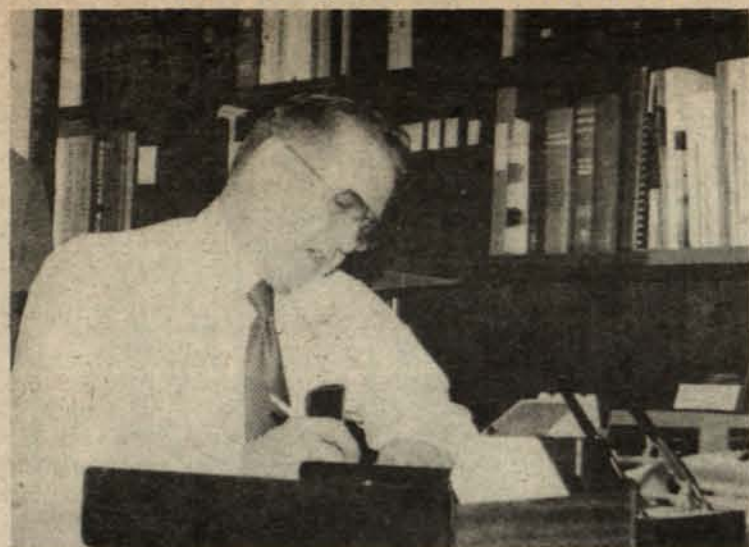
Jack Anderson
Livestock Marketing
Specialist
Market Development &
Research Division

Looking Ahead in the Cattle Industry

Looking at 1978 and beyond is tied very closely to where we are in the so-called cattle cycle; the liquidation phase is ending and a turn around is in view.

The cattle inventory will be down in 1978 to near 118 million head. Price trend will be up in the years ahead with some breaks caused by launching of marketings. Cow calf operators will have better times in the near future. By 1980 choice weaned calves could easily hit 60 cents.

U.S. District Court Ruling Impetus for Tenancy Act Amendment



Despite a busy pre-Holiday legislative schedule, Representative Bela E. Kennedy (R-Bangor) finds an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendment to Michigan's Tenancy Act with a grower-constituent.

Mechanical harvesting of many fruit and vegetable crops in Michigan has eliminated the need for seasonal, migrant labor. One of the compelling reasons behind this widespread change to mechanical harvesters has been the problems encountered as a result of rules, regulations and standard for minimum wage, employer liability and migrant housing.

These concerns are felt throughout the agricultural industry, but often have been intensified in the unique

employment relationship between grower and migrant laborers. By and large, growers who continue to use migrant labor for harvesting such perishable crops as pickles and strawberries have complied with the provisions of migrant labor laws, minimum wage and safety and health standards. Although periodic problems do arise, crops are harvested with relatively few major incidents.

However, a recent U.S. District Court decision has determined that an

agricultural worker living in a building provided by his employer as a residence for agricultural employees is considered to be a "tenant" as defined in the Michigan Tenancy Act. Because of this precedent, the "tenant" must be afforded the same rights a tenant in the usual "landlord-tenant" relationship would receive prior to eviction. Under this interpretation agricultural employers may, in effect, be required to provide free housing and utilities until a writ of eviction is issued by the District Court. In addition, any attempt on the part of the property owner to secure possession of the property may result in fines and damages to be paid to the "tenant" despite the fact that he is no longer providing agreed-upon agricultural labor services.

In response to this District Court action, Representative Bela E. Kennedy (R-Bangor) has introduced an amendment to section 2918 of the Tenancy Act (P.A. 236 of 1961) which would exempt agriculture from the law. The amendment does not, in any way, exempt the agricultural employer from submitting to health and safety inspections, but does allow the employer to regain possession of the

housing facility when the labor services of the agricultural employee have been terminated.

According to Representative Kennedy, the work-related housing problems have not been limited to migrant labor camps. "Some dairymen have come to me with similar problems," says Kennedy. "The employee becomes disgruntled with the hours that must be spent on a dairy farm and so takes employment somewhere else . . . that's one problem, but a more immediate problem is that in some cases, the farm owner cannot get the former employee out of the housing".

"I think the amendment, as introduced, is broad enough to cover each of these contingencies and that the Attorney General's Office should be able to write effective rules and regulations based upon the proposed wording", continued Kennedy.

INTERVIEW



The amendment, as introduced, provides:

"THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO IS FURNISHED HOUSING FOR A NOMINAL CHARGE AS PART OF AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES HARVESTING CROPS, LABORING IN THE FIELDS, OR RELATED AGRICULTURAL WORK IF THE PERSON IS PAID THE SAME WAGE AS OTHER PERSONS WHO DO NOT RESIDE IN HOUSING WHICH IS FURNISHED ON OR NEAR THE PREMISES".

"I have been interested in this section of the Tenancy Act for quite a while, but the recent District Court ruling provided the impetus for the proposed amendment," said Kennedy.

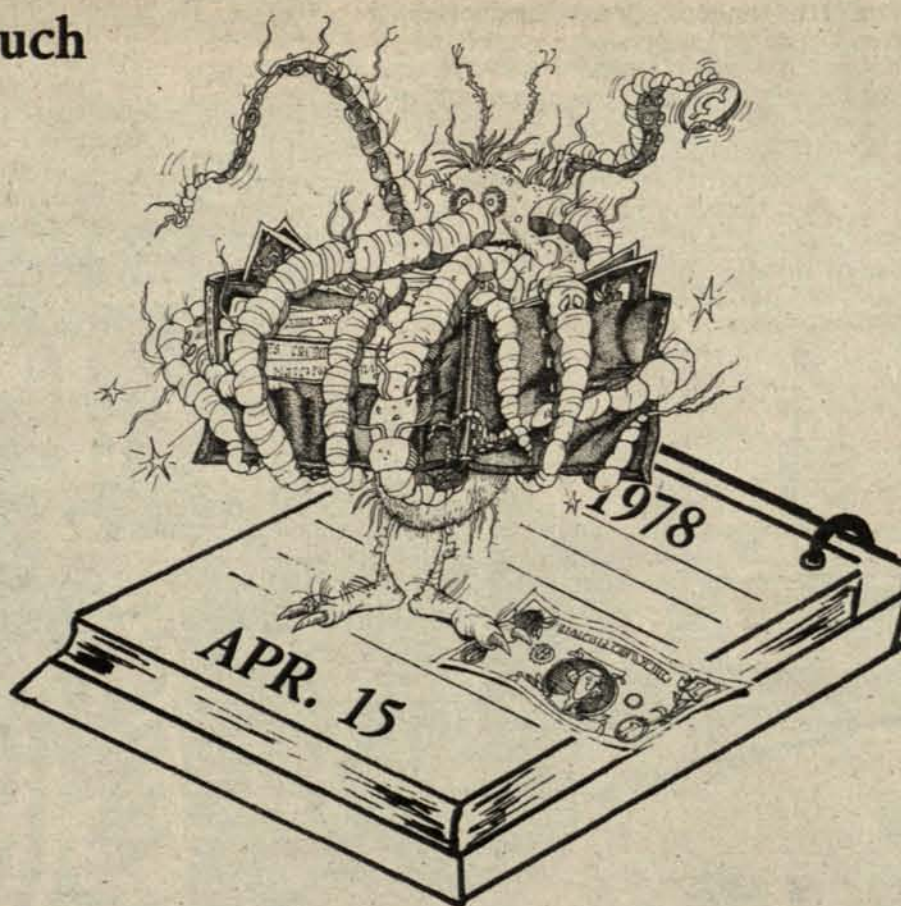
"There are many good workers who come to Michigan each year and they are needed for some harvests which are not yet mechanized. In part because of the potential for abuse that exists under section 2918 of the Act, eventually the few remaining crops will also be harvested mechanically and (Continued on Page 27)

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ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE

Annual Meeting Program Highlights

Membership Managers, County Presidents Honored

President's Trophy and "Fabulous 15" award - winners were in the spotlight at the combined County Presidents' and Membership Campaign Managers' 1977 banquet at the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids on November 29.

Robert S. Devaney, athletic director and former coach at the University of Nebraska, addressed the group. He said there are three essential elements for success in membership drives: (1) ability in selling and communicating, (2) willingness to work and learning from mistakes, and (3) putting forth extra effort. The third element, he said - extra effort - is "the difference between success and failure."

Formerly from the Saginaw area, Devaney described himself as "a total loss from Holy Cross" when he played backfield at Alma College. Not always known as "the winningest coach" in the



Robert Devaney

nation (101-20-2), Devaney recalled his first coaching job at Big Beaver High School, located north of Detroit - "We didn't lose all the time, just once a week." He also coached under Biggy Munn and Duffy Dougherty at Michigan State University before going to Nebraska.

Devaney told the county presidents and membership campaign managers that it is important to set realistic

goals, and not to "over coach" when conducting membership drives.

"You are, you might say, the backbone of agriculture, as promoters, pushers. . . you've done a great job," Devaney said of Farm Bureau members.

In closing said, "I salute you folks as champions hope you continue as such."

Listed below are the winners of the 1977 Presidents' Golden Award trophies and the Fabulous Fifteen. Presidents' Awards are given to counties that achieve goal, achieve target, and have the highest participation (by percent) in service to member programs. The Fabulous Fifteen are the first three counties in each size category to achieve goal. Genesee County was the first in the state for 1977.

Elton Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, presented the awards and extended his congratulations to the winners.



Pictured are members of the prestigious 1977 "Fabulous 15" with awards they received at the County Presidents' and Membership Campaign Managers' Banquet during the MFB annual meeting. Front row, left to right: Jim Vantine, Oakland (651-1200); Betty Traver, Ingham (1201-1500); Foster McCool, Kalkaska (1-350); Gerhardt Kernstock, Bay (1501-over), and Fran Motz, Clinton (1501-over). Second row, left to right: Frank Schwiderson, Chippewa (1-350); Richard Nelson, Ogemaw (351-650); Ivan Sparks, Saginaw (1501-over), and Paul Koviak, Cheboygan (351-650). Back row, left to right: William Ruhlig, Wayne (651-1200); Roy Shankel, Gratiot (1201-1500); Rachel and Elmer Michell, Osceola (351-650), and Ann Bogart, Isabella (615-1200).

MFB Honors Senator Zollar



Senator Zollar

Senator Charles O. Zollar (R-Benton Harbor) was honored for "distinguished service to agriculture" by the Michigan Farm Bureau at its annual meeting in Grand Rapids on December 1. The announcement was made during the annual banquet at the Civic Auditorium, with the presentation taking place a few weeks later at Zollar's home, where he is recuperating from illness.

Inclement weather, which has almost made a tradition of descending on Grand Rapids during Farm Bureau's four-day annual convention, prevented Senator Zollar's daughter from accepting the award for her hospitalized father as planned - and also kept the

evening's keynote speaker from making his appearance. Filling the spot, with little advance notice, were Dr. James Anderson, Dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Dan Reed, retired MFB secretary - manager and recipient of the organization's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award in 1970. In announcing Senator Zollar's award, President Elton R. Smith cited him as "a man of vision who has been directly involved in much legislation of service to agriculture."

Smith said Zollar's business experience, applied to state government, "has probably saved taxpayers of the state millions of dollars," and also credited him with passage of the Michigan Marketing and Bargaining Act. "He saw the need for a mechanism to allow farmers to have marketing tools to match their production costs. Thanks to Senator Zollar's efforts, the act was passed - the first of its kind in any state in the nation," Smith said.

Zollar owns and manages Zollar Fruit Farms, is president of Zollar Nurseries, Inc., and is founder and president of Aircraft Components, Inc., an aircraft parts manufacturing firm. He was elected to the Michigan Senate in 1964, 1966, 1970 and 1974. Zollar serves on the

Michigan Agriculture Commission and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Michigan Farm Bureau's distinguished service to agriculture award was initiated in 1965 and has been presented to those who have made exceptional contributions to agriculture. Nominations for the award are sought each year from county Farm Bureaus, agricultural cooperatives, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University.



A familiar figure, Dan E. Reed, retired MFB secretary-manager and 1970 recipient of the "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award, came to the rescue bad weather kept the scheduled keynote speaker from his appearance.



One county president in each of the five membership categories was honored at the County Presidents and Membership Campaign Managers' Banquet on November 29. Recipients of the 1977 Presidents' trophies were (left to right): H. Fred Long, Lenawee (1501-over); Gary Drodt (accepting for Robert Mathis), Monroe (1201-1500); Richard Nelson (accepting for Leon Rau), Ogemaw (351-650); Elmer Gowell, Oceana (651-1200), and John Kronmeyer, Chippewa (1-350).

OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!



District 6 Director Jack Laurie had to "grin and bear it" as he was awarded the "Golden Gutter" traveling trophy for the second consecutive month. Presenting the "award" at the County Presidents' and Membership Campaign Managers' Banquet November 29 in Grand Rapids was Charles Burkett, Director of the MFB Field Operations Division. The trophy is awarded each month to the director whose district is at the bottom in membership.

Agricultural Communicators Recognized for Helping Farmers Tell Their Story



Terry Henne, WSGW, Saginaw, farm broadcaster, accepts the MFB "Gold Mike" award from executive board member, Larry DeVuyst. Henne has worked closely with Saginaw area farmers to build rural-urban understanding through his broadcasts.

Two farm broadcasters and a newspaper reporter were honored as "Agricultural Communicators of the Year" by the Michigan Farm Bureau on Thursday, December 1, in Grand Rapids. The recognition took place during the organization's 58th annual meeting.

Terry Henne, farm broadcaster from WSGW radio, Saginaw, was named top communicator and received a "Gold Mike" award for his "year-round efforts to build bridges of understanding between farm and non-farm people."

Ross Woodstock, news broadcaster and announcer for WJRB radio, St. Johns, received the "Bronze Mike" award. Tom Stersic, a

reporter for the Kalamazoo Gazette, was awarded the Bronze Quill award. Both were cited "for their efforts to promote an understanding of farming."

The three news people were picked by judges from nominations submitted by county Farm Bureau units throughout the state. All nominees were recognized at the local level during the county Farm Bureau annual meetings in October.

In presenting the awards, Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca farmer who serves on the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors paid tribute to news media representatives who have helped farmers tell the story of agriculture to the non-farm public.

The emphasis of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, November 30, 1977 focused on the concerns of Michigan farm women as they discussed health and safety on the family farm, consumer understanding, legislative impact on the agricultural industry and adequate food supplies for the world community.

The keynote address, "Frontiers in Agricultural Research", presented by Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Director of the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station described the agricultural growth in the economically depressed Middle East countries, where through the application of agricultural research findings, yields of indigenous crops have been improved. Dr. Wittwer also told the women that the research carried on at the Experiment Station plays an important role in maintaining the high productivity and crop quality that has made Michigan competitive in domestic and world markets.

In her annual report,



Claudine Jackson (center), re-elected chairwoman of the MFB Women's Committee, is pictured with 1st vice-chairwoman Vivian Lott (right) and 2nd vice-chairwoman Faye Adam.

Women's Committee Chairman, Claudine Jackson, congratulated the women for their involvement in the activities of the state and county Farm Bureau organization, and cooperation with the programs sponsored by the Associated Country Women of the World, Church Women United and the Michigan State University Extension Service. She

challenged the women to continue their efforts to promote the story of agriculture through the Speaker's Bureau, mall displays and other rural-urban events, to take a leadership role in the Social Concerns Committees of their local churches and become active in organizations which seek to eliminate the problem of world hunger.



Young Dancers Steal Hearts

Youthful energy filled the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium as the Squaretappers from Muskegon performed during the Michigan Farm Bureau Jamboree. Delighted with their sparkling performance, members took up a collection -- netting \$400.00 -- to help finance the youngsters' visit to Russia. The Jamboree featured top county award winners' presentations, M.C.'d by MFB staff members Larry Ewing and Paul Kindinger, and a square dance, with music by the Bluegrass Extension Service.

"Farm Women Have Been Liberated for a Long Time"



Bonnie Carpenter (left), 1978 Outstanding Young Farm Woman, and Barbara Wood, runner-up, shared a moment of anticipation as they awaited the results of the OYFW contest.

According to the Michigan Farm Bureau's 1978 Outstanding Young Farm Woman, Mrs. Bonnie Carpenter, the role of farm wives has not been affected tremendously by the feminist movement of the 70's. "Farm women have been liberated for a long time", says the Branch County farm partner. She and husband, Arthur, are cash crop producers in the state's southern agricultural region, where the couple married and established a 300 acre farming operation.

"I participate as a full partner, working with my husband in all field operations, marketing and management procedures," continued the young farm wife, "and since I am an equal partner, I must be able to contribute my fair share of energy and work towards the success of our farm".

Bonnie reads farm magazines and periodicals to keep herself informed about

improved farm production and management practices. "I recently subscribed to the FARM WIFE magazine, but I can honestly say that is the only women's magazine we receive in our home". Local Farm Bureau Community Groups are also an important part of the Carpenters' efforts to be up-to-date on the issues which affect the agricultural industry, and provides the couple opportunities to share their opinions, concerns and social life with other young farmers in the area.

"I am especially concerned about the need to communicate effectively to the urban consumer that farmers are consumers, too. There is a lot of potential for understanding between the two groups," says Bonnie, "I have found through my involvement in the Farm Bureau Women's program and the Speaker's Bureau that the urban consumers -- especially women -- are eager

to learn and want to know more about the farmer's side of the food supply story."

"I believe that those engaged in agriculture are entitled to a fair and reasonable wage for their productivity. My family and I will not settle for the wages of the past farm generations. I believe it is time for today's farm generation to work towards this higher standard of living and to be proud of their occupation."

"The best way to accomplish these goals is through the free enterprise system and preservation of the family unit. My children say proudly, 'My Mom and Dad are farmers!' "

Bonnie Carpenter was selected for recognition as the Michigan Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farm Woman during the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, November 29 - December 2.

1978 MFB Resolutions

PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve education improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and nonsecret in character.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DELEGATES, 58th ANNUAL MEETING GRAND RAPIDS, NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 2, 1977

FOREWORD

Michigan Farm Bureau is the largest farm organization in the state. We are proud of that fact.

Being the largest farm organization carries with it the opportunity and responsibility of shaping the policies and programs that affect agriculture, the second largest industry in Michigan.

As farmers we will discuss and debate the issues that face us. We will agree on the best course of action to solve these issues. We pledge ourselves to support these decisions and to work for their implementation.

We have the responsibility of putting the total resources of our organization into the accomplishment of these policies. There are many resources within Farm Bureau, but the most important is its members, the people who belong.

Farmers are doers; they are workers. The evidence of that characteristic is clearly shown by the fact that one farmer today feeds himself and 60 other people.

Much time, effort and involvement has been spent in developing the thoughts and philosophy contained in these policies. We now face the challenge of getting 100 percent of the members motivated and involved in accomplishing them. We have, in Farm Bureau, programs and activities to interest and involve all members. With the necessary involvement, we can meet the issues.

We must broaden our thinking. We must recognize that today's farmers are more affected by politics than farmers have ever been before. The issues which we face everyday are, either directly or indirectly, politically shaped. Government regulations and actions affect the prices we receive, the chemicals we can use, the taxes we pay, the types of insurance we must have, the wages we must pay, and numerous other restrictions.

Politics is the art of government. We, in a republic, have responsibility for government. Therefore, we have responsibility for politics.

As a farm organization, we will look after the interests of farmers. It is our responsibility. We will, however, also recognize the needs of society in general and the needs of future generations. We will not follow ill-conceived, short-sighted, selfish ideas.

Looking to the future, we see major issues which will affect agriculture and this great country. We adopt these policies believing that we are adding constructively to the solution of the problems, thus building a more sound agriculture and a stronger nation.

John Laurie, Chairman
MFB Policy Development Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The recommendations on National and International Affairs adopted by the voting delegates have been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for use by the national Resolutions Committee, which is made up of representatives of every State Farm Bureau. Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide for our voting delegates to the forthcoming Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National and International Policies adopted at our National Convention will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus.

This is essential in order that there may be effective harmony and unanimity among Farm Bureau organizations throughout the Nation.

Michigan's recommendations on National and International Affairs are available to County Farm Bureaus and others upon request.

APPRECIATION

During the 1st session of the 79th Legislature, much legislation consistent with Farm Bureau policies was passed, implemented, or in progress, including:

- Exemption of agriculture from the Single Business Tax
- Amendments to various tax laws and assessment reforms
- Continued changes in school finance including improvement of the "Equal Yield" concept

- Amendments to various commodity promotion programs

- Several public health measures including malpractice legislation

- Several livestock, dairy and crop measures including amendments to Michigan's fertilizer and feed laws

- Appropriations for the Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, FFA and 4-H. Also, progress toward a new plant and soil science building and animal health diagnostic laboratory.

- Legislation to control animals at large and progress on a new fence law proposal to replace the 1846 law

- Implementation of the new Trespass Act providing stronger protection for farmlands

- Implementation of the "Special Truck Permit" law for farm trucks used to haul commodities from the field to storage

- Appointment of a farmer to the Occupational Safety Standards Commission

- Elimination of undesirable MI-OSHA regulations and pending amendments to the law

- Passage of unemployment legislation meeting federal requirements

- Progress on inheritance tax reform and probate reform

- Creation of a budget and economic stabilization fund

- Various hunting law changes including restrictions on shining of deer and a new "hunter access" program. Also, DNR establishment of landowner preference for antlerless deer hunting permits

- Amendments to pending wetlands and land use legislation

- Several anti-crime and enforcement measures

We commend the Governor, the Legislature and various departments on enactment and implementation of these and several other measures we have supported which are important to agriculture and to the economy of the State of Michigan. We also appreciate the fact that much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture was not adopted and further, that much legislation is still under consideration for action during the 2nd session of the 79th Legislature.

Agriculture

STATE AND FEDERAL MARKETING ORDERS

Marketing orders, at both state and federal levels, have provided for the orderly marketing of several commodities. Those producers and consumers have benefited because one of the objectives of the marketing order is to provide a constant supply of the product. By supplying the market with a relatively constant supply of products, prices to both consumers and producers tend to fluctuate less.

Marketing orders should not be used to control production directly, establish closed markets, maintain artificially high prices, or collect funds for the purchase of agricultural products for diversion purposes.

Any marketing order should meet the following criteria:

1. Be producer oriented.
2. Be market oriented and used to maintain and expand markets.
3. Provide opportunity for new producers to enter the industry.
4. Contain provisions for periodic reviews by referendum to determine if the producers covered by a marketing order favor continuation.
5. Allow a minority of producers to petition for rehearing or a new referendum.
6. Cover commodities which are produced for the general market irrespective of the production area.
7. Provide that rejection of a proposed amendment shall not result in the termination of the entire order.
8. Provide for termination of an existing order only by producer referendum.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND BARGAINING LEGISLATION

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344 as amended) has proven to be a fair and equitable procedure through which accredited bargaining associations and processors negotiate fruit and vegetable prices and other terms of trade. We support amendments to the act which would clarify provisions to make it more workable. All efforts of opponents of P.A. 344 which would weaken the act or cripple its implementation shall continue to be opposed. We continue to support P.A. 344 and its enactment in other states to eventually have it become nationwide in scope.

We support a modification of the act so that other agricultural commodities could come under this legislation if producers comply with its provisions.

PROMPT PAYMENT

We deplore the practice by some processors and

handlers of farm commodities of operating on producers money due to delayed payment for commodities delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more. Farmers must pay farm workers immediately after work is performed and are required to pay for other costs of production within a set period of time in accordance with normal business practices.

We, therefore, urge producers to develop firm business policies concerning contracts on overdue accounts. Farmers should add an appropriate interest charge to any account not paid in full after 30 days.

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing farm commodities from producers to make full payment within 30 days of date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

BUYER BONDING

Agricultural producers have little assurance of payment for their commodities other than the past reputation of the buyer. Many producers sell large quantities of a given commodity to one buyer. If that buyer defaults in making payment, the producers face economic ruin. We support legislation to require contract buyers of farm commodities to post adequate performance bond for the financial protection of producers on their marketing operations.

PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, P.A. 232, passed in 1965, provides uniform procedures permitting producers of any commodity to establish a program for product promotion, market development, information, research, product standards and inspection, determination of surplus and producer assessments. The producers of apples, cherries and soybeans have adopted programs using one or more of the permitted provisions. We continue to support the right of producers by petition of 200 or 25 percent whichever is less, to initiate a referendum for adoption, amendment or termination of a program and the right of individual producers to vote in a referendum on initiation, amendment or termination of any promotion program for a commodity which they produce. We will support legislation to amend the Act to require:

1. That in order for a referendum or any proposal to be approved, it must receive consent from a simple majority by number of those producers voting and by a simple majority by volume of those producers voting.

2. Review and referenda during each fifth year to determine whether the program should be continued, amended or terminated, or at any time upon petition of the producers with voting requirements the same as those required for initiation of the program.

3. That if producers, through a referendum, enact a program, all producers must abide by the majority and all contribute to the program.

We believe that producers of any commodity wishing to promote their product should do so within the broad and uniform provisions of the Act.

We will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to assure that this enabling legislation continues to be available to producers wishing to establish such programs.

Any commission or body created under an agricultural commodity promotion program must provide complete accountability of the expenditure of funds collected from producers. Funds released to any agricultural organization, public agency or private firm for promotion or research purposes should be on a contractual basis with complete accountability required.

QUARANTINE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In trying to meet the growing need for food, farmers are doing all they can to increase food production. This often calls for new methods, production techniques and often the use of chemicals.

While great care must be taken to use precaution in handling these chemicals, we recognize that sometimes accidents may occur. This may lead to quarantine of farms and possible disposal of products.

We believe that for all products the quarantine period should not exceed 30 days. By the end of that period, the governmental agency imposing the quarantine must take one of three actions:

1. Revoke the quarantine.
2. Continue the quarantine for an additional 30 days. Total quarantine should not exceed 60 consecutive days.
3. Condemn the product and dispose of it within 10 days. In the case of poultry, the total quarantine should not exceed 30 days.

POSTING OF DRYING AND SHRINKAGE TABLES

We believe that commercial elevators and drying facilities in Michigan should adopt standardized tables for grain and bean shrinkage. Furthermore, we believe all commercial elevators and drying facilities should be required to post the standardized table plus schedules showing drying and shrinkage charges.

MOISTURE TESTING STANDARDS

All farmers who wish to sell crops at local elevators must rely on the accuracy of the scales and moisture testing equipment at the elevators. There currently are regulations concerning the scales. While the grain buyers who trade under U.S. grain standards must meet USDA criteria, there is no enforceable inspection of all grain dealers. We feel that the farmer should have the additional safeguard of state inspection on moisture testing equipment.

WHITE WHEAT DELIVERY POINT

Soft white wheat is the major class of wheat produced in Michigan. It is the only class of wheat for which there is no provision for delivering against a future contract. We urge Michigan Elevator Exchange to request a hearing with the Chicago Board of Trade to develop provisions for the actual physical delivery of soft white wheat against the Chicago Board of Trade wheat futures contract. Such delivery points should be the same as for soft red wheat, namely Toledo and/or Chicago.

ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND FEED ANALYSIS

The income from livestock and livestock products represents the largest segment of Michigan agriculture. We support:

- Research by the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station on diseases in beef and dairy cattle.
- Creation of a feed analysis laboratory for Michigan that will provide technical information to farmers. This laboratory should work in conjunction with the MSU Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory.
- The necessary appropriations by the Legislature for these disaster prevention programs.

LIVESTOCK RESEARCH

There is much hope for genetic advancement in livestock through ova transfers. We encourage that contacts be maintained with Michigan State University researchers working with ova transfer and that members be kept informed of the results.

Pork production is an important economic enterprise in Michigan. The lack of structural soundness in swine breeding stock as well as market hogs is creating considerable economic loss to Michigan producers. Therefore, we encourage Michigan State University to conduct research on both problems.

LIVESTOCK TESTING

The export-import tests required on livestock by Michigan differ from those required by Canada. We believe a reciprocal testing program should be implemented and that all requirements be strictly enforced.

CALFHOOD VACCINATION

Michigan presently requires calfhood vaccination for brucellosis of female beef and dairy breeding stock imported into the state or sold from one farm to another within the state.

Since Michigan is brucellosis free, and one of only three states with this strict regulation, we believe we should maintain our present calfhood vaccination program. To aid in maintaining this law, we believe the indemnity should be paid only to owners of calfhood vaccinated animals.

MILK TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS

The quality of milk is directly affected by the temperature both on the farm and throughout handling. Consumption of milk is directly affected by quality, thus milk must be kept cool at all handling points.

Current law requires that raw milk be cooled not to exceed 50 degrees Fahrenheit and processed milk not to exceed 45 degrees Fahrenheit. We recommend that the laws regarding temperature requirements be strictly enforced.

We also recommend that the state law be amended to lower the raw milk temperature requirement to 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

We urge that special attention be given to milk quality utilized in the school milk program or any other mass milk distribution program.

X-DISEASE

The State of Michigan is in danger of losing a portion of its fruit industry to a rapidly spreading microplasm referred to as X-Disease. Very little is known about this organism except that it lives a part of its life cycle in choke-cherry bushes and is carried by several species of leafhoppers to stone fruit trees.

Being a microplasm, there is little known treatment for this disease. The only way of limiting its spread is to remove choke-cherry bushes, remove severely infected trees, reduce the population of leafhoppers in peach and cherry production areas and treat infected trees with antibiotics.

We appreciate action by the EPA to allow fruit growers in Michigan to use antibiotics as a treatment on infected trees.

We urge that the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Stations vigorously pursue a research program directed toward finding more effective means of controlling this disease.

Education should be directed at growers and neighboring landowners in identifying and eradicating choke-cherry bushes and thus prevent the spread of the disease.

In the meantime, when inspectors from the Michigan Department of Agriculture Plant Industry Division

make their annual peach virus and cherry fruit fly inspections, they should be trained to recognize choke-cherry plants and X-Disease infected peach and cherry trees and should mark these wherever found. This will help growers to better understand the extent of the infection on their property and make it possible for them to remove sources of infection.

SOYBEAN RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Soybean acreage is increasing in Michigan. This crop is an important part of farm income. We believe soybean research should be intensified at Michigan State University. Monies collected from the Michigan Soybean Promotion and Development Program can also be used to promote overseas and domestic sales of soybeans. Major emphasis, however, should be on the testing of new varieties adaptable to Michigan soils and climatic conditions and for soybean disease, weed, and insect control research. We urge the Michigan Soybean Committee to work with the Legislature to obtain matching funds for soybean research in Michigan. Research contracts should be on an annual basis with the result of such research reported directly to growers.

MICHIGAN WINE INDUSTRY

Sales of Michigan produced wine sold in Michigan has decreased from 50 percent in 1964 to only 8 percent in 1976. At the same time total wine sales in Michigan has tripled. This has caused poor demand for Michigan grown grapes.

To reverse this situation we recommend:

1. Michigan State University and its outlying research stations increase viticultural research.
2. Implementation of a Michigan Small Winery Act. The act should incorporate features found in the New York and Indiana Small Winery Acts. This act would allow Michigan fruit farmers and beekeepers to make wine of their produce grown in Michigan as a part of their marketing option and to avoid loss of the crop when it cannot be marketed at all or at a fair price.
3. Lower the Michigan commercial wine licensing fee to its former level of \$500. The \$1,000 fee now in existence tends to restrict competition and is a financial burden to new and small wineries. The more wineries in Michigan the greater will be the awareness of Michigan wines. Increased awareness will lead to greater consumption and expansion of the industry.

MICHIGAN FRUIT COMMISSION

We believe the existing fruit promotional and research programs (Apple and Cherry) could be combined into one Michigan Fruit Commission.

This should create greater efficiency and promotional operation, maximizing staff time and grower money. Programs for minor crops could easily be combined into this program.

Therefore, we urge that a study be conducted regarding the feasibility of combining these existing programs.

MSU PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE BUILDING

The basis for all agriculture is in the ability to efficiently produce crops for food and fiber. Michigan State University is well known for outstanding research work in the area of plant and soil science. Presently, the Plant Science and Horticultural Divisions are scattered in several locations. There is a serious need for a Plant and Soil Science Building for greater efficiency. The potential environmental and production problems facing agriculture are severe. Michigan agriculture, the second largest and most stable industry from which at least 27 percent of our citizens derive all or a portion of their income, must have continuing research support to maintain our agricultural diversification and ability to compete.

We urge that the necessary funds for the Plant and Soil Science Building be made available and that the highest priority be placed on the early completion of the building. We urge each member to contact his legislator and indicate support for the building.

We will support additional needed appropriations to complete and staff this vital facility which will benefit all Michigan residents. Research does not cost - it pays!

APPOINTMENT OF MICHIGAN DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE

We believe that the present method of selecting the Director of the Department of Agriculture by the Agriculture Commission is the most effective system to avoid compromising the Director's position through the use of political pressure.

We oppose proposals for the appointment of the Director of Agriculture by the Governor.

CROP REPORTING SERVICE

The agricultural industry has developed many mechanisms for reporting the size and progress of crops and other agricultural commodities. The system that has been most widely adopted by industry is the Crop Reporting Service. To insure the accuracy of their reports, farmers should give CRS their full cooperation. Farm Bureau should work with CRS to find ways to improve the gathering of information, reporting and other aspects presently criticized by farmers. We recommend that the Legislature and Michigan Department of Agriculture adequately fund this service.

MICHIGAN STATE FAIR

We recognize the need to create a better understanding and appreciation between the agricultural

and industrial producer and the user or consumer through the Michigan State Fair. Because of its location, the Michigan State Fair is within relatively easy access to the majority of Michigan residents and offers the unique opportunity to bring the producers and processors of food and consumers together. We further recognize the need to make the fair program more youth oriented.

We urge that necessary funds be allocated to the Michigan Department of Agriculture for necessary maintenance and improvements, and that authority for the fair remain with the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

LOCAL FAIRS

Michigan fairs are an important part of our state's heritage, and they are more popular today than ever before. The number of exhibits and the number of exhibitors have increased steadily in the last decade. The important impact of the youth programs which culminate in competition at fairs and of adult agricultural exhibits has been felt throughout the agricultural industry.

We support the Michigan Department of Agriculture's leadership in the Michigan Fair Industry. We also encourage the Michigan Legislature to continue to create and make possible the funding of these endeavors.

Labor**WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

Agricultural employers are concerned about the misuse and abuses which have crept into the administration and benefit schedules of the Worker's Compensation Program.

Reform legislation must be adopted to correct the many problems that exist with Worker's Compensation in Michigan. Those areas requiring action are:

1. The present minimum premium must be replaced with a uniform, low, reasonable, constant fee, sufficient to cover the cost of issuing the yearly policy plus the rate times the payroll as a means of determining the total cost of providing Worker's Compensation.

2. Worker's Compensation should be made a cost-sharing program with employees paying a portion of premium cost, since employees receive all of the benefits. The Courts should not be so generous in awarding settlements.

3. An employee should not be able to receive more than 80 percent of his actual spendable income from Worker's Compensation benefits.

4. Worker's Compensation benefits should be reduced by the amount of other benefits that are provided at the cost of the employer.

5. A person should not be considered an employee of an agricultural employer if the person is a spouse, child or other member of the employer's family who is dependent upon the agricultural employer for more than half of his support.

6. Implementation of a more simple appeal process for employers who wish to appeal decisions regarding Worker's Compensation claims.

7. The three-year statute of limitations should be strengthened and enforced on Worker's Compensation claims.

8. Attorneys' fees in the representation of an injured worker should be based on a flat per hour rate and not exceed 15 percent of the total settlements.

We urge Farm Bureau Insurance Group to change its fiscal year for Worker's Compensation insurance to January 1 to December 31 and to investigate the feasibility of developing and offering a deductible Worker's Compensation insurance policy for agricultural employers. We urge Farm Bureau Insurance Group to continue to develop ways and means to further reduce premium costs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Unemployment insurance is a social insurance program to compensate employees for their loss of earnings at times of involuntary unemployment.

However, the original intent of unemployment insurance has been so defiled by Labor Department regulations and interpretations that it has become an enrichment program.

Unemployment insurance should not be paid to persons on strike, who retire, who refuse to work when it is available, or to noncertified school personnel during semester and vacation breaks.

We call upon the National Study Commission on Unemployment Compensation to recommend ways to reduce abuses and fraud in the program.

Michigan farmers must compete in the United States and world markets. Therefore, we continue to oppose any attempt by the State of Michigan to require more extensive coverage for agriculture than that provided in the Federal Unemployment Act.

Farm employers who will not qualify under the current guidelines should continue to be allowed to voluntarily provide unemployment insurance for their employees.

MINIMUM WAGE (STATE)

Minimum wages should not be increased during a time of high unemployment. Increasing wages discourages those employers who have work available from hiring employees.

Piece rates as a method of payment allows for the many variable situations found in agricultural em-

ployment and are essential to provide employment opportunities for family groups, vacation time jobs for students, retirees and certain types of handicapped persons.

We oppose any change in the present minimum wage law affecting the payment of piece rates for agriculture.

Agricultural crop and livestock production is dependent on biological processes which are not controllable by agricultural employers. Overtime wage payments for agriculture and many other industries are not economically feasible or practical. We oppose any attempt to impose overtime wage payments upon agriculture by amendments to the present minimum wage laws.

At no time should the State minimum wage rates exceed the Federal wage in order to prevent Michigan farmers from being put at an uncompetitive wage disadvantage.

WORK PERMITS

The Hittle Act, better known as Michigan's youth employment act, exempts minors employed in agriculture from being required to obtain work permits. We support continuation of this exemption.

The Worker's Compensation law in Michigan as it is being enforced, following a recent court decision involving a minor employed in agriculture, requires that minors have work permits. The decision in the court case required the employer to pay double benefits to the minor.

Agricultural employers in Michigan now are confused and frustrated because the two laws are in conflict.

The Department of Labor must clarify Michigan's work permit laws and regulations as they pertain to the employment of youth in agriculture. If it is mandatory that work permits are required for youth to work in agriculture, the following action is recommended:

1. An employer should be entitled to one-time application for work permit employer numbers.
2. Specific work permits should be designed to fit agricultural employment.
3. The work permit should cover minors 12 through 17 years of age.
4. The distinction between sexes should be eliminated in the areas of weight and hour restrictions.

AGRICULTURAL HOUSING

Several agricultural employers have experienced problems with agricultural workers who refuse to leave on-farm housing after the work on the farm is completed or who refuse to work after moving into agricultural housing provided by the employer.

We recommend that regulations be adopted that would require workers to leave employer provided housing within a reasonable time (one week) after the work is completed or notice is given by the employer for good reason. We recommend that a swift eviction procedure be adopted so that employer-provided housing may be available.

Further that all labor camps be inspected by trained employees of the State Health Department, so that all camps will be licensed according to the same interpretation of the rules and regulations as provided by Public Act 289.

At the present time, Public Act 289 places the full responsibility of maintaining a migrant labor camp upon the employer. We urge Public Act 289 be amended to require the occupants of agricultural labor housing to assume the responsibility for the misuse of a housing unit during their occupancy.

Current regulations require that seasonal labor housing be used only for workers employed during the production and harvesting of crops. We, therefore, request that the Internal Revenue Service approve seasonal labor housing for investment tax credit eligibility.

We favor faster tax write-off investments in farm labor housing.

We recommend that the provisions of Public Act 289 be adopted as the safety standard for farm labor housing by OSHA and MI-OSHA.

We oppose the application of Public Act 230 to seasonal agricultural labor housing.

We encourage agricultural employers to destroy unused and abandoned farm labor housing.

MI-OSHA

We encourage all farmers to become aware of any occupational hazards on their farms and voluntarily adopt safety programs. We believe the basic premise of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, that all employers know what is required by OSHA, is a faulty premise. Therefore, we favor safety educational programs and no-penalty first time inspections.

We commend the members of the Michigan Legislature for recognizing the unique problems of agriculture by providing an Advisory Committee of which at least half of the members shall be persons who devote a major portion of their time to agricultural operations.

We support competent farm-oriented representation for the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Occupational Safety Standards Commission. This Committee, once formulated, should identify safety hazards on Michigan farms and then develop agricultural safety standards to assist in correcting that hazard. We oppose adopting industrial standards

to agriculture when they have no practical value.

We urge the Governor to maintain an agriculture representative on the Occupational Safety Standards Commission.

We believe that the employee also has a responsibility and should be subject to penalty for failure to observe the safety standards.

We recommend that farmers throughout Michigan continue to make a constructive contribution to the development of practical, realistic agricultural safety standards which correct safety hazards on Michigan farms to provide a safe working environment for agricultural employees and employers or producers.

National Resources

ENERGY

Energy and its availability to meet the needs of society must receive high priority. We believe there are adequate energy supplies to meet foreseeable demand; but without proper incentives, these supplies will not be developed.

The market system is the best method and incentive for developing and allocating energy resources. Additional government regulations and taxes levied on energy producers will only serve to make the United States more dependent on foreign nations to supply our energy needs.

Although it will only partially solve the energy problem, all citizens must put forth a stronger effort to conserve energy now and in the future.

Government funds and private funds should be used to hasten energy research with the objective of ending our dependence on other nations for sources of energy. This research should include coal gasification, the utilization of feedlot and other organic waste, shale oil extraction, utilization of grain alcohol as fuel; solar; wind; nuclear, both fission and breeder reactor; wood, geothermal, and other energy sources.

We oppose government rationing as a means of allocating scarce supplies, except in the case of national emergencies. In such cases, agriculture should receive uninterrupted supplies.

We are for deregulation of natural gas. Since 1952 when natural gas controls were initiated, production has declined while the artificially low prices have encouraged its consumption. Deregulation will provide needed incentive to produce more of this desirable fuel.

Data gathered from highly sophisticated exploratory techniques indicates there are large amounts of untapped gas and oil beneath public lands. These energy supplies represent important resources to meet future energy needs of the economy. We support the development of these vast oil and gas supplies beneath public lands, when appropriate, providing strict environmental controls are assured.

A portion of the sales of oil and gas from state and federally-owned property should be returned to the county in which the property is located.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Activities of public utility companies take them across much of Michigan's farmlands. They often damage underground tile in farmlands when installing new facilities. Farm owners should be notified 30 days prior to installation of such new facilities so the farmer can identify the location of tile and prevent damages.

Electric and telephone utility transmission lines, gas lines and oil right-of-way agreements are often confusing to property owners. Many are based on different statutes. We believe that the acquiring of right-of-ways for these purposes should be standardized as nearly as possible with contracts or other legal instruments including as many protections to the owner as possible. We further believe that consideration should be given to the leasing rather than sale of right-of-ways.

We support legislation to require that a utility give present landowners first option to purchase utility corridors crossing their lands when no longer needed by the utility.

We support private ownership of electric companies in the state and nation. We strongly oppose state or federal governments becoming involved in the production of electrical power.

The size of farm machinery today is growing not only in width but in height. We recommend that all telephone and electric wires, specifically those strung across the road, should not be less than 14 feet above the ground at any point.

ESSENTIAL LANDS PRESERVATION

Land is an essential resource to those who make their living from the soil. It is also an essential resource to the economy of Michigan and to the well-being of all citizens. Less than one-third of Michigan's 36.3 million acres is farmland. The production of food and fiber on this farmland contributes over \$1.7 billion annually to the economy, making agriculture our second largest and most stable industry. Although less than one out of every 100 citizens operates a farm, 27 percent derive some part of their income from agriculture.

Michigan produces approximately 50 percent of the food needed within the state. However, urban sprawl and unplanned development are moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. It is imperative to the future well-being of every Michigan citizen that our essential farmlands be protected for food production.

We support legislation to create an Essential Lands Commission within the Department of Natural Resources which was designated by Executive Order in 1973 to assume responsibility for land resource programs. The majority of the Commission should represent forestry and agricultural interests. The Commission should have responsibility for coordinating the development and implementation of broad statewide essential land guidelines for use by local government in identifying essential agricultural land, urban development land, recreational land, unique areas, forest lands, utility and transportation corridors. The guidelines should be limited to procedures for identifying essential lands and not prejudge their boundaries. Our state ranks fifth or higher among the 50 states in the production of 22 food crops grown on a wide range of soils. Essential farmlands designated by local government should not be based solely on soil capability for one or two major crops. The Commission should have authority to approve only those projects undertaken by governmental units which would include essential lands designated by local government. The Commission should not have authority over private projects within locally designated essential lands. Such private projects should be subject only to local authority. Local government should recognize the importance of preserving essential farmland. The essential land preservation legislation must include the following principles:

1. Private property rights and right of individual appeal must be preserved.
2. Planning for land resources which are local in character must be the responsibility of local government.
3. Primary enforcement of land use regulations and the settlement of conflicts must be a function of the level of government closest to the people affected.
4. Planning for local land resources must be permitted some flexibility to allow local planning bodies to adopt plans that reflect local goals.
5. A partnership approach in implementing sound land use programs should be developed between all levels of government and the private sector.

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active part in land use planning at all levels of government. If local land use control is to be maintained, it is imperative that local people accept the responsibility to plan the use of their land resources.

Funds available to a state should not be withheld as a weapon to enforce compliance with any federal land use program.

SUBDIVISION CONTROL

The present Subdivision Control Act permits a tract of land to be divided into not more than four parcels of ten acres or less without platting. However, many instances of circumventing the platting of land have been observed through the selling of land in parcels of 10.1 acres or greater. This practice has led to several areas of unplanned developments which can be costly to the community.

We will support legislation to eliminate the inadequacies of the present Act and require the platting of all subdivisions.

Local zoning laws should continue to control strip building along highways on agricultural land as authorized under present zoning laws.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY

In the exercise of eminent domain and obtaining rights-of-way for utilities, highways, and other uses, we urge that procedures be as uniform as possible. This will enable property owners to better understand and use the provisions to obtain fair and equitable settlements.

LAND ACQUISITION

Private ownership and operation of land resources is in the best interest of our nation. Acquisition of fee title or interest in land by government for a public use should require individual state legislation or congressional approval following clear demonstration of the need for such use. In these cases, every effort should be made to select less valuable land. We urge that state and federal government consider leasing of needed land or taking easements rather than outright purchases.

WATER RIGHTS

The use of irrigation for crop production continues to increase rapidly. We will oppose any efforts to restrict the availability of an equitable water supply for irrigation use. We support the current efforts of a Task Force created by Farm Bureau to study water laws, identify potential riparian problems which might affect agriculture and recommend equitable solutions to such riparian problems.

DRAINAGE

Much of Michigan's nearly 12 million acres of farmland requires drainage to produce food. Certain types of agriculture such as muck farming cannot continue or expand without adequate drainage systems. We oppose any new legislation that would restrict the right of an individual to drain property he owns. Preservation of privately-owned wetlands can best be accomplished through programs such as the Federal Water Bank Program which pays annual fees to the owners and the Michigan Waterfowl Stamp

which provides revenue earmarked for purchase of wetlands.

ENVIRONMENT

Public concern for the environment continues to be a powerful force. This concern poses serious implications to agriculture. The future of agriculture is dependent on air, water and land as natural tools of production. Agriculture has an important responsibility to improve the quality of our environment.

All persons engaged in agriculture should become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem. Good housekeeping and a good neighbor policy can do much to prevent environmental problems from occurring. We urge that agricultural representatives be consulted during the development of pollution regulations and that such regulations, when implemented, be realistic and consistent with good production practices.

Continued research is necessary to find adequate answers to agricultural waste disposal problems. Continued emphasis should be placed on developing recycling systems for agricultural waste.

We recommend that whenever an environmental impact study is required, an economic study should also be required to inform the public of the probable consequences of the proposals.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND DRUGS

Modern agriculture cannot continue to provide sufficient quantities of high quality food and fiber to meet the nation's needs without the use of agricultural chemicals and drugs. Any undue curtailment of the safe and appropriate usage of these products will result in lower quality food and fiber at higher costs to the consumers.

We believe governmental agencies, research organizations and manufacturers of chemical products must continue comprehensive research studies about the toxicity to humans, adverse effects, and the life duration of the chemical.

We urge that responsible agencies not issue scare warnings until they are certain that a problem exists. This has happened on numerous occasions in the past and in every instance has harmed the market for some products of American agriculture.

In any evaluation of chemicals and drugs, the possible detrimental effects must be considered in relation to the benefits derived. Only through a complete evaluation can a balance between environmental control and chemical control be effectively attained. Unless there is conclusive evidence to prove that a threat to public health exists, government agencies should not impose a zero tolerance upon any chemical or drug.

All persons using chemicals and drugs should read and follow precisely the label instructions. Such adherence to label instructions can help avoid government actions to cancel the use of essential chemicals and drugs.

CERTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) of 1972 requires that after October 21, 1977, farmers and other private pesticide applicators must be certified before using "restricted" pesticides. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is responsible for administering the program in Michigan. The Cooperative Extension Service will conduct meetings to help farmers meet the standards required for certification. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency to publish the list of "restricted" pesticides at the earliest date possible. All potential private applicators of "restricted" pesticides should make plans to become certified to insure their continued access to such pesticides.

AIR POLLUTION

We support an amendment to the Air Pollution Act that will exclude from the definition of air pollution, dust and natural odors associated with agricultural operations exercising recommended management practices. Producers need this amendment to prevent legal harassment in the name of environmental quality.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Department of Natural Resources administers many programs affecting agriculture. We are pleased that a full-time farmer now serves on the Natural Resources Commission. This appointment has created a balance on the Commission and resulted in a better overall understanding of environmental issues. We will continue to support appointment of a farmer to the Commission.

PRESCRIBED BURNING

The present policy of some federal agencies allows fires to burn uncontrolled in wilderness areas. This policy should be re-evaluated. We believe that "prescribed" burning is a beneficial forest management practice and should be continued.

MINERAL RIGHTS

In many areas of the state, mineral rights were either sold or retained by original owners throughout the years resulting in the fact that many present owners do not own the mineral rights to their property. Farming operations are disturbed when the owners of

mineral rights exercise their right to develop the mineral resources. While compensation is due the owner of the surface rights, often there are other losses incurred for which no compensation is received. We believe that the owner of the surface rights should receive some portion of the royalties to compensate him for these losses and the fact that he has paid taxes on the property over the years.

Presently, there are laws permitting oil and gas mineral rights to revert to the owner of the property. We believe this principle should be extended to other kinds of mineral rights. However, we believe that the present 20-year claim period should be reduced to ten years.

DESTRUCTIVE WILDLIFE AND PESTS

Blackbirds, crows, and starlings are causing serious damage to crops and property in many farming areas. They are also a potential carrier of disease to humans and livestock. We recommend that intensive research efforts be continued by state and federal agencies to find an effective method of control and eradication. Federal compensation for proven crop damage should be provided where there are concentrations of bird pests and wildlife such as the Sandhill Crane.

We recommend that farmers experiencing crop losses from bird pests and wildlife call upon United States Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife personnel headquarters in the Michigan Department of Agriculture for assistance in minimizing the serious crop losses. The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act has resulted in protection for crows by establishing a closed season. In view of the increasing crop damage caused by crows, farmers should be aware that regulations permit landowners to harvest crows in the act of, or about to, commit acts of depredation.

DEER HERD

We appreciate efforts of the Department of Natural Resources to develop a 1977 experimental antlerless deer permit program which recognizes the contribution of farmers in providing feed and habitat to the deer herd. We will cooperate with the Department in analyzing the results of the 1977 program and will support continuation and expansion of the program in 1978.

We will support legislation to prohibit shining for deer in fields where livestock is kept or pastured and allowing the rays of an artificial light to be cast upon occupied or unoccupied buildings except when necessary by persons working within the scope of their employment.

We will also support legislation to prohibit statewide the shining of deer for a 30-day period immediately prior to and during the firearm deer season.



Delegates hard at work consider resolutions to guide their organization in the year ahead.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

The Water Resources Commission has made rapid progress in water pollution control and administering the federally required NPDES permit program. The WRC has developed a good program to protect and improve our abundant water resources.

We appreciate the continued efforts of WRC personnel to work with agriculture in advising and informing farmers on water pollution issues. We will continue efforts to maintain this working relationship.

We support continued authority for water pollution control in Michigan by the WRC, and will work to protect such authority.

We oppose legislation designed to restrict the use of fertilizer in agricultural production. Existing anti-pollution laws, Section 208 planning required by Federal mandate and Soil Conservation District programs are adequate to handle non-point runoff sources.

We oppose federal programs that threaten to reduce state water pollution control to a custodial level.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 establishes a goal of zero water pollution by 1985. We believe the zero water pollution goal is impractical and unattainable and should be substantially modified.

LAND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER OR SLUDGE

The use of land to dispose of industrial and municipal wastewater or sludge is expected to increase due to national water pollution abatement goals established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The supply

of nutrients and the water in these wastes could be beneficial to agriculture. We urge farmers to consider the possibilities of utilizing wastewater and sludge from municipalities contemplating land application. Government agencies responsible for approving such land application systems should allow private agriculture to utilize municipal wastewater and sludge whenever possible. We believe the use of productive farmland for disposal of such wastes should:

1. Permit private enterprise agriculture with voluntary participation.
2. Provide flexibility in amount and timing of application of the wastes according to agricultural needs.
3. Provide indemnity payments for unsaleable crops due to Food and Drug Administration regulations or crop losses caused by components in the wastes.
4. Provide indemnity for land should it be damaged because of components in the wastes.

AREAWIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Act requires each state to designate appropriate agencies to study area water quality problems and prepare and implement plans to control non-point sources of pollution. Plans prepared under Section 208 must identify, if appropriate, agriculturally related non-point sources of pollution, including run-off from manure disposal areas and from land used for livestock and crop production. The plan must also set forth procedures and methods, including land use requirements, to control to the extent feasible such sources.

Each of the 14 Regional Planning Commissions in Michigan have been designated and funded and are progressing rapidly in preparing Section 208 plans for their respective geographic jurisdictions. Public participation is required. We urge Farm Bureau members to participate in public hearings and to exert influence to whatever extent possible regarding the final plans which can greatly affect agriculture.

We believe Soil Conservation Districts should be designated and accept responsibility to administer, through the use of acceptable soil conservation practices, any Section 208 plans for agriculture. The present \$2,500 limitation on cost-sharing of approved conservation programs under the Agricultural Conservation Program should be removed for measures required by Section 208 plans.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZM) was passed by Congress in 1972. The law provides federal funding to assist states in planning coastal areas. Michigan has received funds for this planning process.

Under the CZM Act, the State must decide what uses of coastal areas have a direct and significant effect on coastal waters and show how it plans to manage these major uses within the coastal zone. The coastal zone boundary has been set at 1,000 feet inland along most of the Great Lakes coast. The boundary would bulge further inland around special areas that are directly related to the Great Lakes such as river mouths, wetlands, flood areas, sand dunes, wildlife areas, coastal lakes and public beaches. A secondary boundary for planning purposes follows the inland boundary of local townships bordering the shores of the Great Lakes.

Because boundaries included in the CZM planning process include Great Lakes and certain other shorelands used for general agriculture or speciality crops, we urge affected members to participate in public hearings and become involved in this planning process.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Good soil conservation practices, minimizing erosion and conserving water, are one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment. However, responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources rests on all citizens, urban as well as rural. The unprecedented world and domestic demand for food places a tremendous responsibility on all segments of society to safeguard our land resources from soil erosion. We urge all farmers to become cooperators with their local Soil Conservation District.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Soil Conservation Districts, now organized in every Michigan county, are operated by elected directors serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We pledge our support to work with Soil Conservation Districts to conserve soil and water through sound conservation practices. We believe Soil Conservation Districts should remain within the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Present law under which Soil Conservation Districts operate requires that persons must be an owner, lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise be in possession of three acres or more to vote for Directors of Soil Conservation Districts. We will oppose legislation to repeal this minimal land occupier requirement.

Taxation

MICHIGAN'S TAXATION SYSTEM

A recent nationwide study by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations shows that, in relation to other states, Michigan is the "highest ranking state in terms of revenue equity." States were

rated on the basis of a "balanced use" of income taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes.

Even though Michigan is a leader in tax reform, the study showed that there is a small degree of "under utilization" of the personal income tax and general sales tax, and a significant degree of "over utilization" of the property tax. This means that to achieve a truly balanced tax system, continued reforms are necessary in the property tax system.

Michigan's flat rate income tax was declared to be "progressive" in nature due to the system of exemptions. Michigan was also rated in the top five states for assessment quality and uniformity of assessments.

A few of Michigan's recent major tax reforms include adoption of the "circuit-breaker" concept which bases property taxes on household income with provision for a rebate of up to \$1,200. The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) also provides property tax relief based on household income and exemptions from certain special assessments.

The creation of the Tax Tribunal has helped to ensure individual taxpayers of an impartial appeals procedure.

We believe that these and other major changes have led to a better balance of Michigan's total tax system. However, recognizing the findings of the Commission, additional reforms are needed. We believe that such reforms can be attained within the provisions of the present constitution and should include:

1. Revision of the Michigan inheritance tax law.
2. Continued improvement of assessment and equalization procedures.
3. Maintaining and extending limitations on property taxes for educational purposes.
4. New sources of revenue for schools and local units with consideration for the possible use of the income tax.
5. Prevention of inequities arising from special assessments on property which receives no benefit from the project.
6. Limitation on state spending by the use of new concepts such as "sunset laws" and-or the "Budget Stabilization Fund."

While we believe that much progress has been made in Michigan toward a balanced tax system, these additional reforms will result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

AGRICULTURAL LAND TAXATION

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) provides a voluntary method of preserving farmland through a contractual arrangement with the state and thereby limits property tax to a percentage of household income. It also provides relief from certain special assessments. We are pleased with the excellent support that farmers are giving this program throughout the entire state.

The administrators of P.A. 116 are to be complimented for the efficient manner in which the program has been handled.

Another tax relief program that is useful to many farmers is the passage of the "circuit-breaker" concept in 1972, providing relief for homestead and agricultural land based on household income. The refund limit has been increased from \$500 to \$1,200.

We believe that these reforms will continue to prove to be wise legislation and will be effective methods of preserving farmland for future food needs and open space. This will also be an effective tool to conserve water, help purify polluted air, and provide for aesthetic and recreational values. Open farmland creates no cost, traffic jams, or parking problems. It requires no services such as sewers, water, schools, etc. It actually helps moderate the service load to the community. We continue to support these concepts fully and will continually work to maintain and improve them.

HEALTH COST DEDUCTIONS

Those persons employed by others usually receive many fringe benefits including health, dental and optometric care. While such benefits are a part of their total income they are not taxable.

Self-employed people must pay such costs out of their taxable income.

To correct this growing inequity, we support legislation to permit the self-employed to deduct these costs from the income tax.

RETIREE TAX EQUITY

Presently, retirement and pension benefits from a public retirement system or from any other retirement or pension system are exempt from income tax. Farmers and other self-employed persons do not have this benefit. They must provide their own program, often by setting aside monies to use the interest, rent, dividends, etc., as retirement income only to find it taxable under the income tax statute. We believe that any person retiring within the requirements of the Social Security system should qualify for exemption of such income from the income tax, the same as any other retiree.

TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

Presently, mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property taxes, a fee of \$3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50 cents to the township, and 50 cents to the county. This fee system, enacted in

1959, is no longer realistic. The increased value of trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the cost of schools and local government. Mobile homes should be assessed on the same basis as other homes or dwellings.

Education

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

Major changes in the financing of education have been made resulting in a "new equity in Michigan school finance." Reforms included the initiation of the "equal yield" concept guaranteeing a specific dollar yield for each mill of taxation, a new formula for funding intermediate districts, and a formula for assistance for bonding millage.

While these and other changes are highly commendable, the property tax remains the major source of local school finance. However, the "circuit breaker" concept and other reforms have aided in relieving the property tax burden. Continued voter rejection of millage proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for continued study and further efforts on school finance and educational reforms.

We recommend:

- Continued efforts to maintain or reduce property tax limits for school purposes.
- Increased use of the income tax as a major source of funds, including the possible use of the income tax by a local school district or intermediate district.
- Sufficient funds appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.
- Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district on his income tax form.
- Increased level of state funding at not less than 70 percent of the total combined state and local dollars for K-12 schools.
- Funding for K-12 schools on a multi-year basis.
- Full Funding by the State for all state mandated educational programs.

We believe it is possible to achieve further educational finance reform within the present constitutional framework and without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

We believe that additional reforms should be made in our education system. We recommend:

- The present State Board of Education should be replaced by a bipartisan, odd-numbered Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission should employ the Director of Education.
- Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded, with the goal of advisory educational accountability standards.
- Reorganization of K-12 districts, intermediate districts, and community college districts should continue to be voluntary. However, if reorganized, the policy making board should be representative of all local boards of education and-or all areas of the districts.
- Cooperative programs among small K-12 school districts to help provide a broader curriculum.
- The use of program budgeting should be encouraged at the local level as a means to equate program costs to student needs.
- Guaranteed local control of schools including curricula, personnel, etc. in order to meet the particular needs of the community.
- In-service training for teachers be encouraged.
- Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youths and adults. Year-round school would be feasible in many areas.
- Vocational-technical programs for both youth and adults be made available to all areas of the state. Existing educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands salable skills.
- Building accountability into the educational system. School boards, administrators, teachers, students and parents must work together to set goals and objectives to improve student learning and performance.
- Evaluation of teacher education programs in the colleges.
- A high school evaluation program on human development for the experienced teacher. The emphasis is on the individual, his interrelationship and interactions with students, subject matter, and teaching techniques.
- Full implementation and funding of special education programs for handicapped children. It has been proven beyond a doubt that these children can be educated to lead productive lives with dignity and contribute to society.
- New and innovative instructional methods be researched and used whenever possible.
- Full funding of all special programs mandated by the Legislature or the courts. Such legislative actions should not have the effect of mandating the raising of property taxes above the 15-mill constitutional limit.
- Educational programs be constantly re-evaluated

to determine the priorities and needs of our economy and work force. Education at all levels must meet the constantly changing needs of society.

TEACHER TENURE AND LICENSING

The inflexibility of the present teacher tenure law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel. School boards are often forced to sit in hearings for unreasonable periods of time. We believe the tenure act should be streamlined to include the use of outside hearing officers, removal of administrators from the act unless specifically included by board action, require a single approach to removal procedure either through the employee contract, tenure act or court system.

The probationary period should be increased only with several reforms to assure a more workable and equitable legal document.

We strongly support the present system of teacher certification with periodic review and evaluation. We see no need for a licensing system and oppose present proposals.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN SCHOOLS

Alcohol-related traffic accidents involving 18-20 year olds have increased 215 percent between 1971 and 1976. The lower drinking age has brought the alcohol problem to our high schools in disastrous proportions, not only in school sports and social events, but in the classroom. The "trickle down" effect, meaning that 18-year-olds are purchasing liquor for younger teenagers, has created a serious problem. Therefore, we support legislation to raise the legal drinking age preferably to 21.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Institute of Agricultural Technology, MSU, reports a constantly increasing enrollment and demand in many occupational fields for employees with agricultural background and training. The Federal Vocational Act of 1963 and 1968 amendments, finally recognized the urgent need for technical training in agriculture. Since that time, the number of students involved in technical training in agriculture has quintupled. A study by the National Academy of Science indicates that three technicians are needed for every college graduate in the agricultural-related fields. Presently, the ratio is only 1-1.

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of "career education" and specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary levels in vocational centers and community colleges. It is estimated that Michigan could need as many as 2000 teachers by 1980. We urge capable students to consider this career opportunity.

There are 7 areas of training available including agricultural production; ornamental horticulture; agricultural mechanics; natural resources; agricultural supplies, service, and products; soil, chemicals, and electrical technology.

We strongly urge that teachers of vocational agriculture continue to be employed on a 12-month basis. Summer months provide the opportunity for students to put into practice much of the vocational agricultural instruction provided during the school year. Providing this on-the-farm instruction to students is an important part of the vocational agriculture teachers' responsibility. Vocational agriculture and FFA are unmatched in teaching "individual enterprise" through practical application of classroom training.

We continue to support these programs and the necessary appropriations and urge that greater emphasis be given to the increasing opportunities in technical agriculture and agribusiness.

EXTENSION SERVICE

The Cooperative Extension Service has played a vital and successful role in the development of American agriculture. With the help of Extension Service information and education programs, American farmers have developed their operations into the most efficient industry in the world. This development has definitely been a financial benefit to individual farmers, but also has helped make it possible for the American consumer to spend a lower percent of his net income for food than any other consumer in the world.

We believe that every effort should be made to use successful Extension Service methods for educational programs for all people in our society who desire them; however, at the same time we are concerned that this will be at the expense of the Agricultural Extension Service and research programs.

In light of these considerations, we recommend:

1. Appropriations for nonagricultural programs be in addition to, not in place of, already existing appropriations.
2. Special reports required of the Extension Service be financed by the necessary appropriations, not by siphoning off a part of the already overtaxed budget.
3. Development of Extension-type programs for urban people where they are needed under the jurisdiction of the Extension Service with special appropriations for these programs.
4. Extension continue its traditional educational role of supplying unbiased factual information, but avoid taking positions pro or con on public issues.

5. The Cooperative Extension program continue to be administered through the Director within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

6. Increased appropriations for further agricultural research that is vital to Michigan's highly diversified agriculture. Recent budget cutbacks have reduced Agricultural Extension Programs at Michigan State University.

7. County Farm Bureaus develop and maintain a close working relationship with their County Cooperative Extension Office.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Agricultural Experiment Stations have played a valuable role in our society. Historically, research done in these facilities has helped to increase efficiency in food production. Both farmers and consumers have benefited from developments by this system.

As we look to future world needs, new techniques must be applied to farming to aid in solving environmental concerns and conservation of energy and natural resources, and to meet future production needs.

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Michigan State University is one of the finest in the country. It serves eight colleges, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Engineering, Human Ecology, Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Social Science, and Veterinary Medicine. There are more than 400 research projects with over 250 scientists.

We are proud of the work done by the Experiment Station. However, we are concerned over the fact that appropriations have not kept pace with rising costs. The station has no other source of income. We are shocked to learn that numerous faculty and research personnel have resigned; such talent cannot be easily replaced. Good research is a continuing process and cannot be turned on or off. We believe that agricultural research has proven to be a sound investment that has returned great dividends to all citizens for over a century. The Legislature must recognize the need to appropriate sufficient funds to carry on research projects, such as:

- Optimizing energy, land and water.
- Improving food and feed crop production.
- Dairy systems.
- Development of the new Horticultural Experiment Station.
- Livestock and poultry.
- Improving food quality.
- Control of insect transmitted diseases.
- Housing for non-urban communities.
- Integrated control of pests.
- Environmental monitoring network for agricultural production.
- Utilization of forage and grain by cattle in the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan is in direct competition with not only other states but other countries as well; and to remain competitive, we must have up to date research from the various Michigan Experiment Stations.

4-H

We commend the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service for its role in the development of the 4-H Program. This program has proven valuable by providing educational opportunities to both rural and urban youth.

We also commend the 4-H leadership for the new and exciting projects developed to gain interest and participation on the part of Michigan youth. We will continue to strongly support adequate appropriations for this worthwhile youth program.

Transportation

HIGHWAYS

Michigan has been known as a good roads state. However, spiraling inflation and the cost of maintenance and construction of highways along with reduced revenues from decreasing gasoline use has resulted in a more severe financial problem. According to one study (TRIP) 36 percent of the state's country roads are considered "intolerable" by federal and state engineering standards. Nearly 34,000 miles of these roads need to be improved because of ruts, lack of paving, narrowness, dangerous curves, and obsolete bridges. It is estimated that over \$40 billion would be needed over the next 20 years for Michigan roads. More than 90 percent of our roads are not adequate to accommodate modern farm produce trucks. Hundreds of miles of rail lines have been abandoned. As these lines are taken out of service, additional freight will have to move by truck over the State's rural roads.

Neglect of local roads due to the almost total lack of M.V.H.F. funding adds to the cost of agricultural products -- increased production costs to the farmer and increased food costs to the consumer -- everyone loses.

While the interstate system in Michigan is near completion, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system to accommodate the increased traffic on local roads caused by small industry, recreational users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures. Proper

development of rural areas including agricultural transportation needs and industrial expansion is dependent on an adequate road system. For instance, Class A, or frost-free highway system, permits trucks to carry the same weight the year around; but to service county areas, they must often reload.

We recommend:

- Any needed increase in revenues be met through "user taxes" or other revenue sources.
- No further diversion of motor vehicle funds for any nonhighway use, including law enforcement.
- Opposition to any diversion of highway funds (M.V.H.F.) for other modes of transportation. Separate funds should be provided.
- Opposition to any increase in or additional motor vehicle taxes for nonhighway use.
- Matching requirements for local roads should be decreased since most local units of government are financially unable to increase their contributions.
- Townships that are financially able should have the right to contract for their own road building when county matching funds are not available.
- Local matching funds for bridge replacement and reconstruction should be eliminated as bridges represent a specific problem and are extremely costly. Michigan's share of federal funds for this purpose are not commensurate with other states.
- The counties' share of the motor vehicle fund should be increased. Present formula is 44.5 percent for the state with 8 percent of the mileage (9,322 miles), 35.7 percent to the counties with 75.9 percent of the mileage (88,048 miles) and 19.8 percent to the cities.
- Any increase in highway funding must be divided by a percentage basis between state, county and township roads.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

Highway accidents take many lives each year; many people are injured, and much property damage occurs. To help reduce auto accidents, we recommend that:

1. Motorcycles be required to operate with headlight and identifying light on, even during the daylight hours, making them clearly visible to oncoming vehicles on all public roads.
2. Hard-top roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safer nighttime driving.
3. STOP AHEAD signs should be placed an appropriate distance from every STOP sign where a particular hazard exists.
4. County Road Commissions be authorized to clear roadsides and intersections of hazards within road rights-of-way that obstruct the view of motorists.
5. Red and amber reflectors be banned as mailbox and driveway markers and only blue or green markers be used.
6. All Farm Bureau members check slow moving vehicle signs and replace those that are faded and worn and urge their neighbors to do likewise. The SMV law should be strictly enforced.
7. The State make greater effort to remove intoxicated drivers from our highways.
8. Bumpers on cars should be a standard distance from the ground.
9. The checklane system be continued, instead of the proposed mandatory annual vehicle inspection.
10. Roadsnote
10. Roads not be used as headlands, because it is dangerous to farmers and hazardous to traffic.
11. All rural roads be marked with a name or number. Houses should be numbered by homeowners and the number clearly visible from the road. This information is essential during emergencies.
12. The 55 mile per hour speed limit be maintained and enforced as a safety measure and to conserve energy.
13. Stop or yield signs be placed at all unmarked road intersections so that traffic on at least one of the roads must stop or yield.
14. Mail and newspaper boxes be placed on the same side of the road to make travel with wide machinery safer and easier.
15. Since present laws dealing with stopping for school buses are not uniform in all areas and lead to confusion, a uniform state law should be adopted for the safety of both the children and the motorist.
16. Educational programs promoting the use of seatbelts be continued.

RAILROADS

Railroads provide an essential mode of transporting agricultural commodities. The transportation of agricultural inputs and commodities produced is dependent upon efficient and continued railroad service. Approximately 4 million tons of Michigan grown or processed commodities are now shipped by rail. Fifty-three of our 83 counties ship more than half of all their farm production by rail. Without adequate railroad service, it would be impossible for trucks to meet the need for transportation at peak harvest time. Many rural areas are served by roads subject to weight restrictions making trucking costs uneconomical.

We support efforts of the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation to meet the many deadlines and other aspects of rail planning required by Federal law. The Department should continue to utilize citizen advisory groups in this important planning process.

We support appropriations by the Legislature to fund Michigan's share of subsidies necessary to retain essential rail service. However, we oppose efforts to fund rail service from the Motor Vehicle Fund.

Subsidies to retain essential rail service should be considered a temporary solution. We believe privately operated rail companies should be encouraged and allowed to operate the railroad system on a for-profit basis whenever possible and in the best interest of shippers.

The State should not purchase railroad cars unless there are no other alternatives to meet critical emergencies. Any purchase of railroad cars by the State should be accompanied by a plan for distribution and use of the equipment to best meet the needs of shippers.

We commend the private individuals who have stepped forward to execute contracts with the State for operation of important rail lines serving rural Michigan. Shippers are urged to utilize services offered by these carriers whenever possible.

BICYCLE SAFETY

We encourage County Farm Bureaus to work with other local groups in assisting law enforcement agencies and organizations to develop bicycle safety programs.

We urge the Farm Bureau Women's Committee to continue to work with the Michigan Women for Highway Safety on bicycle and other traffic safety programs.

COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS

The Board of County Road Commissioners is a unit of local government responsible for maintenance and construction of most roads within a county. The three-member Boards have six-year staggered terms and are, in most cases, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. They are elected in 12 counties.

We continue to support the Road Commission concept and oppose any effort to shift control of county roads to some other agency. However, we will support legislation to reduce the term of office from six years to four years. We believe the shorter term will encourage a more responsive commission.

HIGHWAY ADVERTISING

The Highway Advertising Act of 1972 regulates and controls outdoor advertising. It has proved too restrictive for many small businesses. We will support amendment of the Act and-or the rules and regulations to allow small businesses, such as farmers, who must rely on roadside advertising and-or directions to guide the consuming public to their place of business.

RAILROAD CAR REFLECTORS

Many serious traffic accidents resulting in death, injuries, and great monetary loss are occurring at unprotected railroad crossings. Many of these accidents happen during hours of darkness. We believe that luminous paint or reflectors should be required on the sides of new or repainted railroad cars as a safety measure. We further recommend that reflectors be placed on both sides of the railroad crossing. While a great deal of progress has been made in the use of reflectors on cars and crossings, there is still much to be done in the interest of maximum safety.

AUTO & TRUCK LICENSING

Farm trucks are often used only a short time and for short hauls. Present license laws do not allow farmers to purchase short-term license plates that will cover the harvest time operation of their trucks. We recommend a six-month license, with the farmer allowed to pick the six months of his choice.

We continue to support the use of two reflectorized license plates on motor vehicles.

Law

RESPECT FOR LAW

If we are to preserve the concept that our government is one of laws, not of men, we must insist on adherence to those laws and respect for properly constituted authority. We do not condone the flaunting of laws in the search for solutions to social or economic problems. We support our local police and will work to keep them independent and on a local basis. We support central communications systems to assure faster and more efficient service from our police departments.

While lawlessness becomes more prevalent in the U.S., some court decisions provide greater protection to the accused than to society. Some judges and parole boards allow criminals to be turned loose to prey on society, thus making the task of law enforcement more difficult. We are opposed to an automatic early parole. We favor the construction of prisons adequate to house inmates in order to allow them to serve greater portions of their terms.

We believe that punishment is a deterrent to crime. We favor reinstatement of capital punishment for the crime of first degree murder. We urge judges to fit the punishment to the crime, incarceration is not always the answer. We urge use of prisoners to accomplish community improvement projects. Whatever the punishment, it should be handed out immediately.

We favor a more positive emphasis on educational rehabilitation of inmates confined to penal institutions

that will afford them a better opportunity to assume a constructive role in society and assist in preventing their future confinement.

We propose more strict enforcement of laws protecting private and public property, both rural and urban, from losses due to riots, vandalism, and looting and urge prosecution of offenders. Early action to quell such activities is essential.

We urge citizens to carry out their responsibility to help law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance. Such citizens should be given protection by law.

We also urge support and expressions of confidence to our law enforcement officers and urge that they be given protection from liability when performing their duties.

We urge passage of state and federal legislation to provide that any person who, while out on bail waiting trial in a felony case, is arrested as a suspect in another felony case shall have his bail revoked and be returned to custody.

We believe that penalty for taking a hostage should be the same as for kidnapping.

Many believe the alarming increase in crime and violence can be linked to excessive exposure given by the news media to such acts. We urge those responsible for handling of reporting and presentation of entertainment which involves crime and violence to exercise restraint and good judgement.

NO-FAULT AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

We support the general principles inherent in Michigan's No-Fault Insurance Law, which became effective October 1, 1973, in that persons injured in automobile accidents now receive economic compensation more quickly and equitably.

There remain, however, aspects of the law which: 1) Restrict rights and responsibilities of the individual and 2) Unnecessarily increase claims costs of No-Fault and ultimately the insurance premiums paid by motorists.

For these reasons, we recommend legislative action to amend certain provisions of the law:

1. Presently, the law provides that Unlimited Medical and Rehabilitation benefits be paid to accident victims by their insurance company. We support one of the following alternatives for the purpose of controlling high claim costs:

a. Establishment of a maximum benefit amount per victim, such as \$100,000, which would be increased annually to reflect inflation, or

b. Establishment of a maximum benefit period per victim, such as three years.

Then, Medical and Rehabilitation expenses incurred by individual accident victims in excess of the maximum benefit amount or period would be assigned to a statewide underwriting association and shared equitably by all insurance companies.

2. We believe the "At-fault" driver in an accident should be made responsible for all damage caused to the property of others.

3. We believe that car accident victims should be compensated for medical expenses through their auto insurance policy, not their health and accident policy (such as Blue Cross-Blue Shield). Health and accident insurance premium could then be reduced.

4. Application of the No-fault law to motorcycles should be redefined. At present, motorcyclists are not required to purchase mandatory No-fault insurance but are eligible to receive No-fault benefits if they collide with an automobile. If motorcyclists are to benefit from the law, they should pay their fair share of the cost.

5. We urge the State Legislature to redefine parts of the law which, because of ambiguity, are in danger of being interpreted by the Courts far more liberally than the law's original intent.

PROPOSED "ESSENTIAL INSURANCE" LEGISLATION

The Michigan Insurance Bureau has proposed legislation which calls for radical changes in our State's insurance system. The "Essential Insurance Reform Act", HB 5196, would make it easier for "high-risk" individuals to obtain auto, homeowners' and other types of coverage. Insurance companies would be required to provide coverage for anyone who requested it, at their regular rates; then, highrisk policies could be assigned to a State-operated association. Underwriting losses of the association would be shared by all insurance policyholders in Michigan.

We do not support this legislation for the following reasons:

1. Most Michigan residents could be forced to subsidize the insurance costs for a small percentage of the State's population. Rural and suburban residents could be required to help pay coverage costs for urban homeowners in high crime and arson areas. Good drivers could be subsidizing insurance costs for high-risk drivers.

2. The Michigan Insurance Bureau would be given unusually broad regulatory powers. The State could tell an insurance company where to locate its licensed agents and determine if an insurer is making too much or too little profit.

3. The legislation does not address the basic problems which have increased the cost of insurance

such as the No-Fault Law, liberal court rulings and inflation. It simply represents a means of redistributing the cost - a "hidden tax".

4. Michigan presently has two State-sponsored programs through which high-risk individuals can obtain auto and property insurance - Michigan Auto Insurance Placement Facility and Michigan Basic Property Insurance Association. If these programs are not meeting their intended purpose, we recommend that they be updated to reflect changing social and economic conditions.

COURT REFORM

There have been several comprehensive studies of the judicial system in Michigan containing recommendations on the selection of judges, financing of courts, functions of courts, tenure of judges and establishment of new courts. Some reports have contained a version of a Supreme Court Justice selection system known as a variation of the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. More than 28 other states have adopted various versions of the plan in the last 15 years.

Michigan's Supreme Court is called "nonpartisan," but the method of nominating candidates at political conventions is far from nonpartisan. Presently, candidates with the exception of incumbents must depend on political bosses and parties for nomination. This can lead to political commitments to special interest groups contrary to the public interests. Such a system does not provide for high standards of ability and experience. Farm Bureau policies have supported an appointment system for Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges with a vote of the people to determine if the judge should be retained.

A coalition of groups called, "Michigan Citizens to Take Partisan Politics Out of the Courts," has launched a petition drive to put this issue on the ballot in 1978.

The proposal would (1) create a nine-member bipartisan Judicial Nominating Commission, (2) provide for appointment of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges by the Governor, and (3) require the judges to stand for election each term as individuals and on their record by a "yes or no" vote.

We believe this proposal would (1) take the courts out of partisan politics, (2) establish a screening mechanism to search out the best, qualified candidates based on their judicial capabilities, (3) retain the public's right to vote by a retention election, (4) permit the court system to operate independently without being dependent upon pressure and political groups for support at election time.

We support the petition drive and urge all Farm Bureau members to circulate petitions to place the issue on the ballot in 1978 for the voters' decision.



Increased time devoted to resolutions gave voting delegates the opportunity to carefully consider each resolution.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The issue on whether Michigan should have a Constitutional Convention will be on the ballot in 1978. This results from a requirement in the 1963 Constitution.

We do not believe that a new Constitutional Convention is necessary at this time because:

1. Assembling a Constitutional Convention would be very costly to Michigan taxpayers.

2. The 1963 Constitution is still in the process of implementation.

3. Any necessary changes to the 1963 Constitution can be submitted to the voters to be decided on their individual merit.

MICHIGAN UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

An exception for farm products in the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code requires a buyer of farm products from a farmer to constantly check with the Register of Deeds to see what financing statements are recorded before he pays for farm products. This is time consuming and expensive and slows down payments to farmers. We urge that this exception be removed from the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code.

PRODUCT LIABILITY INSURANCE

Recently there has been an alarming trend in the area of Product Liability Insurance. Liberal in-

terpretations by courts have resulted in a dramatic escalation of the number and size of settlements to claimants. The increasing tendency to find manufacturers as well as producers of raw and processed agricultural commodities responsible for unwarranted claims causes insurance premiums to increase dramatically. This in turn increases prices of the product to the consumer. Farmers, in particular, have no way to pass on such increasing costs.

We support appropriate legislation to curtail such increasing costs. Particular emphasis should be placed on applying some law of reason to the settlement process, establishing appropriate standards for defining contributory negligence, and enacting legislation which defines and limits the period during which liability may be incurred. Attorney fees in the representation of a claimant should be based on a flat per hour rate and not exceed 15 percent of the total settlement.

RURAL HEALTH CARE

Many communities are faced with a shortage of physicians to provide needed medical services. Rural communities are especially affected by the shortage of physicians. Ample financial support must be given to training programs at our teaching hospitals to encourage Michigan medical students to take their internship and residencies in Michigan.

We commend the Michigan Health Council for its efforts to place medical physicians into service in our state. We also urge that the Michigan Health Council develop a system which would assure Michigan rural youth the opportunity to ENTER Michigan medical and dental schools, and to remain in rural Michigan.

We urge that medical facilities be strategically located and staffed to assure rural residents adequate medical coverage.

We support legislation to expand the use of physicians' assistants in Michigan.

TOWNSHIP RIGHTS

Under present law a city or village may annex a portion of a township without approval of the township if that portion contains fewer than 100 people. Often the township loses a valuable part of its tax base which prevents it from supplying needed services.

We support legislation that would require the approval of the residents of a township before a city or village could annex part of that township.

NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS

The rapidly growing use of narcotics and harmful drugs must be stopped. We encourage massive, direct, and realistic education efforts to inform youth, parents, and others concerning the harmful effects of drug abuse. We oppose legalization of marijuana.

Courts should continue to strengthen penalties imposed on drug pushers.

Rehabilitation centers and drug information programs are now available to drug users in most parts of Michigan.

We support enforcement of laws to tighten the importation, manufacture, and distribution of narcotics and harmful drugs.

STATE INSTITUTIONS

Michigan has seven major penal institutions with plans for two more facilities to be operational during 1978, five mental institutions, and numerous other correctional institutions and camps. Crimes committed at those institutions require local officials, such as the Prosecuting Attorney, judges, law enforcement agencies, and others to investigate and prosecute such crimes. This results in an unfair burden on local officials and the local budget. All citizens should share these costs equally. We urge that legislation be adopted which allows local units the opportunity to collect funds from the State to reimburse the County for costs incurred in investigating and prosecuting crimes committed within the State Institutions.

GUN CONTROL

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun. We oppose further expansion of registration of firearms. We support mandatory imprisonment of any person convicted of a felony involving the use of firearms.

JUVENILE CRIME

Currently, if a minor living at home destroys or vandalizes property of another, the parents of the minor can be held liable for damages. The maximum that can be recovered is limited to \$1500.

We urge that the dollar maximum be eliminated so that full recovery can be obtained.

WELFARE

Welfare is a necessary part of our system for those who cannot sustain life without assistance. Welfare is the largest part of the state budget and the amount is rising yearly. This program has been spiraling in scope and cost, and suffering from abuse, fraud, and mismanagement. We support welfare for those who need it. However, many reforms are needed. We recommend:

1. Able welfare recipients be required to enroll in an educational program and/or engage in some type of public service work as a criteria to receive welfare funds.

2. Educational programs to help many welfare recipients become aware of nutritional and health needs, along with basic economics.

3. Continual evaluation of welfare programs to be sure that only those in need receive aid, and that existing regulations are carried out.

We believe that granting of welfare to strikers is not in keeping with the basic philosophy of any welfare program.

We urge legislation to reform the welfare system to eliminate abuse, prevent fraud, and correct mismanagement to prevent waste of tax dollars. Welfare rolls should be available for inspection by the general public.

The use of federal funds for abortion is a misuse of the tax dollars. We oppose this misuse of funds.

THEFT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The theft of agricultural products from the farm has been and continues to present an economic problem. Frequently, large quantities of these products are removed without permission from the owner. We urge strict enforcement of existing law and necessary revision to upgrade the law to address any inadequacies.

Farm Bureau

Our Farm Bureau is a farm organization. It must be an aggressive organization geared to serving commercial farmers with bold and imaginative programs. The building and maintaining of a bold and aggressive farm organization depends heavily on attracting the best in farmer leadership. This leadership must be active at all levels of the organization, from Community Groups through state officers. The organization must maintain the best type of employees to carry out the wishes of the members.

The primary purpose of Farm Bureau should be to serve the needs of active, producing farmers. However, in serving these needs, we will undoubtedly develop policies and establish many programs and services which will attract some non-farm people to our organization.

We should welcome the support of non-farm people who wish to join our farm organization and support the policies which are set forth by our farmer-members.

The authority and responsibility for determining who shall be a member and the classification of membership should remain with the county Farm Bureau Boards.

The right to vote in Farm Bureau should continue to be limited to regular members. We further endorse the policy of determining the number of voting delegates to the state annual meeting based on Regular member count, and urge that this policy be extended to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

We are proud of our organization. As members, it is our responsibility to uphold and promote a positive attitude toward the programs and policies we adopt.

Farm Bureau is a democratic organization with every member having the right to participate in making recommendations and decisions. The opportunity to participate is available to members by attending Community Group Meetings, County Annual Meetings, the State Annual Meeting, and serving on county and state committees. We are pleased that our members take this responsibility seriously.

However, the right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of the majority. This requires a sense of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to study, discuss, and recommend changes in policy when appropriate.

FARM BUREAU - LEGISLATURE

The 1976 election resulted in many new people being elected to the Michigan Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Many of those elected have no background in agriculture.

We urge each individual member to become acquainted with his state legislators and Congressmen to assist them in every way possible to understand the importance of Michigan agriculture, its problems, and Farm Bureau policies passed by the delegates at this annual meeting.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Hard work and dedication on the part of hundreds of Farm Bureau members has caused Michigan Farm Bureau to realize a decade of membership growth. Continuing growth is fundamental to the effectiveness of our organization.

We approve the 1978 membership goal formula for each County Farm Bureau as follows: Over goal counties - one-half of the number over goal added to the 1977 goal, Goal counties - one added to the 1977 goal, Non-goal counties - one-half the number under goal subtracted from 1977 goal. Also, Michigan Farm Bureau's goal to be one over year-end reported membership as assigned by AFBF.

We encourage each County Farm Bureau to strive for regular member growth in 1978. We urge all Farm Bureau members to dedicate themselves to eleven consecutive years of membership growth in Michigan Farm Bureau.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Our predecessors, the architects of the Michigan Farm Bureau, built the Community Group program as a structure to maintain the organization's grass roots

effectiveness. For many years, it was recognized as the "backbone" of the organization, providing Farm Bureau with a two-way communications system between the members, county, and state leaders and staff. Community Groups were a main source of policy recommendations and were vital contributors to policy execution. They offered an opportunity for leadership development of our members for active involvement in the organization and in their communities.

We believe that the strength of the organization still lies at the grass roots level and that the Community Group system is the best means of determining members' interests and needs. Recent changes in the economy and in attitudes toward home and family living provide a healthy climate for Community Group growth.

We commend the Board of Directors of Michigan Farm Bureau for establishing a Community Group Advisory Committee with expanded responsibilities for making program recommendations. We believe strong emphasis should be placed on implementation of this program.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN

Farm Bureau Women are a very important force in our Farm Bureau family. We encourage them to continue to work closely with their County Farm Bureau Boards of Directors to build a strong organization through projects that will increase the participation of members in our organization. We also encourage them to direct their efforts especially to leadership development through activities of consumer understanding, safety and health, legislation, political education, and local affairs.

We commend the Women's leaders for instituting programs to encourage the participation of young farm women and stress the importance of continuing this effort.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS

The major goal of the State Young Farmer Committee is to surface and develop new Farm Bureau leadership throughout the state. They accomplish this through various activities such as discussion meets, leadership conferences, and district meetings as well as holding an informational meeting with the second year Ag. Tech. students of Michigan State University and sponsoring a "Producers' Forum" for seniors in high school F.F.A. programs.

Young Farmers are eager for meaningful involvement in the vital issues concerning agriculture. We must seek to satisfy that desire through involvement of qualified young farmers in all Farm Bureau activities. A young farmer program can only be successful if given the strong and active support of county leaders.

County Farm Bureau Boards, working in concert with County Young Farmers Committees, have proven to be the catalyst for the development of strong Young Farmer programs. Major emphasis will be given in 1978 to increasing the awareness for the need of County Farm Bureau Boards to take an active role in the supervision of the County Young Farmer Committee.

We commend the state and county Young Farmers for new and innovative programs.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

Members are proud to be associated with an organization that takes a strong stand on local issues, and follows through with effective action on problems which affect them locally. A strong effective Local Affairs Program builds County Farm Bureaus.

We commend the numerous County Farm Bureaus which have worked on local issues, thus, providing a valuable service to their members. We urge all County Farm Bureaus to actively pursue local issues, thus, building a stronger, more viable organization to serve members.

MFB GROUP PURCHASING, INC.

The purpose of our newest Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate company, Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc. is to administer a "Safemark" Group Purchasing Program for Farm Bureau members in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Service Company.

This program is a county Farm Bureau program! County Farm Bureaus decide if they wish to participate in the program. County Group Purchasing Committees appointed by County Farm Bureau Boards play a key role in selecting and supervising Safemark dealers and in promotion of the program among the county membership.

We commend the MFB Board of Directors for making this significant economic service-to-member program available to all Michigan Farm Bureau members on a "for members only" basis. We challenge all County Farm Bureaus participating in this program to maintain strong active Safemark Committees. The county committees and members' support are very vital factors in the ongoing success of this program.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

MASA has established itself as the primary source of information for MASA members regarding the complex rules and regulations which dictate employment requirements on the farm. We urge the continuance of MASA's activities with adequate finances to provide

staffing at the same efficient level it is currently operating.

The Occupational Safety Standards Commission, charged with developing standards for MI-OSHA, has earned the ridicule of Michigan farmers with its unrealistic proposals for agricultural safety standards. The Commission is now showing a willingness to work directly with the agricultural community to develop workable farm safety regulations. Much of the credit for this change in attitude is due to the effort of the MASA staff and those farmers who wrote to the Commission about their problems. We commend MASA for its work in this important area.

We encourage Michigan Farm Bureau and MASA to provide educational programs especially designed to keep farmers informed on labor laws and issues.

We further commend MASA for developing a Legal Services Program for Michigan farmers which ensures qualified legal representation at a reasonable price and encourage Farm Bureau members to participate in this new service in 1978.

ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent our overall Farm Bureau organization when contacting members around the state and the public at large. Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau.

We commend the efforts being made to inform employees about the objectives, philosophies, and programs of Farm Bureau and all affiliates through a regular liaison program. We encourage continuation of this program on a priority basis.

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING

We appreciate the efforts of MACMA to expand the direct sale of top quality products to Farm Bureau members through its Direct Markets Division. Experience should result in improved scheduling and delivery of products.

We urge the MACMA Direct Markets Division to give priority attention to a sales program for Michigan products to Farm Bureau members in other states.

Member-to-member marketing holds a great future potential as a market for our products and as a service to our members, but we must never forget that strict quality control is vital to success.

FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS

We continue to recognize agricultural marketing as a major concern of farmers. Farm Bureau stands ready to assist members in meeting their marketing needs.

We urge Farm Bureau at the county, state, and national levels to actively support sound marketing programs and marketing legislation which will improve members' incomes. We urge all Farm Bureau members to support marketing programs of Farm Bureau Affiliate Companies.

COMMODITY DIVISION APPROACH

We believe the Commodity Division Approach (CDA) is an effective organizational means of serving the specialized needs of Farm Bureau members. We commend Michigan Farm Bureau for expanding the number of Commodity Divisions to include wheat, feed grains, soybeans, sugar, dry beans, deciduous fruits and berries, vegetables and potatoes, beef, swine, dairy and poultry. These divisions will provide input on important commodity related issues through their advisory committees. We feel this is an important tool for our organization.

SPECIAL MARKETING STUDIES

We urge that the following research studies be conducted by the Market Development and Research Division of Michigan Farm Bureau:

1. Plum Industry - An intensive and thorough study concerning the development of plum markets.

2. Dairy Pricing - Investigate and report on the feasibility of alternative milk pricing plans.

3. Red Dye No. 4 - Work with the sweet cherry industry to restore the use of Red Dye No. 4 or develop new methods for sweet cherry growers to market their produce.

4. Ground Meat - A study to determine the effects that the increasing popularity of ground meat might have on the Michigan livestock industry.

5. Grain pricing - A study of grain pricing in Michigan. Emphasis should be placed on those factors such as drying, shrinkage, test weight, dockage, foreign material, broken kernels and moisture, which directly affect the price received by farmers. The study should examine all such practices at the local elevator and terminal facility levels. We urge the study be conducted in cooperation with Michigan Elevator Exchange, Michigan State University and other interested parties.

6. Dry Bean Industry - A special committee has been appointed by the MFB Board of Directors to study all aspects of the dry bean industry. We urge that this study be completed as soon as practicable and the MFB Board duly consider the committee's recommendations. We also ask that the major findings of this study be made available to interested members and other parties.

7. Hay Distribution - A study to develop hay locating and transporting systems.

COMMUNICATION STUDY

Communications is a very important part of today's

world. Through the wonders of modern technology we are able to instantly communicate with people. Farmers need to receive daily information as a tool of good management. Information on markets, legislative affairs, membership, and other items should be available to members.

We, therefore, request that the MFB Board appoint a special study committee to find the best communication system for MFB's needs and report their findings back to the Board.

COORDINATION OF AFFILIATE COMPANIES

Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies share a common goal - to serve farmers. We continually strive to have all patrons of affiliate companies become members of Michigan Farm Bureau, and to have all Michigan Farm Bureau members patronize their affiliate companies. We must continue this effort.

In the meantime, we have many Farm Bureau members who are excellent potential customers or policyholders for affiliates. We also have affiliate patrons and policyholders who are excellent prospects for Michigan Farm Bureau membership.

We urge County Farm Bureau Membership Committees and local Affiliate Company personnel to work closely together in sharing prospect lists.

Agreements signed between county Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been used effectively to clearly define the responsibilities of the parties involved. It is of utmost importance that every county Farm Bureau Board review their affiliate company agreements annually. This review will help to create a better understanding of the duties of both parties and lessen the chance of misunderstanding.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We urge Farm Bureau Women to continue to create health and safety awareness and to promote a need for projects for healthy and safe families, including fire safety and promotion of smoke alarms; first aid training; farm, home, and traffic safety, and cancer detection.

We also urge Farm Bureau members to serve on state, regional and local commissions and committees regarding health and safety.

HEALTH CARE

A committee of county Farm Bureau leaders has recently completed a major study of the Farm Bureau members' health care coverage. This committee of 14 members, appointed by the MFB Board of Directors, reviewed current Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverages and considered alternatives to the present program including other health care plans.

After over 500 hours of comprehensive study, the Health Care Study Committee submitted the following recommendations:

1. That Michigan Farm Bureau continue to offer health care coverage through Blue Cross Blue-Shield of Michigan.

2. That Michigan Farm Bureau continue the Blue Cross-Blue Shield benefits and coverages as presently available.

3. That Econo Plan rates be determined by the utilization of Econo Plan subscribers only.

4. That management be authorized to negotiate with Blue Cross-Blue Shield to obtain a service fee for the services Farm Bureau performs at both the county and state levels.

5. Direct the Board of Directors to negotiate when the renewal of the Blue Cross - Michigan Farm Bureau contract comes up for removal of the clause specifying that Michigan Farm Bureau cannot promote any other health care plan during the term of the contract.

We commend the committee members for their in-depth study of this important member service program and endorse the recommendations of the Health Care Study Committee.

POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM

Political decisions are made daily which affect agriculture. Farmers must be more active politically if these decisions are to be made in the best interest of agriculture. Good laws begin where good lawmakers are elected.

Recent state and federal election campaign reform laws provide authority with adequate safeguards for organizations such as Farm Bureau to form a Political Action Committee. The PAC can receive voluntary contributions from members for disbursement to candidates who best support the philosophy and policies of the organization. Many organizations used a PAC effectively in the 1976 elections and many more will have a PAC in 1978.

A MFB Political Action Study Committee has surveyed County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Community Groups and individual members to obtain their input on a possible political action program for the 1978 elections. Meetings with personnel from other State Farm Bureaus and members of the Legislature were also held. As a result of this effort, an aggressive and effective 1978 Political Action Program has been developed. The program consists of:

1. Formation of a MFB Political Action Committee in strict conformance with federal and state election campaign reform laws.

2. Assistance to a limited number of County Farm

Bureaus who desire to form a mini-Political Action Committee.

3. Analysis of voting records and efforts of incumbent elected officials and designation as "Friends of Agriculture" those who have established a satisfactory record of supporting Farm Bureau policy regardless of their affiliation with a political party. MFB and County Farm Bureaus should recommend reelection of the designated "Friends of Agriculture" and urge members to support them.

4. Opportunity for members to make a voluntary contribution to the MFB Political Action Committee for disbursement to designated Friends of Agriculture on the basis of need and maximum effectiveness for agriculture.

5. Publication in the Michigan Farm News of voting records of members of the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Congressional delegation.

6. Encouragement for every member to register and vote in the 1978 elections.

We urge each County Farm Bureau and individual member to support the 1978 Political Action Program.

RURAL CRIME PREVENTION

Rural crime is rising at an alarming rate. Both the number and severity of incidents are increasing for several reasons. The increased mobility of the public, the vulnerability of the agricultural community and the increased activity of crime prevention programs in the city have all tended to drive crime to the rural areas.

Adequate police service in rural areas can be an important deterrent to rural crime. We urge both state and local officials to develop long-range crime prevention programs to better assist citizens in the rural areas to reduce crime. While we are concerned about crime in the cities, we are very concerned with the assignment of additional police to city areas which seriously reduces police protection in rural areas. We urge adequate funding of police services in order that sufficient manpower can be allocated to rural areas.

Currently many law enforcement agencies are developing crime prevention units. These units are staffed by competent law enforcement officers. We strongly urge that only law enforcement officers be used in crime prevention units. A law officer has more credibility with the public and has the benefit of experience in investigating crimes, making him qualified to assist citizens with crime prevention programs.

We are pleased that MFB in cooperation with law enforcement agencies has developed a Rural Crime Prevention Program which is being offered to members through the county Farm Bureaus. The program is patterned after "Operation Identification" and involves the marking of farm equipment tools, and personal items, with the owners drivers license number.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group to promote the Rural Crime Prevention Program. We urge Farm Bureau Insurance Group to study the economic benefits to insureds of reducing the opportunity for rural crime.

SERVICE TO MEMBERS

Valuable economic services are a prerequisite to continued membership growth. We recommend that the Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies continue to develop additional economic services for members only that will benefit the organization and its members.

We commend Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative for developing and financing the \$5.00 member certificates which will be issued again this year with every 1978 membership. We urge every member to take advantage of this certificate and redeem it at local FBS-FPC outlets.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The success of every united Farm Bureau effort depends upon the dedication and effectiveness of its volunteer leadership. Our organization has a responsibility to provide its members with the training needed to assume leadership roles, information to broaden their understanding of the Farm Bureau family, and opportunities to realize their leadership potential.

Farm Bureau offers broad opportunities for leadership development by its members. Every effort should be made to maintain and expand this intangible, but vitally important member benefit.

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau has an aggressive program in leadership training and recommend that this program be a continuing program at all levels of Farm Bureau.

PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau continues to lead in presenting the story of agriculture to our nonfarm population. The understanding and support of urban people on issues which affect our industry is vitally important. We urge all Farm Bureau members to make every effort to assist nonfarm people in understanding agriculture and its problems.

We are proud that Farm Bureau has daily and weekly information available regarding agriculture, through radio programming, news releases, a weekly editorial column and agricultural information packet that have continued to receive widespread acceptance. We are pleased that our leaders and members have been featured in newspaper articles, appeared on news

programs, in documentaries, and as guests on other television shows.

We commend the news media which turns to Farm Bureau when they desire information on current issues as they effect agriculture, and especially those who consistently promote an understanding of our industry by the nonfarm public. We encourage our county Farm Bureau leaders to continue recognizing these communicators for their fine efforts.

The most effective public relations for agriculture, however, is done by farmers themselves. We are proud of the Farm Bureau Women Speakers' Bureau project. We congratulate many counties for carrying on activities such as mall displays, Rural-Urban meetings, farm visits, working with schools, and county fair booths.

We salute the Farm Bureau members, who participated in the Michigan State Fair project. By volunteering their time and effort, these members were able to meet with consumers and tell them about agriculture on a one-to-one basis. Farm Bureau members statewide appreciate the job done by the persons who carried on the project.

ESTATE PLANNING

Estimates are that more than 60 percent of the population has not even taken the basic step of preparing a will for the transfer of their property at death. State and federal laws are such that a large percentage of the estate will be devoured by taxes without proper planning. We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau continue its program of information to the members on estate planning problems and point out the many techniques of transferring property to heirs with the least possible tax obligation. This program is especially important since the passage of major changes in the federal estate tax laws.

MICHIGAN FARM WORKERS MINISTRY

One of the priorities of the Coalition for Michigan Farm Workers Ministry, an affiliate of the Michigan Council of Churches, is to promote the organization of Michigan farm workers by representatives of Michigan Farm Workers Union. We oppose any church funds being appropriated for support of the Michigan Farm Workers Ministry by the Michigan Council of Churches. We urge that Farm Bureau members be concerned and take an active part in local church affairs to oppose any support of the Michigan Farm Workers Ministry.

ENERGY EDUCATION

Sufficient and economical energy is a major issue facing agriculture. The solution to this issue requires use of a wide variety of energy sources. It is essential that members understand these energy sources.

We commend the efforts of Michigan Farm Bureau to provide information on energy sources through speakers, conferences, special articles and other activities. We urge that this energy information program be intensified. The program should provide updates on the energy problem and production of energy such as nuclear power from fission and breeder reactors. County Farm Bureaus should utilize this information and develop appropriate programs to inform their members.

STUDY OF FOREIGN MARKETING PROGRAMS

Due to the complexities of agricultural marketing and production, we ask the Michigan Farm Bureau Board to initiate a study by the Market Development and Research Division of marketing programs by government and private organizations in foreign nations.

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

FILLING OF VACANCIES ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Resolved, that Article VIII, Section 6, of the Bylaws of this corporation shall be amended to read, as follows:

"Section 6. Vacancy. In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of a district director or director-at-large due to death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy until the next regular annual meeting. Vacancies in the office of district director shall be filled by appointment of a resident of the district wherein the vacancy occurred. Vacancies in the office of director-at-large shall be filled without reference to district, provided that no such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of a director-at-large from any district from which a director-at-large is already serving. These vacancies shall not be filled by a currently serving district director or a director-at-large. A vacancy in the office of the director designated by the Farm Bureau Women's Committee or the Farm Bureau Young Farmers' Committee shall be filled by that committee."

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

The policies adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later policies, including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other policies shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior policy provides the only basis for action on a current problem.

Young Vet Wins Discussion Meet



Arthur Currey (left), Livingston County veterinarian and winner of the MFB Discussion Meet accepts congratulations from fellow contestant Bruce Foster, Berrien County. The Young Farmer Discussion Meet state finalists had competed earlier at the six district finalists discussed the agricultural implications of the national energy crisis.

"Making it work . . . fitting into farm management in such a way that I help the farms produce is one of the most rewarding aspects of veterinary practice," says Dr. Arthur D. Currey, Fowlerville veterinarian and winner of the Michigan Farm Bureau Discussion Meet.

A member of the Livingston County Farm Bureau, Currey was selected from six District finalists on November 30, 1977

during the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. He will go on to represent the state Farm Bureau in the National AFBF Discussion Meet in Houston, Texas on January 8, 1978.

According to Currey, it was through the encouragement of fellow community group members that he decided to participate in the 1977 Discussion Meet competition. "We have a good community

group. The members are my clients and my friends. I enjoy meeting with them on a social basis. Their support has been and is important to me as I progress through the Discussion Meet process.

All of us are vitally interested in agricultural issues which may affect our farm operations. As for myself in addition to my practice in Fowlerville and surrounding counties I am also a partner in a family farm near Charlevoix."

His varied farm background as a youth on the family's Lapeer County dairy farm then a family owned yew lamb operation and Sugarbush maple syrup production in Charlevoix and, finally, veterinarian in Fowlerville has given Currey a diversity of agricultural experience upon which to draw as he prepares for the Discussion Meet finals. In the weeks prior to the AFBF Annual Meeting, Art Currey continues to research and study current, available information on each of the five topics selected for Discussion Meet competition. The topics are: Protection of Personal Property Rights, the Role of Farm Bureau in the Future, Energy, Financial Assistance for Beginning Young Farmers, and Erosion of Local Control of Government.

"Fuels from the Farm" Topic at Commodity Meet



Dr. Sheppard

The Commodity and Natural Resources Session was held November 30 at the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. Speakers were Don Shepard of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) and Dr. William Sheppard from the Battelle Memorial Institute (BMI) in Columbus, Ohio.

Shepard, operations manager of MASA, spoke on three topics: (1) Federal Minimum Wage, (2) Michigan Unemployment Insurance, and (3) Agricultural Legal Services Program.

"Every Michigan farmer should be concerned with farm labor," Shepard said. The federal minimum wage increases to \$2.65 in January

of 1978, \$2.90 in 1979, \$3.10 in 1980, and \$3.35 in 1981, he told the group of farmers.

He explained that most farmers are now forced to pay unemployment insurance because agriculture is no longer exempt under Michigan law.

Shepard urged FB members to carry worker's compensation insurance even if their premiums are higher than their payroll because of the financial risk involved if an employee is injured.

He also explained MASA's new legal services and the legal defense fund. Details on both of these can be found in the November issue of MICHIGAN FARM NEWS.

"Fuels from the Farm?" was the topic of the second speaker's talk. Dr. Sheppard is the senior fuels specialist at BMI. The main emphasis of his talk centered around the use of corn and corn products in making different kinds of fuel.

Using facts and figures via slides, Dr. Sheppard explained the economics of manufacturing energy from corn, corn stover and corn silage as compared to using sugarcane and products now used (coal, oil, etc.).

He said ammonia, synthetic natural gas, electricity, alcohol, ethyl alcohol, and gas-o-hol could all, theoretically, be made from corn and corn products, but "corn, by itself, will not solve the U.S. energy problem."

"Now is the time to experiment. Corn does have potential," he said. However, corn stover, if processed for energy, "might replace the fuel it takes to plow it under in the fall. In general, at this point, it does not look profitable to use corn stover," said Dr. Sheppard. He also said corn silage is worth more as an animal feed than as an energy source.

Concerning gas-o-hol, Dr. Sheppard said, "feed lot people are opposed to gas-o-hol because they like cheap prices. The demand and the price would go up."

There is "a larger roll for corn; it awaits research. It's almost attractive, a better way to use our money than the grain set-aside," he said.

Dr. Sheppard remarked that even if it becomes economically feasible to use corn as an energy source, would there be enough corn to go around? He said that 80 percent of the corn yield goes for animal feed, 5 percent for direct food products, and 15 percent for industrial use such as starch and corn syrup. He gave the following hierarchy for the use of corn: (1) pharmaceuticals, fire water; (2) fragrance, flavor; (3) functionality - aid; (4) food; (5) feed; (6) fiber, film, framing; (7) fertilizer, friability aid; and (8) fuel.

County Farm Bureaus Honored

Fifty-three county Farm Bureaus were honored at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Grand Rapids December 1 for their achievements in attaining membership goal and having the most outstanding program within their membership categories in six program areas.

Three counties shared the honors of receiving five gold stars, one for membership and the other four in program areas. The three counties receiving the top honors were Chippewa, Clinton and Livingston. Chippewa received stars for membership, information, community groups and policy development. Clinton County received stars for membership, information, commodity, community groups and policy development. Livingston was recognized for membership, young farmers, commodity, community groups and policy development.

Kalamazoo and Newaygo Counties were the state's four-star winners, with Kalamazoo receiving stars for membership, young farmers, information and policy development; and Newaygo for membership, young farmers, information and women.

Ingham, Oceana and

Sanilac Counties each received three stars; Ingham for membership, information and women; Oceana for membership, community groups and commodity; and Sanilac for membership, young farmers and women.

Six counties were two-star winners which included Copper Country for membership and women; Cheboygan for membership and community groups; Mason for membership and commodity; Montcalm for membership and women; Saginaw for membership and young farmers; and St. Clair County for membership and women.

Two, three, four and five star counties were honored at an awards reception and Jamboree on Thursday evening.

Thirty-nine county presidents were awarded one-star certificates at the December 1 Delegate Breakfast for having attained 1977 membership goal. Those counties receiving gold stars for membership were: Allegan, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Cass, Clare, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hiawathaland, Hillsdale, Huron, Ionia, Iosco, Iron Range, Isabella and Jackson.

Also receiving gold stars for membership were Kalkaska, Lapeer, Lenawee,

Mac-Luce, Macomb, Menominee, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Northwest Michigan, Oakland, Ogemaw, Osceola, Otsego, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw and Wayne.



Accepting congratulations from MFB President Smith for the UP's 5-Star award-winning county is John Kronmeyer of Chippewa County, for membership, information, young farmers, community groups and policy development.



Clinton County's 5-star accomplishments in membership, information, commodity, community groups and policy development earned recognition for their president, Bill Kissane.



George Robb, Livingston County President, proudly receives a 5-Star certificate from president Smith. Under Robb's leadership, the county earned recognition for achievements in membership, young farmers, commodity, community groups and policy development.

FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 1)

some 22 billion dollars, paying for most of our imported petroleum. "We have encouraged the passage of federal marketing and bargaining legislation to provide farmers with better tools with which to negotiate for better prices and terms of trade. Our organization has attempted to improve the already established cooperative system of selling products."

Smith concluded by telling the delegates that Farm Bureau has been successful in the past year because "we've had a philosophy, and we measured issues against that philosophy. We have not looked for easy ways, for expediences, or for alibis."

Capacity Crowds at FBS-FPC Annuals



Owen Hallberg, president of the American Institute of Cooperation, at the FBS/FPC annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

recent annual meetings on Nov. 29. The meetings were held in conjunction with the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids.

FB Services

Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President for both of these farmer-owned cooperatives, reported sales for Farm Bureau Services as the third highest in the company's 48 year history and that improvement expansion in the last two years was the highest in the cooperative's entire history. The addition of the two million bushel storage at the Ottawa Lake Grain Terminal and the rebuilding of the Saginaw Terminal on the river at Saginaw were the major contributions to this capital expenditure.

The election of directors returned all whose terms had expired. The new board consists of:

- Arthur Bailey, farmer - Kalamazoo County
- Loren Black, farmer - Grand Traverse County
- Frank Crandall, farmer - Calhoun County

- Larry DeVuyst, farmer - Gratiot County
- Walter Frahm, farmer - Saginaw County
- Gerald Geiger, co-op manager - Huron County
- Harry Herbruck, farmer - Ionia County
- Andrew Jackson, farmer - Livingston County
- John Laurie, farmer - Tuscola County
- Bruce Leipprandt, farmer - Huron County
- Lawrence Metzger, co-op manager - Sanilac County
- Elton Smith, farmer - Kent County
- Richard Wieland, farmer - Antrim County

Farmers Petroleum

Elton R. Smith, President of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., as well as Farm Bureau Services, Inc., welcomed a full house commenting that "agriculture is one of the few industries where more energy is produced -- in the form of food -- than is used in production -- that farmers are well aware of the energy problem".

Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President,



Member-Only specials advertised savings for Farm Bureau members at the 1978 FBS/FPC Product Show.

reported that again for thirteen straight years sales have set new records and net margins for the year were realized reversing the previous year's profit report.

Ronald M. Wood of Scottville was newly elected director. The 1978 Board will include:

- Arthur Bailey, farmer - Kalamazoo County
- William Brewer, farmer - Clare County

- Larry DeVuyst, farmer - Gratiot County
- Neil Harris, farmer - Saginaw County
- John Laurie, farmer - Tuscola County
- Alwin Marion, farmer - Washtenaw County
- Ronald Wood, farmer - Mason County
- Elton Smith, farmer - Kent County
- Richard Wieland, farmer - Antrim County

Elections Held

Both Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. drew capacity crowds at their

Smith Re-Elected

In addition to adopting a slate of policies which will guide their organization in the year ahead, voting delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting elected representatives to serve on the MFB board of directors.

Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, who has served as president since 1964, was re-elected.

Also re-elected were Arthur Bailey (Schoolcraft) representing District 1, which includes Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties; Andrew Jackson (Howell), District 3, including Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties; William Spike (Owosso), District 5, including Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham and Shiawassee Counties; Robert Rider (Hart), District 7, which includes Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola Counties; Donald Nugent (Frankfort), District 9, including Benzie, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Northwest Michigan and Wexford Counties; and Frank Schwiderson (Dafer), District 11, including Chippewa, Copper Country, Hiawathaland, Iron Range, Mac-Luce and Menominee Counties.

Re-elected to serve as at-large director was Michael Pridgeon of Montgomery and Mrs. Andrew (Claudine)

Jackson was re-elected to represent Farm Bureau Women on the board of directors. Newly elected was Dave Peckens of Howell who will represent the Young Farmers of the organization.

At a reorganization meeting following the annual meeting on Friday, December 2, the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors elected Elton Smith as president, Jack Laurie of Cass City, vice president, and Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca, third member of the executive committee.

Also re-elected were William Wilkinson, secretary, and Max Dean, treasurer and chief financial officer. Re-appointed was Robert E. Braden as administrative director and assistant secretary.



Arnold Musolf (Right) was honored by the MAFC for 34 years of service to the Lansing Production Credit Association. The certificate of appreciation was presented by Frank Carpenter, Manager, Leslie Cooperative, Inc.

MAFC Holds Annual

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives held its annual meeting at the Lansing Hilton Inn on December 9.

Bad weather kept the keynote speaker, Donald Wilkinson, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, from making his appearance, but participants who battled the elements to attend had a busy, productive day. A buffet dinner around the Hilton's swimming pool was followed by a speech from Msgr. MacEachin (Father Mac) of the St. Thomas Aquinas Church, East Lansing.

Elections resulted in one change on the MAFC Administrative Council. A new local cooperative representative is Rudy Yost, manager of the Coldwater Farm Bureau Services Branch. Yost replaces Wayne Gay, Southwest representative, on the Council.



Chapter Advisor George Hubka and members of the Hastings FFA admire their "Cooperatives Activities Contest" award presented at the MAFC annual meeting. The award was earned for their classroom instruction in cooperatives and other agribusiness organizations, their cooperative experience in marketing and purchasing supplies from cooperatives, attending annual meetings, and sponsoring cooperative projects.



Henry Larzelere was honored for nearly 40 years of service to Michigan cooperatives during his tenure at Michigan State University. For the past 20 years, he has worked with MAFC members in developing financial ratios and reports, assisting managers with financial problems.

Thumb Farmers Eligible for Loans

The United States Small Business Administration announced on November 30, 1977 that Huron, Saginaw,

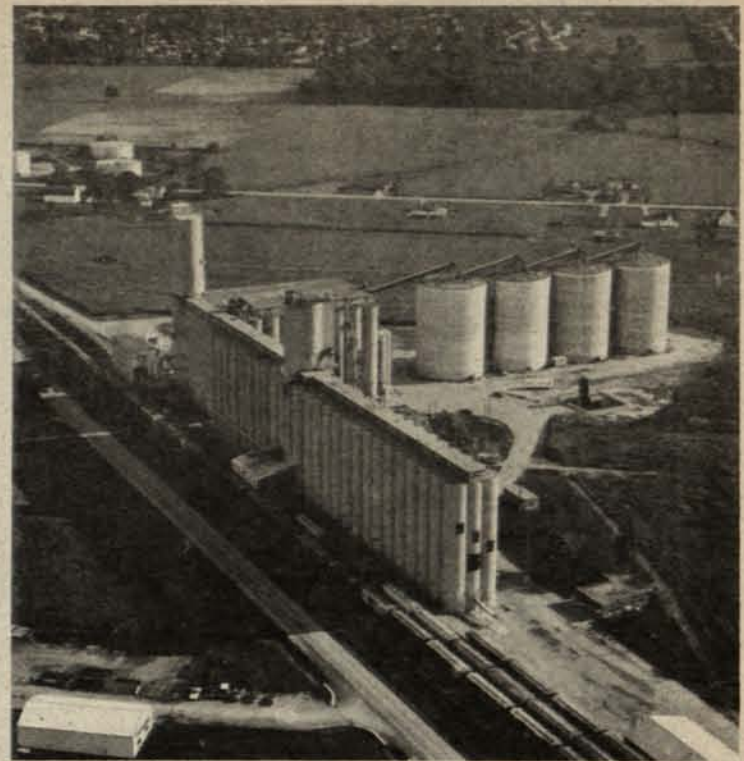
Sanilac and Tuscola Counties have been declared disaster areas following last summer's rain storms.

As a result, the Small Business Administration has made possible for small businessmen and farmers to apply for loans to cover the losses they faced due to heavy rains. The program will provide loans to cover physical damages to farm equipment, buildings and tiling and economic injury loans to cover losses sustained because of damages to 1977 farm crops.

Farmers interested in applying for physical damage loans must file their applications before January 26, 1978. Under the physical damage loans, farmers may apply for loans of up to \$500,000 to cover physical damages to their property because of the rain. Borrowers will have up to thirty years to repay the loan. The interest rate on these loans will be three percent on the first \$250,000 and 6 ½ percent on amounts over that.

The economic injury program will make available loans to cover the actual amount of income lost due to the bad weather. Loans are to be repaid over a thirty year period, with interest rates of three percent on the first \$25,000 and 6 ½ percent on amounts in excess of \$25,000. Application for the economic injury loans must be made by August 25, 1978.

Ottawa Lake Terminal On 24-Hour Schedule



"Michigan grown grain moves east by the train load" so reports Edward Powell, Vice President of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Michigan Elevator Exchange Division. In fact, the Ottawa Lake Terminal near Toledo has been running 24 hours a day for several weeks loading unit trains of 100 cars each. Three such trains per week have been moved to the eastern sea board markets. "As a result of this extra sales efforts, your cooperative has been able to meet all of the harvest demands and pressures that come from record corn and soybean yields" continued Mr. Powell.

Additional storage of 2 million bushels was recently completed making a total capacity of 6 million bushels for the largest farmer-owned grain marketing facility in the area.

Farmers Honored

The Farmer of the Week Award, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, recognizes Michigan farmers for their contributions to the agriculture industry and the community. Recipients are selected for the quality of their farming operations and for their community involvement. The Farmer of the Week Award winners for November are:



William Brewer

Week of Nov. 21 -- William Brewer, 43, who raises 200-300 beef cattle on more than 300 acres near Clare. He is a member of the Clare County Farm Bureau and served as county president in 1968. Brewer serves as a member of the Michigan Cattleman's board of directors, vice-chairman of the Isabella County ASCS committee, and member of the state board of directors of the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative. He has been a member of the Isabella County Livestock Producers for the past 10 years and has served as chairman of that group. Brewer also served on the Isabella County Planning Commission 1970-74, the Isabella County Fair Board, and the Isabella Parks and Recreation Committee. Brewer and his wife, Sandra, have two daughters and a son.



David Robison

Week of Nov. 7 -- David Robison, 28, who runs an ultra-modern dairy operation with his brother John near Big Rapids in Mecosta County. The dairy farm includes 100 milk cows and 550 acres. Robison is a trustee on the Big Rapids Township Board and a member of the Mecosta County Farm Bureau board of directors. He served as County FB president for three years and was the County Young Farmer Chairman for a year. He is an ASC committeeman and was chosen Outstanding Farmer by the local Jr. Chamber of Commerce. He was also district vice president of the Future Farmers of America. Robison and his wife, Kathy, have three children.



Peter Dragicevich

Week of Nov. 28 -- Peter Dragicevich, 50, a grape producer who farms 200 acres near Kalamazoo. A farmer all his life, Dragicevich raises more than 100 acres of grapes and several acres of cherry and peach trees. A recognized leader among grape growers, he was selected by his peers to serve on a special farmers board for the Welch's Company. He uses some of the most modern methods of grape farming and works with Michigan State University and other schools for the improvement of sprays and grape harvests. A former chairman of Texas Township, he is a member of the Mattawn Catholic Church. He has been a Farm Bureau member much of his life. Dragicevich and his wife, Juanita, have two children.



Theron VanRhee

Week of Nov. 14 -- Theron Van Rhee of Holland who farms 500 acres and milks 100 cows in Allegan County. Van Rhee, 49, a farmer all his life, has 275 head of livestock on his farm. He serves on the local board of the Federal Land Bank, is a member of the board of directors of the Drenthe Telephone Co., and is chairman of the East Allegan Soil Conservation District. He also serves on the Marketing Committee of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn. and the board of the Dairy Counsel of Michigan. A past fire chief of the Frenthe Volunteer Fire Dept., Van Rhee is active in the Drenthe Christian Reformed Church, serving as an elder on the Church Council. He and his wife, Janice, have one child.

Services' Driver Honored

Michigan Trucking arrive at a "Driver of the Association as "Driver of the Year" award which will be Month". Because of his announced in the spring of 1978. Leonard lives in with eleven other drivers to Kalamazoo.



Leonard Ekema, Farm Bureau Services semi-truck driver, has been named "Driver of the Month" in a state-wide competition, so reports the Michigan Trucking Association.

Mr. Ekema is a 32 year employee of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and has been driving for 31 of those years. His record involves more than 2,000,000 miles of no chargeable highway accidents. Several letters of commendation are in his work file including one from the Indiana State Police thanking him for his assistance in aiding them during a serious accident in that state.

Winning awards is not new for Leonard Ekema for in 1974 he was also named by the

DEADLINE!

Are you concerned about your family's health coverage? It's special when children hear their parents read their stories. The story that is being written by you each day is your encounter with the obstacles that prevent you from putting bread and milk on your table for your family. Your children see you care for them as you meet the responsibilities on your farm and take care of their needs each day.

Membership in Michigan Farm Bureau is your "key" to open the door of benefits that will help you care and protect your farm and family.

You open this "room of benefits" for 1978 when you renew your Michigan Farm Bureau membership. The room behind the door contains continued Marketing Services, Worker's Compensation Insurance, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, Member Life Insurance, and family health care protection through Farm Bureau's Blue Cross Blue Shield Group.

You have the opportunity to enroll your family in one of three benefit plans. The comprehensive plan provides broad protection for the family, single person, and two person contracts for the 'under 65' age bracket. The complementary plan is tailored to complement the Medicare benefits of the Medicare enrollee. In 1975, Master Medical coverage was added to both the comprehensive and complementary plans. Each member family has the alternative of selecting our low-cost Econo-Plan, which provides similar benefits (except Master Medical) with a co-payment feature.

You're a special person to us. Do you want that feeling of security in the Michigan Farm Bureau "room of benefits"? Then, renew your Farm Bureau membership NOW! THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE TO KEEP HEALTH CARE PROTECTION FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IS JANUARY 31, 1978.

Labor Information Meetings Scheduled

In an effort to keep farmers informed on the many changes in state and federal labor legislation, the Michigan Agricultural Services Association is holding a series of information meetings throughout the state. Resource persons will cover: preparing for an audit by the Wage and Hour Division of the Federal Department of Labor, complying with MI-OSHA agricultural safety standards, how to help bring rising costs of Worker's Compensation insurance under control and a review of MASA's new legal services program.

All meetings will begin at 10 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. Reservations may be made by writing or calling MASA, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing 48909, Phone: (517) 321-5661, Ext. 226.

County	Date	Place
Berrien Cass	January 4	Farm Bureau Building, Berrien Springs
Kalamazoo St. Joseph	January 5	Schensul's, Kalamazoo
Van Buren	January 17	Farm Bureau Center, Paw Paw
Ottawa Kent Allegan Ionia Barry Montcalm	January 27	Hospitality Inn, Grand Rapids
Monroe Wayne Washtenaw Livingston Oakland Macomb	January 31	Holiday Inn, Jackson
Huron Sanilac Tuscola Lapeer St. Clair	February 2	Marlette Country Club, Marlette



The first regional MASA meeting was held December 14, for the Central Region, at Long's Convention Center. Keynote speakers included (left) Walter Mader, Deputy Director of the Contributions Division of the Michigan Employment Securities Commission, and (right) Gordon Claucherty, Director of the West Michigan Office, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor.

Leader Meet Set

The Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leaders Conference will be held March 7-9 at the Valley Plaza Ramada Inn in Midland.

Participants in the conference will have an opportunity to meet with young farmers from throughout the state and to visit with legislators on an informal and personal basis.

Training programs and instruction will be offered in

effective communications, development of county young farmer committees, futures and hedging in the market, time management, agricultural legislative issues, and management through record analysis.

Richard Neubauer, American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Rancher coordinator will be attending the conference and conducting training programs.

"The Big Green Thing" Gets Public Hearing

State Highway Department officials found the meaning of "lonely in a crowded room" when they presented their case at a public hearing on the proposed I-69 project, held at the Lansing Olds Plaza on December 13. They had few supporters at the hearing for their favored route, which would cut through Eaton County's prime agricultural land.

The hearing room was packed with concerned citizens, including farmers, nuns, and FFA youth, who expressed their feelings about the vital importance of preserving prime farmland. If men of the earth, women of the cloth, and youth representing the future - all speaking in opposition to your plan - aren't enough to make you feel lonely... add a tough chairman who keeps referring to your proposed route as "The Big Green Thing."

Senator William Fitzgerald (D-Detroit), chairman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee, told the highway officials to "junk the jargon, cut the bureaucratic gobbledeygook, and speak in language that a poor Democratic Senator can understand."

The highway officials tried, using maps that explained the whys of their green route and maintaining that the plan had the support of local units of government. But they were challenged often, especially when the department's young environmentalist called farming a "social" rather than an environmental issue.



Senator William Fitzgerald asks state highway department officials a question about "the big green thing."

Al Almy, legislative counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau, was given the floor to correct that misinterpretation. "Agricultural land is one of the biggest contributors to a clean environment," Almy said, citing a list of factors including the oxygen produced by living plant, and trees on farmlands a proven factor in the reduction of noise. "There is also the aesthetic value of the rural area," he said. "This rural environment would be degraded by a population increase, new roads and services, and noise."

He also corrected the impression created by a highway department official's testimony that Farm Bureau's policy on avoiding diagonal highways was a factor in not selecting an

alternate route paralleling the railway.

Reminding him that Farm Bureau also has policy on the preservation of prime agricultural land, Almy said, "Farmers would rather see prime farmland with diagonal corners than no prime farmland at all."

Although it appeared at the public hearing that the state highway department lost the battle, it could still win the "war." Fitzgerald could not promise concerned citizens that his committee could change the state-favored I-69 route. "You can't build a super-slab to please everyone," the Senator said. He did, however, assure the group that his committee would meet with "both sides" for further discussion of the issue.

Forum Scheduled

The first annual "Producers Forum," jointly sponsored by the Michigan Association of FFA and Michigan Farm Bureau, will be held January 27 and 28 at the Valley Plaza Ramada Inn in Midland.

The purpose of the forum will be to expose potential agricultural producers to an intensive instructional program of current agricultural issues.

Utilizing small workshops, areas to be covered will include: practical aspects of energy conservation on the farm; how to establish a line of credit; partnership agreements; marketing trends and factors affecting markets; and improving the producers image.

Mrs. Esther Shapiro of the Department of Consumer Affairs for the City of Detroit has tentatively agreed to participate in the conference.

It is anticipated to have one senior FFA member or vo-ag student attend who plans a career in production agriculture.

Scholarships Awarded



Agricultural scholarships awarded to Elaine Zeeb, Whitmore Lake sophomore, and Glenn Rubingh, agricultural short course student from Ellsworth will enable these young adults to continue their studies at Michigan State University. Each year, with the assistance of the Scholarship Office at the university, two students in agricultural studies are selected from eligible candidates to receive the Marge Karker-Farm Bureau Scholarship, which is

sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau Women.

According to the Scholarship Committee Chairman, Nancy Geiger, "Elaine, whose parents are Washtenaw County Farm Bureau members, impressed us as a well-rounded, active person who would benefit from study in the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Also, she has demonstrated scholastic ability in her performance at Whitmore Lake High School, where she was a member of the Senior National Honor Society and Class Salutatorian."

Glenn, too is familiar with the Farm Bureau organization in northern Michigan's Antrim County, where his parents have been members of the county Farm Bureau for 31 years. As part of his training, Rubingh will begin an on-the-farm "intern" program in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania during the third and fourth semesters of the agricultural short course.

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New Presidents Meet



Four of the county presidents attending the annual New Presidents' Conference, held at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing, December 15-16, were: Ed Hebler, Saginaw; Ted Kneebush, Jr., Hillsdale; Mark Smuts, Eaton, and Henry Hudson, Livingston. The 2-day conference was designed to familiarize the new presidents with Farm Bureau structure, county agreements, county Farm Bureau operation, and responsibilities of county presidents. The 14 new presidents attending the conference listened to key personnel discuss Farm Bureau structure on the county, state and national levels; MFB affiliate company structure and their relationship with the parent organization; major Farm Bureau policy issues; Farm Bureau history; working with county committees, and how to be an effective county Farm Bureau president.

Governor Greeted



Governor Milliken is warmly greeted by a Farm Bureau member following his remarks at the Governor's Luncheon on December 1 during the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. The Governor's appearance has become a tradition at the MFB annual.

Young Member Enjoys Annual



Three-month-old Christine Meintz couldn't help set the policies this year, but she enjoyed portions of the annual meeting, especially the music of Lee Talboys. Her mother, Paula, was Menominee County's contestant in the Outstanding Young Farm Woman contest.

Members Receive 4-H Honors



A high school junior from Frankenmuth, Jeffrey Roger Frahm, was named 1977 state winner in the 4-H photography program by the Cooperative Extension Service.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Frahm, Saginaw County Farm Bureau members.

Frahm was among some 30 Michigan 4-H'ers attending the 56th National 4-H Congress in Chicago November 27-December 1.



Mrs. Everett (Pauline) Stanley, Hillsdale County Farm Bureau member, has been named a state winner in the 4-H alumni recognition program by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Mrs. Stanley received a plaque donated by Olin Corporation. The alumni recognition program honors former 4-H'ers for their continued service to 4-H, leadership in the community and success in their chosen careers.

Mrs. Stanley has been active in various community and 4-H activities for a number of years.

4-H alumni recognition awards are arranged by the National 4-H Council.



Dennis Wooden, son of Cass County Farm Bureau members Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wooden, has been named one of six national winners in the 4-H swine program.

Wooden received a \$1,000 scholarship during the 56th National 4-H Congress in Chicago, November 27-December 1.

A freshman at Michigan State University, he plans to return home and farm in partnership with his father and an older brother in raising purebred swine breeding stock after completing college.

Safemark Exhibit Stirs Interest



Members had the opportunity to purchase jumper cables at the MFB Group Purchasing, Inc. (Safemark) display during the annual meeting last month in Grand Rapids. A set of cables is closely examined by two members at the display.

TWO SPECIAL FARM BUREAU TOURS FOR 1978!

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July 11-20

— HOLLAND-SWEDEN-U.S.S.R.—
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SUPPLY REPORT

By Greg Sheffield

GENERAL OUTLOOK

Predictions for good availability of supplies and holding the price line are more optimistic than usual. There appears to be plenty of supplies, but these are well balanced for the needs of Michigan farmers.

Farmer held grain stocks at the same time are trending toward higher prices as they are released for sale. Thus, the coming planting season, if the weather is good, should get as much farmer interest as ever.

Foreign buyers are definitely in the market for feed grains. However, now some of the markets we have enjoyed for our sales of corn, soybeans, wheat, meat and dairy products, are shared with Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and European countries who have become important producers themselves.

FERTILIZER

Farm Bureau has lined up sufficient fertilizer for their farmer patrons who are already buying this winter and will continue to buy into spring. But the big problem again this year will be getting fertilizer to farmers. It looks like there will not be enough rail transportation. In addition, farmers have been holding onto their grain for better prices. This same grain will be competing for available truck space later when its sold. Yet, large price fluctuation in the price of fertilizer is not predicted. The cost of manufacturing fertilizer by any manufacturer remains steady to higher. While prices of fertilizer are perhaps lowest now, its almost traditional that they will trend higher as we approach spring. Spot shortages may even be the case if planting weather looks good or grain prices keep moving up.

FEED INGREDIENTS

Through December we saw prices of feed grains moving to strength because of Russian and other foreign interest in our supplies. Also, the demand for soybean meal has been steady even though few have been buying ahead in great quantities. The crush has thus continued as soybean oil stocks accumulate with profits remaining to induce processors. It will do little good for farmers to sit and wait for better prices. It's best to remain in close contact with your Farm Bureau feed dealer for both concentrate and ingredient needs, as well as for your complete feed needs. There will be increased feeding because of cold weather, hog numbers are building up, steers being fed out are hitting their more profitable levels, and grain being held in storage for price increases has not been let loose as of yet.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Supplies are excellent at Farm Bureau dealers. With the winter season at hand, stress on livestock is severest. Farmers can look to their Farm Bureau dealers for excellent buys on famous brand name products such as Universal, Merck, American Cyanamid, Elanco, Cutter Health products. Prices are good and products are fresh.

NEW FEEDS

Farm Bureau dealers have some new products that were introduced at the recent Show Place Product Show you'll want to look into. Ask about: Farm Bureau Ranch Hand 37 percent protein and mineral blocks, Farm Bureau Min-R-Lass blocks, Farm Bureau Giddy-Up Horse blocks. These all fit in well with self feeding and diet balancing. A new dog food "VIM and VIGOR" for the hard working dog, puppies, and bitches has just been made available and will soon appear on Farm Bureau dealer shelves. Also added are Old Mother Hubbard Dog Bones.

HARDWARE

Farmers are counseled to get their fence and wire products now. We are anticipating higher steel prices.

Pre-season price advantages can be obtained by lining up your spring needs now. Now is the time, too, for smart buyers to get baler twine, rather than near or in-season when prices almost certainly will go higher.

CO-OP fans for confinement house environmental control are good buys and a carefully engineered line can be studied so your house has just the right amount of ventilation this winter. LB White Heaters can complement this ventilation with efficient, no-waste heat. Use LP or natural gas. Farm Bureau Savage Logsplitters are proving popular both for decreasing heating bills and for recreation. Firewood can be split from 19 inches long to 50 inch blocks, depending on the model purchased.

LIQUID FUEL

There's enough fuel to serve our present patrons and we have been signing up new patrons interested in a reliable source when the going gets rough. Prices remain competitive and service is paramount.

OILS, GREASES

Dealers are receiving their

spring stock of motor oils and greases. Farmer patrons can arrange to have these delivered in directly to their farms at good savings and much convenience.

BATTERY CHARGERS

These are going well. The CO-OP Brand battery chargers are readily available from dealers at from just 4 amps to 10 amps. Instant-start booster chargers for cold weather diesel operation are on hand. You can get heavy duty booster cables capable of starting large tractors too.

MEMBER PROGRAM

A Universal Micro-Wave



Oven is being readied for Farm Bureau members. If there's a Micro-Wave Oven in your future, hold off getting one until Farm Bureau can announce a great member offer.

New Products Announced

Farm Bureau announces an innovative new line of supplement blocks for feeding cattle and horses. One of the new blocks called Ranch Hand, a 37 percent protein supplement block, is for ruminants and contains minerals and vitamins, including salt, calcium, and phosphorus. No other free choice minerals are needed. Vitamins supplemented by the block are A and D. Blackstrap molasses is included at a high level for readily available energy. Ranch Hand blocks are ideal for wintering beef cows, steers, and replacement heifers. The blocks can also be used for sheep and goats.

Min-r-lass molasses blocks are another new block just made available. They are high in blackstrap molasses which encourages consumption. The blocks are an ideal energy source for free choice feeding in bunks to dairy cows and helps them

achieve maximum production. Min-r-lass blocks also have vitamins A and D, as well as a full compliment of minerals. Their function is to enhance the utilization of roughage feeds.

Giddy-up horse block is the name for Farm Bureau's 21 percent protein supplement block. In addition to minerals necessary for horses and ponies, it contains the vitamins niacin, choline, A, D, and E. Giddy-up is for horses and ponies of all classes. Since it's high in protein and fed free choice, it balances the feeding of hard working horses. The protein is from all-natural sources.

To get a free copy of the pamphlet describing these new Farm Bureau supplement blocks in detail, write Animal Foods Department, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan - 48909; or contact your local Farm Bureau dealer.



AGRICULTURAL TOUR TO ISRAEL

FEBRUARY 5-15, 1978

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I would like more information about the February 1978 tour to Israel. Please send brochure.

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No-Fault Insurance

By Luke Schafer

Farm Bureau Insurance Group

Auto accidents are more common in Michigan than you might think. In 1976 alone, one was reported every 86 seconds — an annual total of 365,000 traffic accidents.

Nearly 2,000 people died and 163,000 were injured in Michigan auto accidents in just that one year.

But who pays for all the expensive medical care the injured require? Who covers all the property damage?

That's where Michigan's No-Fault auto insurance enters the picture.

Michigan's No-Fault law took effect Oct. 1, 1973. Although No-Fault laws have been enacted in various forms in 24 states, Michigan's is the broadest in the nation, providing the most generous benefits.

The Michigan law has two basic purposes:

1) To assure that everyone who is injured receives prompt payment of medical costs and compensation for lost income, regardless of who is at fault for an accident.

2) To reduce the number of liability lawsuits that were so prevalent under the old tort (or fault) system. The old system operated too slowly and compensated only about one-half of the accident victims for their economic loss. Many of the other injured were either underpaid or overpaid. Compensation was often delayed by long court battles, trying to determine who was legally liable.

For the most part, Michigan insurance companies agree that No-Fault is a superior method of compensating injured victims of auto accidents.

Under No-Fault, there is no limit to the amount an insurance company may have to pay for a victim's medical expense. And there is no limit to the length of time a victim can receive the medical benefits.

Here is a brief outline of the three No-Fault coverages that every Michigan car owner must have:

— Personal Protection Insurance, which provides unlimited medical and rehabilitation benefits to the victim — for years or decades if necessary. It also provides payments for lost wages for a maximum of three years, and benefits for survivors. All these benefits are paid to the victim (or his family) by the victim's own insurance company. This coverage protects insureds anywhere in the U.S. or Canada.

— Property Protection Insurance, which provides up to \$1 million coverage for damage to the property of others, except moving vehicles. This coverage applies only to accidents occurring in Michigan.

— Residual Liability Insurance provides coverage for accidents occurring outside of Michigan. It protects the car owner when he is sued under the liability laws of another state or Canadian province. It also protects the insured if he is sued under Michigan's No-Fault law, which permits lawsuits in cases involving death, serious impairment of body function, permanent serious disfigurement, or if the other person's wage losses exceed his No-Fault benefits.

Most insurance companies agree that Michigan can be proud of how its No-Fault law is taking much of the financial agony out of traffic injuries. Accident victims are having their hospital and other medical bills paid by their insurance companies without delay.

But Michigan insurance companies are concerned that the very rich benefits of No-Fault may cause a financial burden too great for car owners to bear. If insurance companies are forced to pay out such large amounts in claims, it will mean higher and higher insurance rates for car owners.

Here is an example from the files of Farm Bureau Insurance Group that helps illustrate the costs confronting Michigan insurance companies:

A 30-year-old married man was rendered unemployable as the result of serious injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Today he is a complete invalid, cared for at home by his wife.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES
Manager Member Relations

He receives physical therapy and still has many medical problems.

Farm Bureau Insurance has paid out nearly \$95,000 on that case so far and maintains reserves based on an estimated future cost of \$375,000 for the victim's treatment. That brings the total cost to \$470,000.

Since No-Fault became law in Michigan, Farm Bureau Insurance Group has recorded 30 cases for which total medical and rehabilitation costs are expected to exceed \$50,000 each. Figuring costs for future treatment of these victims, these 30 cases will cost about \$6.6 million collectively.

Insurance companies throughout Michigan are experiencing the same high costs. And the costs are being driven up every year by an increasing number of accidents and by inflation.

Consider this: since 1973, medical and car repair costs have increased 46 percent and 42 percent respectively, far outpacing the increase in prices of almost all other goods and services.

The price of replacing a front bumper on a 1975 Chevrolet Impala has increased from \$162 to \$269 in the past two years. And maintaining a patient in a rehabilitation center can cost \$5,500 a month.

No-Fault is indeed a generous system, but many insurance companies insist that more limits are needed. Otherwise, as one large auto insurer warned, Michigan motorists may find their wheels yanked right out from under them by \$2,000 a year auto insurance policies.

Moreover, parts of the No-Fault law are confusing to many Michigan motorists. Most people believe that the driver who caused the accident, or his insurance company, should pay for car damage.

But under No-Fault, if a motorist is involved in an accident his insurance company pays for repairs, regardless of who was at fault. If the motorist carries a \$100 deductible, he must pay that amount out of his own pocket, even if he was totally blameless.

Many car owners, who feel that should not have to pay when they are not at fault, oppose this part of the No-Fault law.

And another sore spot: when No-Fault was enacted, its backers argued that the costs for the liberal benefits would be offset by all the money saved from the drastic reduction in lawsuits. But after a brief lull following the introduction of No-Fault, there has been a rapid increase in automobile negligence suits in Michigan circuit courts.

Why? Primarily because the No-Fault law permits lawsuits if a victim suffers "serious impairment of body functions," as well as for the other reasons mentioned earlier. But the phrase "serious impairment of body function" is not defined in the law.

The wording is so vague that it invites

lawsuits. Because of this, lengthy lawsuits between parties involved in an accident could become common again, many insurers believe.

No-Fault is still under a cloud of legal uncertainty. Circuit and Appeals Court decisions have ruled on various aspects of the law, but the final question of constitutionality is in the hands of the Michigan Supreme Court.

The State Supreme Court has heard arguments on several questions concerning the law and its decision is expected sometime in the coming months.

In the meantime, several groups, including the insurance industry, continue to work for legislative change of parts of the law.

Farm Bureau Insurance Group supports the No-Fault resolution which was adopted by delegates at the 1977 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, held recently in Grand Rapids.

The MFB resolution agrees with the general principles of the No-Fault law, but points out that certain aspects of the law "restrict rights and responsibilities of the individual and unnecessarily increase claims costs and, ultimately, the insurance premiums paid by motorists."

In the interest of controlling high claim costs, the MFB resolution recommends the establishment of a maximum benefit amount per victim, such as \$100,000, which would be increased annually to reflect inflation, or the establishment of a maximum benefit period for each victim, such as three years.

"Medical and rehabilitation expenses incurred by individual accident victims in excess of the maximum benefit amount or period would be assigned to a statewide underwriting association and shared equitably by all insurance companies," the resolution explained.

"We believe that 'at-fault' driver in an accident should be made responsible for all damage caused to the property of others," the resolution further stated.

The resolution also called for these changes: — "We believe that car accident victims should be compensated for medical expense through their auto insurance policy, not their health and accident policy. Health and accident insurance premium could then be reduced."

— "Application of the No-Fault law to motorcycles should be redefined. At present, motorcyclists are not required to purchase mandatory No-Fault insurance, but are eligible to receive No-Fault benefits if they collide with an automobile. If motorcyclists are to benefit from the law, they should pay their fair share of the cost."

— "We urge the State Legislature to redefine parts of the law which, because of ambiguity, are in danger of being interpreted by the courts far more liberally than the law's original intent."

Farm Bureau Insurance Group is working to keep Michigan Farm Bureau members informed about No-Fault.

FBIG has prepared an 18-minute slide-tape program entitled "No-Fault: Promises and Problems." The program explains how No-Fault works, points out the law's advantages and disadvantages, and cites case histories from FBIG's files. Also covered is the No-Fault resolution passed at the 1976 MFB Annual Meeting.

If you would like this program shown to your group, contact the Communications Dept., Farm Bureau Insurance Group, 7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

A representative of Farm Bureau Insurance will bring the presentation to your meeting and answer questions from the audience.



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