MFB Tackles Farm Income Prob

Export Expansion, Set-Asides

Keys to Five-Point Action Plan

The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, meeting in Lansing February 9, discussed a five-point "program of action" designed to alleviate the current financial plight of farmers. The program, presented to President Jimmy Carter and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, MFB President Elton R. Smith, requested "immediate and active support" of their recommendations.

The farm leaders called for an expansion of export markets for U.S. farm products, including: aggressive sales missions, increased direct exports by cooperatives, and expansion of P.L. 480 sales and concessions.

Secondly, they recommended a "meaningful" set-aside program for wheat and feed grains, with a voluntary acreage set-aside that would reduce 1978 production of feed grains by 20 percent. Their third point was aimed at improving the marketing capabilities of farmers. The group asked for immediate passage of national marketing and bargaining legislation, increased on-farm storage and increased emphasis on marketing research and information. Michigan has an Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act, the first of its kind in the nation, and Farm Bureau believes that similar national legislation is needed.

The fourth point in their recommendations was "improving the image of agriculture and increasing the demand for food in the United States." This could be accomplished, the farm leaders pointed out, by increased efforts to improve consumer awareness and understanding of the agricultural industry through advertising and educational programs, and by working with wholesalers, retailers and other segments of the food distribution chain to expand demand for agricultural products.

Smith said the board would also seek endorsement of their recommended program from Governor Milliken, members of the Michigan Legislature, and Michigan Congressmen. "We will also seek support from other agricultural groups to constructively build action programs to more fully implement this program," Smith said.

ON THE INSIDE:

Michigan Farm Bureau's
ACTION
Publication
VOL. 57, NO. 3
MARCH, 1978

Political Action Program Adds Legislative Impact

"It is time that we, as both Farm Bureau leaders and farmers, re-think our traditional involvement in politics." With that statement, MFB board member Larry DeVuyyst, opened discussion of the organization's new political action program with county presidents at their recent conference in Midland.

With the exception of the 1974 and 1976 elections, when a farmer running for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees was endorsed, the Michigan Farm Bureau has historically maintained its non-partisan position at election time. Although members, as individuals, were involved in partisan politics, the state and county Farm Bureau organizations had taken no position on candidates seeking public office.

That tradition will end, due to the unanimous approval given to the Political Action Program by voting delegates at the MFB annual meeting last December, and designated "Friends of Agriculture" will receive active support in the upcoming 1978 election. The Political Action Program was developed following seven months of study by an MFB board committee, consisting of Larry DeVuyyst of Gratiot County as chairman, Michael Fridegen, Branch County; Bob Rottier, Newaygo County, and Bill Spike, Shiawassee County. This committee interviewed several resource persons during their study, including representatives from the AFBF and other state Farm Bureaus, state senators and representatives from both political parties, and a representative from the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, a special questionnaire was sent to 75 Farm Bureau boards of directors, community groups and the entire Farm Bureau membership was surveyed through the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS (September '77 issue) to surface member attitudes and input toward the development of a political action program. From these meetings and surveys, the committee developed a six-part program for 1978, which was approved by the board of directors and finally by voting delegates at the annual meeting.

The six-point program will include:
(1) The naming of a Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee (PAC) by the board of directors in strict compliance with both federal and state campaign reform laws. PAC will be the legal structure to receive political contributions from members and to disburse the funds to candidates who will best support Farm Bureau policies in public office.

(2) Assistance will be given to a few county Farm Bureaus which would like to organize their own Mini-PAC.

Michigan Farm Bureau will assist these counties in filing the necessary papers to establish their Mini-PAC and advise them on administering the program.

(3) The voting records and efforts of incumbent elected officials will be analyzed and those incumbents who have established a satisfactory record of performance in supporting Farm Bureau policy will be designated as "Friends of Agriculture." This analysis and designation will be done without regard to the incumbent's party affiliation. When approved by the MFB board, this information will be distributed to county Farm Bureau boards.

County boards will be asked (Continued on Page 3)
The circumstances that brought about the "birth" of Farm Bureau back in 1919 had similarities to those that exist today. Farm prices had collapsed; farm costs had spiralled. Taxes rose so high that many farms had to be sold.

Farmers realized they could not solve these problems alone, so they decided to join together, to form an organization which would provide ways and means for concerted action on agricultral problems.

For nearly 60 years now, farmers have been working together through Farm Bureau to solve their problems and they have written a proud record of achievements, many times against formidable odds. Whether the problems have been national, international, or statewide in scope, or just involving their own communities, farmers have used their organization to solve them. And the tougher the problem, it seems, the more valuable, the stronger and more effective Farm Bureau becomes.

Today farmers are once again faced with the problem of low farm income and high farm costs. And, once again, they will solve those problems through Farm Bureau. We will turn the challenges we face into opportunities, as we have so many times in the past.

Your board of directors has developed a constructive, rational, forward-thinking plan of action to help solve the current financial plight of farmers (see Page 1). We are now seeking support of this plan from President Carter, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, Governor Milliken, members of the Michigan Legislature and Michigan Congressmen.

Your American Farm Bureau Federation has presented Congress with a similar program, calling for more effective use of the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act, more dynamic steps to increase exports, improved farm credit measures, national marketing and bargaining legislation, and immediate efforts to slow inflation and balance the federal budget.

These plans are ambitious, but realistic, and if we work hard to accomplish the goals outlined in the plans, agriculture will become more viable than it has ever been.

At this point, while the plans are just words, they do not have the emotional appeal that will capture the attention of the general public. But they will, once YOU put the words into action. This public attention and support will be vitally important because, currently, I fear, we are in danger of having consumers believe that a majority of farmers want government handouts to stay in business. And those politicians who would like to make agriculture a public utility will find a ready-made constituency to cheer them on. The public is now aware of the problems farmers face; let's be sure they are aware that we can solve those problems through policies enabling farmers to produce for demand and not for some artificial goal created by government.

I strongly urge you to study this plan of action carefully and consider what YOU can do to achieve the goals it contains. We will be asking for your input regarding specific activities to put the plan into action.

Our Farm Bureau is a powerful organization; when it speaks, others listen. But it has no power except what members, as individuals, put into it. With Farm Bureau's people-power, we can, we will, change things for the better - by turning challenges into opportunities.

ELTON R. SMITH
Michigan Farm Bureau's Five-Point Action Plan

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors believes the following 5-Step Program of Action would provide a workable solution to the income prospects facing farmers. They have urged the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Carter Administration to support these measures:

1. EXPANSION OF EXPORT MARKETS FOR U.S. FARM PRODUCTS.
   a. Increased direct exports by farmer owned cooperatives.
   b. Continued overseas market development activities.
   c. Trade sales missions.
   d. Elimination of trade barriers.
   e. Improved CCC credit terms.
   f. Expansion of P.L. 480 sales and concessions.
   g. Support of the Poage-Mathias Act.

2. Increased access to world markets without interference from dock strikes and government embargoes.

3. MEANINGFUL SET ASIDE PROGRAMS FOR WHEAT AND FEED GRAINS.
   a. Urge farmers to comply fully with the 20 percent wheat set aside already announced by the Secretary of Agriculture.
   b. Recommend that President Carter and Secretary of Agriculture Bergland implement an effective, voluntary acreage set-aside program that will reduce 1978 production of feed grains by 20%.
   c. Recommend that future set aside programs be designed to keep projected ending carryover stocks at not more than 10 percent of the current year's production for feed grains and 20 percent of the current year's production for wheat.

4. IMPROVING THE MARKETING CAPABILITY OF FARMERS.
   b. Increased on-farm storage.
   c. Better education, understanding and use of futures markets by farmers.
   d. Increased efforts in marketing research and information through land grant universities and the cooperative extension service.
   e. Removal of unnecessary and burdensome regulations.
   f. Increased effectiveness of AAMA.
   g. Strict scrutiny of agricultural imports including labeling of foreign products.
   h. Imposition of countervailing duties on imports that are subsidized by foreign countries.

5. IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF AGRICULTURE AND INCREASING THE DEMAND FOR FOOD IN THE U.S.
   a. Continued use of domestic agricultural promotional programs.
   b. Increased efforts to improve consumer awareness and understanding of the agricultural industry through advertising and educational programs.
   c. Working with wholesalers, retailers and other segments of the food distribution chain to expand the demand for agricultural products.

6. INCREASED POLITICAL ACTION
   a. Support and election of legislators favorable to agriculture in 1978.
   b. Express views on important issues to legislators once elected.

What You Can Do Now

1. Visit your ASCS office TODAY for information on the set-aside program as it pertains to your farm.
2. Send telegrams or letters to your Michigan legislators, Michigan Congressmen, President Carter and Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland urging them to support MFB's plan of action.
3. Send telegrams or letters to President Carter, Secretary of Agriculture Bergland and your Congressmen urging utilization of Section 502 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to implement diversion payments in carrying out a set-aside program.
4. Send telegrams or letters to your Michigan Congressmen urging them to support the Poage-Mathias Act (See National Notes in this issue).

(Continued from Page 1 to publicly announce the designation of "Friend of Agriculture" to those on the list whose legislative districts encompass all or a portion of the county. They will also be asked to meet with their "Friends of Agriculture" to suggest farmers who might serve on a "Farmer Support Committee" to help work for the election of the candidate. In the case of statewide candidates, such as U.S. Senator or Governor, Michigan Farm Bureau will announce those who are designated "Friend of Agriculture" and suggest names of farmers who could be contacted to work on a Farmer Support Committee.

1. The MFB PAC will solicit voluntary contributions from members to be used in supporting the election campaigns of "Friends of Agriculture." These contributions will be disbursed by PAC on the basis of need and maximum effectiveness for agriculture.
2. Voting records of the Michigan Legislature and Michigan Congressional delegation will be published in the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS. Replies to the surveys indicated that most members do not know enough about candidates when entering the polls and that voting records would help solve this problem.
3. The surveys showed that about 75 percent of eligible Farm Bureau members voted in many elections, a few votes could mean a change in the outcome, so an organization plan to achieve a 100 percent registration and voter turnout of members on election day, will be provided to each county Farm Bureau.

1. It is time for a much greater involvement in politics and 1978 is the year to get started. DeVuyst told the county presidents. "Farmers just have to be more aggressive and visible in partisan politics if agriculture in general and Farm Bureau specifically are to maintain and increase strength in the legislative and regulatory areas."

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

The Michigan FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Entered as second class matter April 14, 1923 at the post office at Lansing, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

EDITORIAL: Donna Wilber. Editor; Marcia Ditchie, Connie Lawson, Assistant Editors.

OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elon E. Smith, Cass City, R.1; District 1, Arthur Montgomery, Pigeon; District 2, Charles H. McQuitty, Cass City; District 3, Robert W. Leary, Owosso, R.1; District 4, Robert Herder, Hart, R.1; District 5, Donald H. Johnson, Clare, R.1; District 6, Richard W. Fullerton, Grayling, R.1; District 7, Calvin M. Marshall, Grawn, R.1; District 8, R. Van Akin, Oceana, R.1; District 9, Thomas A. Clark, Fife Lake, R.1; District 10, Frederick W. Kenyon, Grand Rapids, R.1; District 11, Franklin Schwanke, Harper Woods.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Walter Rutka, Traverse City, R.1; Rosemary Lanpher, Pigeon; Michael O. Imig, Montmorency.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. Andrew Jackson Howell, Howell, R.4.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS: David Peckens, Howell.

POSTMASTER: Inusual form 339, mail to Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 100, Highway 51 Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

Ag Day is a time for some serious thought about agriculture in America.

Agriculture Day...always the Monday closest to the first day of spring...honors a mighty important industry: Agriculture.

Feeding and clothing the nation and the world. Creating jobs in manufacturing, processing and distributing farm supplies and products. Small wonder agriculture is such a vital factor in the strength of the American economy. 

PCAs have been part of agriculture since 1933...farmers and ranchers meeting their own credit needs, cooperatively. PCA people are proud to see agriculture get the recognition it deserves.

Production Credit Associations of Michigan

Farming is everybody's bread & butter
Focus on Marketing

The accent will be on marketing at SOYBEAN DAY VI, scheduled for March 7 at the new Sheraton Inn in downtown Jackson.

Headlining the program will be a nationally-known marketing expert, Jim Gill, who serves as director of marketing analysis for the Illinois Agricultural Association. He will offer producers his suggestions on “How to Market Your 1978 Soybean Crop.”

Other topics will include a discussion of “Trade Barriers - How They Affect Soybean Exports,” a look at the soybean industry from a processor's point of view, and an update on harvesting and plant research in Michigan. Participants will have ample opportunity to have their questions answered regarding these topics.

Approximately 20 exhibits, with suppliers on hand to answer questions, will also be open to those attending SOYBEAN DAY VI. Exhibitors include seed, chemical and irrigation companies.

Registration and exhibits will open at 9 a.m. A $5.00 charge will cover the cost of the noon meal. The Sheraton Inn is located just off Michigan Avenue at One Jackson Square.

Grant Meets with President

“Market System Will Correct Imbalance”

President Carter is for-free enterprise and so are we in Farm Bureau,” President Allan Grant said following a meeting at the White House February 14.

Grant said this was the general feeling that came out of a meeting with President Carter, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland and other farm organization leaders.

“The President stated categorically that he wanted the 1977 Farm Act to work, to function and it can,” Grant told reporters at the White House. He added: “The President did say that the Secretary has various prerogatives under the Act and that the Secretary will be looking at that in light of today's conversation.

“We don't want the government involved in agriculture anymore than it is at the present time,” Grant said. “We are for additional set-aside to cut back in production during this time of surplus.

“The Administration has done a great deal and so have we in Farm Bureau,” Grant said. “We've done everything possible to increase trade to get this material out of the hands of the farmers and into the marketplace. We are encouraging the President, and he said that he was in the process of increasing the "Food for Peace" program.

Grant told reporters that the majority of commodity groups represented feel as Farm Bureau feels, that “The market system will correct the imbalance if given the time and opportunity. "The President did say that he hoped we could get together a year from now and celebrate the fact that agriculture is in a better economic condition at that time than it is now," Grant concluded.

Members Honored at Vegetable Convention

Herbert M. Turner of Saginaw and Bernard D. Wilde of Bailey were cited for their outstanding contributions to agriculture during the 11th annual Great Lakes Vegetable Convention in Lansing on January 24-26. Turner, who operates a 350-acre fruit and vegetable farm, was given the Master Farmer in Vegetable Crops Award. Wilde, known for his manufacturing of mechanical harvesters for pickles, was given the Master Farmer in Vegetable Crops Associate Award. The presentations were made during the annual vegetable growers' banquet.

Eradication of Hog Cholera Improves U.S. Markets

Officials indicate that U.S. export sales to other nations are likely now that hog cholera has been eliminated.

The United Kingdom says it would be interested in three million dollars worth of pork annually after the U.S. has been free of the disease for more than twelve months.

Hog cholera will not be classified as an exotic disease by the United States Department of Agriculture and will get immediate emergency action if it ever reoccurs within the U.S. boundaries. Hog cholera was probably the most costly and destructive swine disease in the United States' history. The successful battle against hog cholera has proven that eradication methods work and that other animal health diseases can be wiped out.

I would term that accomplishment as one of the most significant animal health achievements in the history of our United States. I am pleased, too, that there will be great savings to the producer because of the fact that he will not need to pay for the vaccines and pay veterinary costs which he has had to incur over the past years.

With increased overseas marketing of pork, this should mean more dollars to hog producers here in Michigan and throughout the United States.


Trade Mission

A group of importers from the Republic of China who are members of a purchasing mission were in Lansing on February 16, making contacts with state officials as a first step toward increasing trade with Michigan.

The trade group met with Governor Milliken in the morning, after a conference with officials of the Michigan Department of Commerce. They then sampled Michigan agricultural products at a luncheon arranged by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

“We're particularly interested in talking with this special procurement mission from the Republic of China since we know that country is contemplating increased imports of foodstuffs,” said B. Dale Ball of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The luncheon was arranged by the MDA International Trade division as part of MDA's continuing efforts to expand overseas markets for Michigan-grown products.

Eradication of Hog Cholera Improves U.S. Markets

Officials indicate that U.S. export sales to other nations are likely now that hog cholera has been eliminated.

The United Kingdom says it would be interested in three million dollars worth of pork annually after the U.S. has been free of the disease for more than twelve months.

Hog cholera will not be classified as an exotic disease by the United States Department of Agriculture and will get immediate emergency action if it ever reoccurs within the U.S. boundaries. Hog cholera was probably the most costly and destructive swine disease in the United States' history. The successful battle against hog cholera has proven that eradication methods work and that other animal health diseases can be wiped out.

I would term that accomplishment as one of the most significant animal health achievements in the history of our United States. I am pleased, too, that there will be great savings to the producer because of the fact that he will not need to pay for the vaccines and pay veterinary costs which he has had to incur over the past years.

With increased overseas marketing of pork, this should mean more dollars to hog producers here in Michigan and throughout the United States.


Trade Mission

A group of importers from the Republic of China who are members of a purchasing mission were in Lansing on February 16, making contacts with state officials as a first step toward increasing trade with Michigan.

The trade group met with Governor Milliken in the morning, after a conference with officials of the Michigan Department of Commerce. They then sampled Michigan agricultural products at a luncheon arranged by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

“We're particularly interested in talking with this special procurement mission from the Republic of China since we know that country is contemplating increased imports of foodstuffs,” said B. Dale Ball of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The luncheon was arranged by the MDA International Trade division as part of MDA's continuing efforts to expand overseas markets for Michigan-grown products.
Survey Shows Consumer Confidence in State's Agricultural Products

Findings of a consumer attitude survey, conducted by Market Opinion Research for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, were recently released to members of the state Legislature. The survey is part of an information and promotion campaign to build consumer confidence in Michigan agricultural products presumably shaken as a result of the PBB contamination.

Members of both the Senate and House sub-committees and appropriations were invited to join members of the Commission of Agriculture and MDA staff to hear Dr. Barbara E. Bryant, vice president of Market Opinion Research, present an analysis of survey results.

Dr. Bryant said the statewide survey (a representative sample of 800 citizens) revealed that 98 percent of Michigan consumers are aware of PBB, but one-third think it has had no effect on food, while another third don't know if it has had an effect.

At the same time, 64 percent of Michigan residents indicated they are buying the same or more quantities of beef than four or five years ago. In the 33 percent who said they are buying less, only 19 percent of these people indicated it was because of concerns about PBB - a total of 33 percent of the general population. The majority of that 33 percent gave other reasons for reduced buying, such as smaller family size, cost, etc.

The survey showed people who are concerned about food additives and preservatives are more likely than other people to say that PBB has affected their buying habits. Thirty-five percent of Michigan consumers said PBB has affected their food buying habits, while 62 percent said PBB has had no effect on purchases.

Following presentation of the survey analysis, the promotion theme, "Good Things Growing in Michigan," was introduced, and a public service announcement for television was previewed. Various other educational and promotional materials were also presented.

Michigan 4-H'er Wins Marketing Trip

A Michigan girl, who has sold corn, soybeans and milk for a cash profit, has won an expense-paid trip to the 27th 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium in Chicago, Feb. 25-March 1.

Pamela Darling, 16, of 3750 Palmer Road, Willis, was selected by the Cooperative Extension Service and will be one of nearly 30 4-H'ers attending the educational event in the Windy City.

The 4-H commodity marketing awards program is sponsored by the Chicago Board of Trade and young people from 39 states are eligible for trips to the symposium. The annual event brings together 4-H'ers who have completed outstanding commodity marketing projects during the last year.

Miss Darling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Darling, members of Monroe County Farm Bureau, is a high school student and plans a career in farming. She is a seven-year 4-H'er.

The Monroe County girl has planted and marketed four acres of soybeans, four acres of corn, and sold 700 acres of feed calves, milk cows and do most of the cultivating on the 700 acres we work. When I sell my milk, I get one-half on my milk sold over feed cost. So I'm able to buy clothes and other things I need."

Miss Darling said that in raising her field crops, she learned that it is important to have the grain clean and weed-free. "When I decide to sell my grain, I want it to be sold at the best possible elevator or grain market offering the best price," she said. She selected an elevator about an hour's drive from her farm because it offers a good price and also is a well-run operation, she said.

The 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium is designed to help participants understand the basic principles of commodity marketing, and how these principles apply to commodities sold in cash markets and traded in futures markets of major commodity exchanges.

Delegates will view audiovisual presentations on marketing topics, meet commodity traders and brokers, and tour the pit trading floor. There, they'll watch traders buy and sell cash and futures. 4-H'ers will also meet with officials of the Chicago Board of Trade and hear from floor traders and marketing representatives.

Important dates for:
Michigan Farm Bureau Members

You can join Blue Cross & Blue Shield up to Wednesday Mar. 15

Your coverage will be effective beginning Saturday May 20

Blue Cross
Blue Shield
of Michigan

Belonging is a good thing to do
Program Sponsored by Jaycees, Farm Bureau Insurance Group

Barry Mumby, who farms more than 1,000 acres in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo Counties, has been named Michigan's outstanding young farmer of 1978 through a program sponsored by the Michigan Jaycees and Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

Mumby, 34, was honored at a statewide Jaycees meeting in Livonia, February 13, and represented Michigan in the national Outstanding Young Farmer competition in Topeka, Kan., the following weekend.

"I feel that I've come a long way," Mumby said. "When I started farming in 1962 it was very challenging for me just to make a living. Now I've won an honor very few in agriculture ever achieve." Mumby, who today owns 967 acres near Fulton and rents or sharecrops another 465, raises hogs and cash crops. He uses an extensive irrigation system over much of his cropland.

He is chairman of the Glen Oaks College Ag Advisory Board, member of the Southwest Michigan Swine Advisory Council, member of the Colon Schools Ag Advisory Council, member of the Michigan Pork Producers Assn., and was chairman of the St. Joseph County Farm City Day last year.

A graduate of Michigan State University's Agricultural Technology program, Mumby is also an active 4-H leader and coach for Little League baseball and junior football. He and his wife, Diana, have three children.

Among Mumby's awards were a plaque from the Jaycees, a $100 savings bond from Farm Bureau Insurance Group, and numerous prizes and gift certificates.

The first runner-up in the state competition was Norm Veliquette of Kewadin in Antrim County and second runner-up was Harold Ferry from Litichfield.

Candidates for the Outstanding Young Farmer Award are judged on these criteria: progress in agricultural career; extent of soil and water conservation practices; and contributions to the well-being of the community.

Farm Bureau Insurance Group has co-sponsored the program with the Michigan Jaycees for the past three years. The purpose of the Outstanding Young Farmer Program is to honor young men in Michigan who have chosen farming as a career.

Smith Named

Merrill Smith, son of Branch County Farm Bureau members Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Smith, son of Branch County Farm Bureau members Mr. & Mrs. Leonard E. Smith of Bronson, has been chosen as Executive Secretary of the American Berkshire Association, Springfield, Illinois.

Smith will serve as Executive Secretary, Managing Editor of the Berkshire News, and will be traveling nationally in field service and promotion.
SPRING AHEAD SALE 
JACKET JUBILEE
MARCH AND APRIL, 1978
GET A JACKET* AS A BONUS WHEN YOU BUY FARM BUREAU SERVICES AND FARMERS PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

ANIMAL FOODS
All branded Farm Bureau feeds as offered by dealers.

TRACTOR TIRES AND OIL
- 1 pair Co-op® Agri Radial tires get TWO jackets
- 1 pair Co-op® Rear Tractor tires get one jacket
- 100 gallons Unico® Lube Oil, one jacket

PLANT FOOD AND HERBICIDE
- 100 gallons 4-L Unico® Atrazine
- 15 tons Hurryup™ fertilizer for sugar beets, beans, corn

HARDWARE
$500 purchase including:
- Farm Bureau Log Splitter
- Unico® Ventilator Fans
- Unico® Stalls and Farrowing Crates
- Farm Bureau Flowtron® Fly Killers
- Unico® Turf Trac Tractors, Tillers, Lawn Mowers
- Farm Bureau White® Heaters
- Farm Bureau Co-op® Twine

Ask The Farm Bureau People

*At participating Farm Bureau dealers. The number of jackets to a patron are limited at the discretion of the dealer.
Fifteen county Farm Bureaus now have the distinction of being members of the prestigious “Fabulous Fifteen” — one of the first three counties in their membership category to report 1978 membership goal. Members of the “Fabulous Fifteen” are: 1-350 - Benzie, Clare and St. Clair; 351-650 - Cheboygan, Midland and Osceola; 651-1200 - Ionia, Jackson and Wayne; 1201-1500 - Allegan, Macomb and Saginaw.

As of February 16, a total of 20 counties have reported 1978 membership quota and Michigan Farm Bureau ranked among the top 20 state Farm Bureaus in percentage of 1978 membership goal. Counties that have reported 1978 goal and their chairmen are: In the 1-350 member category: Benzie - Gary Lathwell; Clare - Dan Bay and Don Davis, co-chairmen; Bay, Huron and Saginaw.

"This is Why I Belong"

(Editor's Note: This column was developed to acquaint Farm Bureau members with the organization's many programs and services, using actual farmer ''testimony'' to tell the story. Farm Bureau's Farm Records Service is the topic this month. If you have participated in an activity or program that was of special benefit to you, write us about it so we can share with others and hopefully stimulate their interest and involvement.)

IMPRESSES BANKER

"We really like the Farm Bureau Farm Records Service because of the convenience. You can make your entries as simple or as detailed as you want. We also like the reports that come back to us. Our banker is impressed when we go to him and have the cash flow receipts right there in black and white.

"Income tax time is also much easier because of the end-of-the-year reports which include the depreciation and investment credit schedules." — Ruth and Remus Rigg, Coldwater

"I like the Farm Bureau Farm Records Service because I receive complete, easy-to-read reports back so quickly each month. "At tax time, most of the report can be put right into the tax form, making income tax time so much easier. The forms are done for either cash or accrual method of filing. "We have found the staff ready to help with special problems. And if they don't know the answer, they do their best to find it for you."

James Reichow, Albion

"I have been on the Farm Bureau Farm Records Service for a number of years. I like the simplicity of the program very much and feel it has a lot to offer. "It's a complete record-keeping service of your farm records. You get back quarterly sheets to let you know where you are at. Also, it saves me time at the end of the year and I find I keep better records by having to do them each month."

Linda Harwood, Ionia
A Day in the Life of a Regional Representative

"I'm Lucky" -- Charles Buchholz,

He's a counselor, a trainer, an information provider, an administrative assistant, a public relations person, a trouble-shooter, a motivator.

He's a Michigan Farm Bureau regional representative and on an "average" day, he may fill all those roles. His goal in life is to provide assistance to county Farm Bureau leaders in carrying out effective programs and making their local units strong, progressive organizations.

There are 12 regional representatives serving the county Farm Bureaus in Michigan. FARM NEWS editors recently spent a day travelling with one of them, Charlie Buchholz, regional representative for the Southeast Region, which includes the counties of Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne.

Charlie's first stop was at the Michigan Farm Radio Network in Milan where he talked with farm broadcaster Howard Heath about newsworthy agricultural events in upcoming weeks and made arrangements for airing the membership status report on WPAG, Ann Arbor. They also discussed the growing need of farmers for marketing information and how they could spread the word, through county Farm Bureaus, that the Network provides such reports to over 40 stations throughout the state.

In Ada, at the Monroe County Farm Bureau office, Charlie found himself in a very inviting place with healthy "somebody cares" plants, a Valentine-decorated bulletin board, a basket of candy on the counter, and a box of handicrafts made by a 93-year-old member to browse through. Charlie talked to 29-year veteran secretary, Betty Bliss, about her upcoming vacation. While Betty basks in the Florida sunshine, she can rest assured that Charlie will "keep an eye" on the office operation.

During a quick stop at the MONROE EVENING NEWS, Charlie introduced himself to reporter Dean Cousino and provided him with names of local farmers to use as resource people in his coverage of agricultural happenings. Charlie is a strong believer in helping the news media "spread the good word" about agriculture, and making media contacts is a favorite part of his job. When Washtenaw County kicked off its Rural Crime Prevention program, Charlie's contacts paid off in outstanding media attendance, including a Detroit television station.

With a McDonald's cheeseburger and carton of milk to consume "on the road," Charlie used his experience as a former stock car driver to maneuver through the Detroit outskirts traffic toward his next destination. Urban sprawl is a common problem in most of his counties, with farmers who want to expand unable to do so because no land is available.

At the Paul Cook farm near Ortonville, Charlie talked with Marge about her new responsibilities as the Oakland County Farm Bureau's information chairman. He's enthusiastic about Marge's willingness to tackle this new job and confident in her ability to be effective. Charlie believes it's important for committee chairmen to feel "comfortable" in their roles and makes an effort to develop a good understanding of their responsibilities. Marge had also offered to spearhead the Rural Crime Prevention program in her county and they discussed plans for the upcoming kick-off meeting.

At the Livingston County Farm Bureau office in Howell, Charlie talked with Membership Campaign Manager Nina Wilson and county secretary Cleo Dutkiewicz about their current membership status. Livingston County had the dubious honor of receiving the "plunger" award at the Michigan breakfast during the APBF annual meeting in Houston, Texas, and they don't want a repeat performance. Charlie suggests they get their office plumbing fixed so they won't "need" that plunger. At this writing, two of Charlie's counties are over goal -- Macomb and Wayne, and he is confident that all of them will soon be at 100 percent.

At each stop along the way, there were also telephone calls -- to a county president, a membership campaign manager, an Information chairman who had arranged an appointment at a radio station to discuss the use of Farm Bureau programs. FARM NEWS editors ran out of steam at this point, but Charlie still had one more stop before heading home -- a call on the Safemark dealer in Fowlerville. He has three Safemark dealers in his region, in Livingston, Washtenaw and Macomb counties.

Home to Charlie is in Saline, a small town near Ann Arbor. He and his wife, Jody, have three children: Heather, who will be 3 in September, Heath, 2, and Brock, 6 months. Traveling on the average of 200 miles a day and eating those good Farm Bureau refreshments at

(Continued on Page 11)
Continues to be highly controversial; however, good progress is being made toward a compromise solution. Nearly a year and a half ago, proposals were introduced to increase the gas and weight taxes, place all such monies in a single transportation fund, and make these available for diverting to public transportation such as rail, water, nonmotorized vehicle paths, highways, mass transit, air, etc.

A Highway Forum was created to oppose such diversion. Farm Bureau has been a member of the Forum which also includes such groups as counties, townships, county road commissions, trucking associations, Teamsters, and other highway oriented groups. The Forum has insisted that public transportation should have its own fund and that a minimum of diversion be permitted from the highway funds. Presently, it appears that a compromise will be reached which would, if passed, increase the gas and diesel tax by 2 cents. This would add approximately $96.5 million to the present $415 million of such taxes. Gasoline tax was increased five years ago and the diesel tax 11 years ago. Since that time, the cost of maintaining local roads and highways has increased 73 percent. Such an increase in the user tax would cost the average motorist approximately $20 more per year. Under the program, the weight tax on passenger cars would be increased an average of 1.2 cents and the commercial weight tax an average of 34 cents. Motorcycle fees would be increased from $7.50 to $12.00 and trailers fuel taxes have a 34 percent increase. It has been nine years since these fees were increased. During that time, the average weekly wage has increased more than 9 percent, and road costs have increased 73 percent.

Counties would receive more than $50 million additional monies making a total of about $241 million. The legislation would require 4 percent of the total to be spent for local roads. A special critical bridge fund created some years ago with $1 million per year would be increased to $5 million per year. In the past, this special fund has been used almost exclusively for local bridges. It has been used to help those counties where the need was particularly critical.

In order to have public transportation separate from the highway funds, a constitutional amendment would be placed on the 1978 ballot to guarantee that 90 percent or more of the gas and weight taxes would always be used for highways and local roads. It would also provide that up to 25 percent of the sales tax, which results from the sale of automobile related products, would go into the public transportation fund. The present Highway Commission would be increased from four to six members.

Highway and transportation funding is extremely complex. Much remains to be done to agree on a package of bills assuring that highways and local roads will continue to have their revenues separate from revenues for public transportation. One reason there is a need for a constitutional amendment is because the Michigan Supreme Court recently ruled that the legislature can define highways to include every mode of transportation (roads, mass transit, dial a ride, bike paths, water, railroad, air, etc.). This ruling eliminates the protection that was in the present constitution that earmarked user taxes for only highway uses.

The question on how to fund necessary highway needs and public transportation is still highly controversial; however, good progress is being made toward a compromise solution. Nearly a year and a half ago, proposals were introduced to increase the gas and weight taxes, place all such monies in a single transportation fund, and make these available for diverting to public transportation such as rail, water, nonmotorized vehicle paths, highways, mass transit, air, etc.

A Highway Forum was created to oppose such diversion. Farm Bureau has been a member of the Forum which also includes such groups as counties, townships, county road commissions, trucking associations, Teamsters, and other highway oriented groups. The Forum has insisted that public transportation should have its own fund and that a minimum of diversion be permitted from the highway funds. Presently, it appears that a compromise will be reached which would, if passed, increase the gas and diesel tax by 2 cents. This would add approximately $96.5 million to the present $415 million of such taxes. Gasoline tax was increased five years ago and the diesel tax 11 years ago. Since that time, the cost of maintaining local roads and highways has increased 73 percent. Such an increase in the user tax would cost the average motorist approximately $20 more per year. Under the program, the weight tax on passenger cars would be increased an average of 1.2 cents and the commercial weight tax an average of 34 cents. Motorcycle fees would be increased from $7.50 to $12.00 and trailers fuel taxes have a 34 percent increase. It has been nine years since these fees were increased. During that time, the average weekly wage has increased more than 9 percent, and road costs have increased 73 percent.

Counties would receive more than $50 million additional monies making a total of about $241 million. The legislation would require 4 percent of the total to be spent for local roads. A special critical bridge fund created some years ago with $1 million per year would be increased to $5 million per year. In the past, this special fund has been used almost exclusively for local bridges. It has been used to help those counties where the need was particularly critical.

In order to have public transportation separate from the highway funds, a constitutional amendment would be placed on the 1978 ballot to guarantee that 90 percent or more of the gas and weight taxes would always be used for highways and local roads. It would also provide that up to 25 percent of the sales tax, which results from the sale of automobile related products, would go into the public transportation fund. The present Highway Commission would be increased from four to six members.

Highway and transportation funding is extremely complex. Much remains to be done to agree on a package of bills assuring that highways and local roads will continue to have their revenues separate from revenues for public transportation. One reason there is a need for a constitutional amendment is because the Michigan Supreme Court recently ruled that the legislature can define highways to include every mode of transportation (roads, mass transit, dial a ride, bike paths, water, railroad, air, etc.). This ruling eliminates the protection that was in the present constitution that earmarked user taxes for only highway uses.

The foundation of all government, of course, is the annual budget. It is also an area of controversy with all kinds of interests making an effort to increase the amount of the budget on various programs whether they be agriculture, welfare, public health, or other programs. Very often these efforts are justified; because of spiraling inflation rates, essential services are often curtailed. The Governor's budget is usually increased before the end of the legislative session. Governor Milliken this year was able to point to a surplus of some $63.9 million which, in itself, is a large amount of money, but when compared to the size of the total Michigan budget is less than 1 percent. The proposed General Fund, General Purpose Budget, this year is $4.156 billion. This is the portion of the total budget that is controlled by the Legislature. The rest of the budget is made up of constitutionally earmarked funds such as sales taxes, highway monies, etc. These funds bring the state budget to a total of $5.712 billion. From this total, it is surprising the amount of money that goes back to regular units of government. Forty-eight percent, or about $4.2 billion, is used in this fashion; it goes to townships, counties, municipalities, education, etc. About 23 percent of the total budget, or over $2 billion, goes to individuals in one form or another such as welfare, health, etc. The total cost of state government administration and operation is over $1.8 billion, or 41 percent of the budget. Five percent goes for capital outlay such as new state buildings such as prisons, college buildings, etc. One percent of the budget is used for debt retirements. A total of 24.7 percent of Michigan's budget comes from federal grants of one kind or another.

Education accounts for the largest budget item. School aid for K-12 schools will be close to $1.9 billion. Of that amount, approximately $935 million will come from the General Fund. The rest comes from earmarked funds such as sales taxes and other revenues in the school aid fund. Of this amount, it is interesting to note that nearly $427 million will be required just for the School Employees' Retirement Fund.

Another large item of the state budget is social services which will approach $2.5 billion. However, due to a crackdown, the welfare load has been reduced by some 5,000 cases. This was accomplished by an unique computerization process that found many areas of overpayment to welfare families and many others that no longer qualified for state aid. A reduction in cost resulted in spite of the fact that aid has been increased due to inflation.

The General Fund request contains $26.9 million for the Dept. of Agriculture. An increase of $345,000 was recommended for Soil and Water Management programs, $27,800 to increase efforts to expand foreign markets for Michigan farm products; and a $30,000 increase for the Upper Peninsula state fairs. An increase of $1.7 million was recommended from the race horse revenues for increased state aid to county, local and state fairs and racing programs. Another request was for $685,400 to establish an Environmental Contamination and Toxic Substance Lab within the Department of Agriculture. The purpose of this is to respond quickly to environmental contamination and toxic problems, control the Gypsy Moth infestation, control fruit tree diseases, increase weights and measures enforcement, and

(Continued on Page 19)
Do You Pay Too Much

INCOME TAX???

Of course you do! Your goal should be, "Pay what I owe, but pay NO MORE!!"

That goal can be attained by practicing good, sound tax management on a year-around basis.

Good farm records are part of good tax management.

That's where the FARM BUREAU RECORDS PROGRAM can help! If you are interested in learning more about this Farm Bureau service, use the coupon below or call (517) 321-5661, extension 222.

TO: Farm Bureau - FARM RECORDS PROGRAM
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, Michigan 48909

I would like more information about saving tax dollars with Farm Bureau's FARM RECORDS PROGRAM

Name: 
Address: 

Albert A. Almy
Third Annual Tractor Pull at the Pontiac Silverdome

The world's largest Tractor Pull returns to the Pontiac Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan on March 4th and 5th, 1978. The Show has been expanded from one to two days and will include a large Farm Machinery Exhibit and a special performance of the Grand Ole Opry on Tour.

Over 73,000 enthusiastic fans came to the Silverdome to see the 1977 Tractor Pull featuring some of the nation's best souped-up tractors. They will return in March along with additional prize-winning tractors to compete with each other in the Super Stock, Hot Rod, and Open categories of the three completely different Shows scheduled for the first weekend in March. Fans will see tractors with airplane engines, diesel engines, burned engines that develop over 2,000 horsepower, and many more, pulling up to 85,000 pounds.

Show times are set for Saturday at 1:00 p.m. for the 9,000 pound Super Stocks and the 9,000 pound Hot Rods, Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. for the 12,000 pound Super Stocks and the 7,000 pound Hot Rods, and Sunday at 12:00 noon for the 12,000 pound Open: The Grand Ole Opry Show will begin at 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening, directly following the final Tractor Pull competition.

General admission is $3.00 for Saturday afternoon, $5.00 for Saturday evening, $5.00 for Sunday afternoon and $6.00 for Sunday evening, and the tickets are available at J. L. Hudson's and the Silverdome box office. Additional ticket information may be obtained by calling the Silverdome at (313) 857-8000 (ticket office) or (313) 857-7700 (Authority office).

Billy Carter will be one of the many celebrities on hand to greet people and participate in the special Celebrity Pull set for Saturday evening. The doors to the Farm Machinery Exhibit will open three hours before the Tractor Pull events and people can continue to view the large exhibit after the Pulls are finished.

This exciting weekend has much to offer the whole family including a special price on all tickets for children 12 and under… only $1.00. And, anyone who wants to combine a Tractor Pull event with the Grand Ole Opry Show can purchase a ticket to the Opry Show, for only $3.00.

Open Enrollment Period
You have a date. And it's a very important date. The open enrollment period for Blue Cross & Blue Shield coverage for Farm Bureau members is March 1 to March 15.

During this open enrollment period Farm Bureau members who already have Blue Cross & Blue Shield coverage may make changes. You may upgrade or downgrade your coverage. And even better yet, for those Farm Bureau members who do not have Blue Cross & Blue Shield coverage, now is your chance to enroll. During the open enrollment period you can sign up to protect your whole family with hospital and surgical and medical coverage. And now, for the first time, this includes the new and improved Catastrophic Master Medical coverage. Coverage which supplements your basic hospital, surgical and medical benefits to extend and add to your protection with coverage for such necessary health care services and supplies as prescription drugs, physician's home and office calls, ambulance service, visiting nurse services, blood, functional and non-functional prosthetic appliances, medical supplies - up to $2 million dollars in additional health care benefits after your deductible and co-payment amounts. This is really complete health care protection for your family.

There's even a Blue Cross & Blue Shield Econs-Plan which costs less money but provides you with basic coverage while you share the cost of hospital and physician services.

Hayenga Joins Staff
M.K. (Mike) Hayenga has been named Operations Manager for the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, effective January 23.

Prior to assuming his new responsibilities, Hayenga was employed by the International Trade Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Previous to that position, he was employed for eighteen years by the Illinois Agricultural Association (Illinois Farm Bureau).

Hayenga replaces Donald Shepard who resigned in December to assume a position with a midwest grain company.

What's Happening...
BLUE CROSS - BLUE SHIELD RE-OPENING, March 1 through March 15 provides an opportunity for new subscribers to sign up for Farm Bureau group health insurance coverage. Contact your county secretary for additional details.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETINGS
Scheduled to begin February 20 and will continue through March 14. Further information available through the District and/or County Farm Bureau Women Committees.

SOYBEAN DAY VI
An annual event held for soybean producers from throughout the state to be held on March 7 at the Sheraton Inn in Jackson. Speakers will be on hand to discuss various phases of soybean production and marketing.

YOUNG FARMER LEADER CONFERENCE
"Tomorrow Belongs to Me" keynotes the goal of the 1978 Young Farmer Leader Conference on March 7, 8 and 9 at Midland's Valley Plaza Ramada Inn. The conference agenda includes Young Farmer leadership and farm management workshops and will feature a special session for Young Farm Women.

1978 LEGISLATIVE SEMINARS
County Farm Bureau leaders will meet with legislative representatives in March. The meetings will be held at the YWCA, 217 Townsend, Lansing and will begin at 9:30 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. with the cost of $6.50 per person and includes coffee, rolls and luncheon.

FARMERS WEEK AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY - March 20-24 offers a variety of ag-related programs and exhibits depicting "Your Family TRE" (Teaching, Research and Education).

MAPC MANAGEMENT CLINIC
With the special concerns of cooperative directors and managers in mind, the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives plans three management clinics in March. Sessions will focus upon: Directing and Board Responsibilities: the Manager-Director Relationship; and Financial Planning and Salary Studies. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

March 6 - Hoffman House at Midway Motor Lodge, Grand Rapids
March 7 - Zeiders, Frankenmuth
March 8 - Chalet Motor Lodge, Gaylord

WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR
One of Michigan Farm Bureau's most influential and effective legislative activities involving leaders from Farm Bureau communities throughout Michigan. Legislative Leaders, accompanied by key Farm Bureau staff, will meet with Michigan Democratic and Republican Congressmen in Washington, D.C., April 4-7.

Broadcast Department
Announces Changes
Michael W. Rogers has been named manager of the Broadcast Services Department of the Information and Public Affairs Division. Rogers has served as Broadcast Coordinator since March of 1976. Accepting the responsibilities of Broadcast Coordinator will be Cary Blake. Blake is graduate of Mississippi State University and has had a wide range of professional and college broadcasting experience.
Expanded Exports Seen as Answer to Farmers' Plight

(From the MEE GRAIN & BEAN BULLETIN)

Low prices for farm products, primarily grains, are causing widespread discontent in agricultural communities this winter.

Indeed, statistics show 1977 farm income in terms of real dollars dropped to Depression era levels. The result has been cries for retaliatory action from many farmers caught in the vise of steadily rising production costs while cash returns dwindle.

The furor is understandable. The American farmer has cause to feel alarm as he strives to feed the nation with improved technology, massive capital investment, and no small amount of sweat, only to see his slice of the food dollar amount of sweat, only to see technology, massive capital investment, and no small amount of sweat, only to see his slice of the food dollar shrink.

U.S. agriculture has found ways to put food on American tables that costs consumers a little less than 17 per cent of take-home pay. That's 17 per cent of what's left after the bite taken by federal and state taxes. This compares with 24 per cent of take-home pay required for food only a quarter century ago when real levels of wages were lower than now.

Despite that glowing record, American farmers came off as less than heroes and consumers seem to be looking the other way in years... such as the present... when worldwide bumper food harvests make it exceedingly hard to market the produce.

The current dilemma is even harder to comprehend when prices paid to farmers for food remain low yet food prices in the supermarket continue high or higher.

Some sober voices now are beginning to be heard as farmers throughout the nation examine their plight. Some are concerned that government action, or inaction, has been responsible for at least part of the problem.

Joseph Halow, executive director of the North American Export Grain Association, is one who thinks the federal government should re-shape its policies.

Instead of taking a step back into the days of huge government-owned and controlled grain surpluses, Halow urges greater national efforts to expand export markets. In effect, Halow wants USDA to set its sights on stabilizing the domestic market. Each farmer must have learned that his price salvation must come from export markets.

Halow joins former USDA Secretary Earl Butz in opposing the advocacy by some farmers of "price parity" and "price stability." Parity, he warns, could severely impact livestock producers as well as export prices. The latter would make the U.S. even less competitive in selling off surplus domestic grain production.

Butz also attacks a return to the government policy of building up huge reserves which merely hang around the farmers' neck as a millstone and artificially deny a free market. That kind of "price stability," he warns, quickly produces the kind of depressed markets which now affect farmers.

Halow says this: "I personally feel that the best way to assure a good food supply at reasonable cost to the consumer is to consider first the producer's interest; that is, providing him with the proper incentives. Those incentives will not come to the grain farmer from the domestic market. Each farmer must have learned that his price salvation must come from export markets. I continue to feel, therefore, that the best incentive for the

(Continued on Page 14)
"Farmers of the Week"

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 operation and for their community involvement.

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for January were:

KENNETH TURNER
Week of January 3 - Kenneth Turner, who operates the Turner Fruit Farm on Frost Road near Saginaw. He currently farms 400 acres which include 5,000 apple trees and 200 acres of tomatoes, strawberries, raspberries, cabbage and peppers. Turner is a member of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau; serves on the board of directors of the Michigan Vegetable Growers Commission; member of the Credit Committee of the Saginaw County FB Credit Union; member of the Corvette Club; and member of the Michigan "You-Pick" Association. He and his wife, Conni, have one child.

JAMES ALLISON
Week of January 16 - James Allison, 41, who farms 800 acres and raises more than 300 head of beef cattle near Custer in Mason County. Allison is a member of St. Mary's Parish and served two years as chairman of the church council. A member of the Mason County Farm Bureau, he has served as County FB vice-president and as a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau advisory committee for livestock and field crops. He is a past member of the Rotary Club and is vice-president of the Ag-Energy Corp., a group that owns energy-producing "methane digesters" being used on Allison's farm and in Wisconsin. He also owns two Belgian draft horses which he uses to give free rides during charity affairs and community events. Allison and his wife, Joan, have three children.

DONALD WYKES
Week of January 9 -- Donald Wykes, a dairy farmer from Gaines in Genesee County who farms 333 acres and milks 60 cows in partnership with his brother. Wykes' community involvement includes serving as a member of the Mott Farm Board of Advisors, member of the Genesee County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and working with the local 4-H program. He was also selected a state farmer scholarship award winner by the FFA and was named FFA star chapter farmer. Wykes, 27, and his wife, Susan, have three children.

The special lands programs and provide them with techniques to motivate others to become involved in the Young Farmer program and the Farm Bureau organization.

Seven classes will be offered to participants: Farm Bureau and You, Commodity Futures -- A Basic Understanding, Young Farmers in Action, Agricultural Legislation and Politics, Time Management, Business Analysis Through Money Management and Record Keeping -- and a class for Young Farm Women Only.

"Tomorrow Belongs to Me" will be the theme of this year's conference, according to Don Currey, manager of the Young Farmer Department, who is encouraging participation from every County Farm Bureau.

Richard Neubauer will help Young Farmers develop their programs.

Howard Henderson will speak on money management and record keeping.

Expanded Exports

(Continued from Page 13) farmers is unfettered access to the export market. This should free him from dependence on the federal purse, the demands on which are very great and the strings to which are controlled by many who, for reasons unknown, have farm constituencies.

We, among many others, think it is high time that federal government farm policy stopped following around, bad-mouthing American grain and abandoned its negative attitude toward export grain market development.
Michigan State University’s 63rd annual Farmers’ Week, the oldest continuing grant universities, such as is incumbent upon all land-says Dr. James H. Anderson, university’s 63rd annual Farmers’ that role will be the emphasis Aaccording to Miss. A Agricultur natural resources. A Family TRE,” stresses that than 18,000 persons are for those sessions. There will be scores of MSU departmen table displays and activities, and a farm trade show containing more than $2.5 million in equipment.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

MSU’s Department of Dairy Science will hold its dairy breeds and awards luncheon at noon, during which outstanding Michigan dairy breeders will be recognized for the past year's accomplishments.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
Tuesday's program (March 21) offers programs in animal husbandry, agricultural economics, poultry science, beekeeping, human nutrition, dairy science, biochemistry, and natural resources. A program addition this year is the "Forage Task Force" session intended to show farmers how to increase hay quality and yield.

The MSU poultry science department will hold a special noon luncheon for producers and the Michigan Allied Poultry Producers will have their annual banquet at Kellogg Center. Advanced reservations are required for these two sessions through Dr. Howard Zindel, Poultry Breeder's Association, Room 132 Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 355-8416.

The annual MSU Friends of Natural Resources banquet and reception will be held at the Brody Complex on campus. Reservations should be made with P.A. Johnston, 323 Natural Resources Building, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 355-8416.

Tuesday evening is also the crowning of the Michigan Honey Queen, sponsored by the Michigan Beekeepers' Association.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
A highlight in Wednesday's (March 22) program is Energy Day which will provide farmers an insight to energy trends in agricultural production and provide homeowners information on heating with wood.

The MSU agricultural engineering department will have a day-long program on the "New Age of Combines," which will provide a look at future use of these harvesting units.

Many of the previous day's sessions will continue along with special programs included for sheep, swine and dairy producers. There is also a session on "Wildlife Communication" offered by the MSU Natural Resources Department beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Brody Complex.

The annual Agricultural Engineering Banquet will be held at the Kellogg Center for Continuing Education beginning at 6 p.m. Advance registration is required and may be arranged through Dr. William Bickert, Agricultural Engineering Building, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 355-4720.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
Thursday's (March 23) activities begin with the Governor's Breakfast at Kellogg Center. Tickets should be obtained in advance from Jean Peterson, 102 Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.

During the President's Luncheon at the Kellogg Center, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources will present the distinguished service awards given annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Michigan's agricultural industry.

That evening, the annual Farm Management Banquet at Kellogg Center will recognize Michigan’s outstanding producers of the year who are participants in MSU's Telfarm and Telpan programs. There will also be a horse industry banquet at the MSU Student Union Building, held in conjunction with the annual horse show.

Other events throughout the day include special sessions for beef producers, sessions for homeowners on garden and lawn care and the beginning of the Michigan State Rabbit Breeders' Association Exhibition.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Friday's activities include educational programs for campground owners, a judging clinic for beef producers and continuation of the rabbit exhibition.

**Farm Bureau 1979 PRE-AFB Convention Cruise**

Space has been blocked on Commodore Cruise Lines for two ships departing Miami on January 6, returning on January 13. Cruise itineraries are as follows:

**M/S BOHEMIA**
Saturday, January 6: 3:45 PM - Leave Miami
Monday, January 8: 8:00 AM - Arrive Puerto Plata Dominican Republic
Tuesday, January 9: 9:30 AM - Arrive St. Thomas Virgin Islands
Wednesday, January 10: 4:00 PM - Leave San Juan
Thursday, January 11: 1:30 PM - Arrive Cap Haitien Haiti
Saturday, January 13: 8:00 PM - Leave Cap Haitien, Haiti

**M/S CARIBE**
Saturday, January 6: 4:00 PM - Leave Miami
Monday, January 8: 1:00 PM - Arrive Montego Bay Jamaica
Tuesday, January 9: 1:00 AM - Arrive Montego Bay
Wednesday, January 10: 8:00 AM - Arrive Port Au Prince, Haiti

**Cost:**
Cost will be determined by selection of ship rooms...

**M/S BOHEMIA:** Outside Caribbean or inside Antilles decks, boarding - Detroit $705.00 - Miami $507.00

**M/S CARIBE:** Inside Restaurant or outside B Decks, boarding - Detroit $685.00 - Miami $487.00
Outside A Deck - Detroit $735.00 - Miami $537.00

The cost would include the cruise based on room category selected. Air from points listed to Miami and return, based on Group 40 airfare. This means that the cost must be a minimum of 40 in each group and the entire group travels together for the round trip. Tips to skycaps for baggage handling, transfers from the airport of the pier, from the pier to the convention hotel and from the convention hotel to the airport in Miami. (Transfers, etc. not included in Miami price) All rates are based on those in effect December 15, 1977. Some increase, particularly in the air portion, could be expected between now and January of 1978.

**Reservation Request**
Please reserve... spaces on the Farm Bureau 1979 PRE-AFBF Convention Cruise. Enclosed is my check made payable to "Hoosier Travel Service, Inc." for $...

Name(s) ____________
Address ____________
City State ZIP __________

Important! Check desired ship, space selection and boarding city.

**M/S BOHEMIA:**
M/S CARIBE

Inside Restaurant Deck or Outside Deck
Outside A Deck

My cruise package should be scheduled from...[ ] Detroit [ ] Miami

Reservation request and deposit check should be sent to Mr. Kenneth Wiles
Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Cost of Cruise Includes:** All meals and entertainment while aboard ship, port taxes.

**Not Included in Cost Are:** Tips to ship personnel, shore excursions, convention hotel checks, or other expenses while in Miami, with the exception of transfers.

A $150.00 per person deposit is required to hold a reservation, with the balance made payable at least six weeks prior to departure. Reservations canceled 30 days before departure are not subject to any charge. Those canceled less than 35 days prior to departure may be subject to a 25% cancellation charge.

Name(s) ____________
Address ____________
City State ZIP __________
S. 1883

"A Special Hunting License for Big Labor."

American Farm Bureau President Allan Grant called on the U.S. Senate recently to "rise to its great tradition of service in the public interest - and vote down the Senate Bill (S. 1883) that organized labor calls a reform act."

Grant said he saw the challenge of S. 1883 as "a moment of truth - and proof for the Senate, ... truth that common good must prevail, and proof that the Senate itself is truly independent of narrow special interests."

Grant charged that "big labor" needs S. 1883 as a "special hunting license to invade industries that it could not organize voluntarily, and to override long-standing right-to-work protections enacted by the states."

He cited as evidence, the principal provisions of the bill, which he said would:

- Pack the National Labor Relations Board with two new members appointed by an administration that backs the bill;
- Award union organizers wide access to private properties of employers to argue for unionization - on company time;
- Endow a politically-expanded National Labor Relations Board with unprecedented punitive power to enforce its own administrative decrees against employers and to impose penalties that would interfere with employer bargaining;
- Speed up employer election processes so much that employers would not have a fair chance to make their own case to employees.

Grant said that the recent amendments adopted in Senate Committee would not materially remedy these weaknesses.

Grant traced a generation of step-by-step improvements in the labor management relations to the point, he said, where the economy has reached a workable, professional balance between the sides that serves the nation well. "S. 1883 would destroy that balance," he charged, "and would assess the American people - workers foremost among us - with yet another costly round of price increases and inflation, while depriving us of the necessary means to repair the damages."

"S. 1883 is not reform but reversion," Grant said, "It is a throwback to the days of unrestricted labor clout and arbitrary labor-domination over our entire economy."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The AFL-CIO has called for 10 million letters to be sent to U.S. Senators urging passage of this Act. Defeat of the common situs legislation was proof that our Washington lawmakers will respond to the will of the people, if that will is expressed. Have you written your letter yet? Time is short.)

Legislative Seminars Well-Attended

Several participants in the Thumb Region Legislative Seminar on February 16 arrived by chartered bus. Lapeer County President Daryl Hunt came up with the idea to charter the bus and when there were not enough participants from his county, St. Clair was asked to join them. The main objective in using the chartered bus was to provide an opportunity for as many members as possible from the two counties to participate in the seminar.

FBS Battle Creek Plant and Lab Open for Tours

Ronald P. Sprinkel, Farm Supply Division Vice President, Farm Bureau Services, announced the new tours program at the Battle Creek Animal Foods Plant and Analytical Laboratory. The facility has quickly attracted several enthusiastic farmer organizations as guests. Tours are open to agricultural supply coops or other agricultural organizations. Tour guides give an in-depth explanation of the plant facilities and procedures. The laboratory analyzes cover livestock, plant crops, and soil and fertilizer testing.

Plans have been proposed to have public tours scheduled for the second or third Tuesday of each month. Groups interested should call Mr. Reginald Schroeder, Director of Animal Foods or Dr. Paul Tolle, Director of Technical Services. Both can be reached at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing, 517-321-5661. Tour features covered are computerized mixing and blending systems, bagging operations, quality control and cleanliness procedures, bulk shipments, ordering and filling procedures, rolling stock and the new Analytical Laboratory building. A slide film highlighting the Farm Bureau Cooperative system in Michigan, "The Animal Food Story," is presented by Ben Hall, Director of Marketing.
SUPPLY REPORT

By Greg Sheffield

LOOKING TO SPRING

Farmers are planning to plant considerably more acres of soybeans, wheat, and dry beans this spring in Michigan, says the Michigan Crop Reporting Service. No change in soybean acres is expected. Since there was a sharp cut last fall in acreage seeded to winter wheat, corn acreage may increase slightly.

The corn increase may be about 10 percent, or 30,000 acres for a total of 2,750,000 acres. Oats are expected to increase 15 percent to 460,000 acres. Soybeans may be boosted by 16 percent, or 120,000 acres, a total crop acreage of 850,000. The 44 percent cut in wheat plantings, down to 490,000 acres last fall, leave acreage available this spring at 1,250,000.

A Jacket Jubilee, part of this year's Spring Ahead Sales Program, will be available this spring at participating Farm Bureau dealers. It will probably start in March or April. Knockabout - town - type jackets will be used as a bonus to farmers purchasing feed, fertilizer, chemicals, hardware, pet products, tires and batteries.

Watch advertisements in this newspaper for product specials for members at Farm Bureau dealers. Farm Bureau Services has been busy supplying a large demand for fertilizer in a catch-up situation. The great snow fall, frozen Ohio River, and blizzard conditions that stopped railroads, all contributed to slowing down the flow of fertilizers. All through February anxious dealers and farmers rushed to take delivery and avoid the price increases they had been warned of. Although we've had to turn down calls from non-regular buyers, Farm Bureau dealers are generally in a good position to supply the needs of Farm Bureau farmers who, of course, come first. Farmers who have not called in their requirements to Farm Bureau are urged to do so at once to take advantage of the quality, price and delivery benefits while supplies are available.

PESTICIDES

Dealers are well stocked with all the pesticides needed for spring and early summer weed, insect and disease control. Record shipments of pesticides have been made in anticipation of a record spring growing season.

FEEDS

Cows on Nu Pro Dairy Feed, Farm Bureau's exclusive product, a result of the Cooperative Research Farms, have been reporting large increases where the specific directions of the program are followed. They are getting better use of home grown forage, grains and roughages by balancing their rations with Nu Pro Dairy Feed. Most dairy cattle have bred in potential to produce many more pounds of milk. This can be achieved by following the Nu Pro Dairy Program.

A Jacket Jubilee is in store for Farm Bureau Feed patrons at dealers during March and April. Farmers can get theirs by buying Farm Bureau concentrates, supplements and complete feeds.

HARDWARE

Farm Bureau dealers are getting ready in spring training sessions for advising farmers in the use and installation of ventilating fans, heating equipment, electric fence controls, and power equipment. Other schools are planned on paint, water softeners, and farm ladders.

Spring Ahead Sales will offer specials for farmers and home gardeners anxious to get started. The Farm Bureau Buildings Program, slowed down by wintery weather, is now bursting forth with numerous projects throughout the state. Discuss your building needs as soon as possible with your local Farm Bureau dealer. Jubilee Jackets will be a premium for hardware items purchased, your dealer can give you details on how you can get yours.

TIRES

Supplies are excellent on all kinds of CO-OP tires. Farmers Petroleum's strategic position with suppliers makes your FPC CO-OP tire dealer the best place to buy farm, truck, and passenger tires.

Now High Producing Herds Can Produce Even More Milk

"My records showed that before NU PRO™, our rolling herd average was 13,962 pounds of milk," says Arnold Riester, Osseo, Michigan. "After a year on NU PRO™ we jumped to 14,839 pounds of milk. Even my mixed grade cows were producing well."

"This really pleased me, because during that time, we put our animals under a great deal of stress by moving our whole operation to a larger farm. You can be sure NU PRO™ Dairy Feed is part of the Michalee Dairy Farm Plan!"

Make NU PRO™ Dairy Feed a part of your dairy farm plan, too. See your Farm Bureau dealer soon.

NU PRO™ DAIRY FEED

Patent Pending
Those of you who saw the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey, will remember that it opens with a scene from pre-historic times. Two tribes of apes, presumably the forebears of man, are depicted at war in the midst of a rocky landscape. The object of their struggle - a water hole. We cannot, of course, vouch for the historic accuracy of this episode. Nevertheless, it makes sense that the earliest conflicts among primitive creatures would have been over such basic resources as food and water. Moreover, throughout history the skill with which various nations developed their water supplies has shaped their modes of living and their population densities for centuries.

Water is an essential input for agriculture. Water, along with air, sunshine and land, is a natural production tool and without it the air, sunshine and land could not alone produce the food consumers demand. Farmers are vitally concerned about policies affecting water quality and availability.

Three Aspects of Water Policy

This discussion will focus on only three aspects of water policy and issues of concern to agriculture. These aspects are (1) The question of which level in the government structure will water policies be formulated, (2) The need for a look at Michigan's water law and (3) The potential for land application of municipal wastewater in Michigan.

First, at which level in government the formulation of water policy occurs is important to agriculture. This is also a current issue.

In his Environmental Message delivered to Congress on May 23, President Carter directed his Secretary of Interior, the Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality to conduct a comprehensive review of federal water resources policy. The review will ultimately lead to the establishment of "national water resources management policy in consultation with Congress and the public."

The review process began with publication of issues and options regarding water management in the July 15 and July 25, 1977, editions of the Federal Register. Eight regional public hearings were then held. The hearing record is now being evaluated.

Although the Secretary of Interior has recently denied any such motive, considerable concern has been expressed that nationalization or federalization of water is implied in the issue and option papers. This of course suggests increased federal guidance, regulation and direction in water management programs.

Michigan Farm Bureau supports effective water planning and equitable water laws. However, the basic responsibility for such planning and legislation should be at the state level. Any federal or national water policy should not preempt state authority if we are to have flexibility in water administration and if the provisions of the State Constitution and the state water laws are to be respected.

Federal laws such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act already require state compliance with federal standards and permit programs. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has developed the necessary compliance programs so that it can administer the federal requirements. This is a positive aspect because the state personnel are closer to the scene, can provide more flexibility and are much more accessible to those having water pollution problems.

President Carter is expected to make national water policy recommendations to Congress in early 1978. The nature of those recommendations will be closely examined by agriculture.

Michigan's Water Law

The second aspect of concern to agriculture is existing Michigan water law and how it will affect the growing use of irrigation. After the dry summer of 1977 which resulted in some reported corn yields of less than 20 bushels per acre, farmers will take an even harder look in the future at investing in irrigation systems. Such yields are in sharp contrast to the 1977 world record of over 350 bushels per acre on sandy soil in Kalamazoo County that would not have been possible without irrigation.

The growth in irrigation is not solely for protection against drought but for economic reasons as well. For example, one farmer installed an irrigation system last spring at a cost of about $450.00 per acre in initial investment. He estimates his corn yield doubled and from an economic standpoint the $450.00 per acre investment was cheaper than buying extra land which is not available at the bargain price of $450.00 per acre.

Michigan's water law is complex and confusing in trying to answer the question of what legal rights farmers have to irrigate. Michigan law on surface waters is based on the riparian doctrine which in turn is based largely upon the determination of what is a "reasonable use."

The law does not define "reasonable" so in contested instances, the Court is usually asked to make the determination. What is reasonable in one stream, in one place, at one time, with a particular annual rainfall, with specific people, and specific capabilities of the stream might not be reasonable with a slight change of the facts. A separate body of law on percolating or groundwater covers wells used for irrigating. Other aspects of water law affecting water use involve absolute ownership, correlative rights, the severance rule, the Environmental Protection Act, Inland Lakes and Streams Act, The Drain Code and others.

Land Application

The third and final issue of interest to agriculture in the water area is land application of wastewater. The opportunity to connect the backdoor of cities to rural America was recognized in the early 1970's. Since that time a great deal of literature has been developed and actual experience has been gained.

Muskegon County Project

The concept is currently being used in Muskegon County. Wastewater from the city of Muskegon and adjacent towns is collected, given initial treatment and applied through irrigation on nearly 6,000 acres of farmland. The crops being grown, primarily corn, are responding very well to the water and nutrients it contains. The return flow, collected through tiling and ditches, after having been filtered by the crops and soil, is of excellent quality and offers no pollution threat to receiving surface waters.

The Future

As the deadline approaches for goals set forth in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act fishable and swimmable waters by 1983 and zero discharge of pollutants in waters by 1988, the concept of land application of wastewater will undoubtedly receive further consideration. There can be some potential problems if land application is not approached properly. However, with careful planning and attention, the concept can provide many benefits to the municipality, the farmer, and the general public.

It would appear that land application of wastewater is ready for adaptation to private agriculture with proper safeguards. There appears to be no overriding reason why land used for wastewater disposal should continue to be acquired by a governmental unit, the farmers displaced and the wastewater used by the governmental unit to grow crops in competition with the remaining farmers as is now being done at Muskegon.

Hopefully, with everyone who is concerned about water policy and issues taking an objective look at the concept and working cooperatively to develop a mutually acceptable program, private agriculture and municipalities can together contribute a great deal towards an even better environment. Thus we will avoid, for our descendants as well as ourselves, a future battle over a shrinking waterhole.
"I'LL THINK ABOUT RETIREMENT ONCE..."

...I GET THAT NEW SECTION OF LAND

...THE HOUSE IS PAID OFF

...THE NEW EQUIPMENT IS PAID OFF

...THE KIDS ARE THROUGH COLLEGE"

Retirement seems like a good thing to put off, especially when so many other things seem so much more urgent right now.

But there are a lot of people counting on you, and they will still be counting on you when retirement arrives. Farm Bureau can help you be ready.

A tax qualified retirement plan offered by Farm Bureau Insurance Group allows you to build for retirement—and do it partly with tax dollars.

Let us help build that future, by setting up just the right plan for your family.

For Tax Considerations...
The Time Is NOW!

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP

FARM BUREAU MUTUAL • FARM BUREAU LIFE • COMMUNITY SERVICE INSURANCE