

MFB Tackles Farm Income Problem

Export Expansion, Set-Asides Keys to Five-Point Action Plan

The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, meeting in Lansing February 9, drafted a five-point "program of action" designed to alleviate the current financial plight of farmers. In telegrams 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, first, 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.



Telegrams Urge Support

To: Jimmy Carter, President
United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

To: Bob Bergland, Secretary
United States Department of
Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

that will reduce 1978 production of feed grains by 20 percent.

III. IMPROVING THE MARKETING CAPABILITY OF FARMERS by immediate passage of National Marketing and Bargaining legislation, increased on farm storage and increased emphasis on marketing research and information.

IV. IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF AGRICULTURE AND INCREASING THE DEMAND FOR FOOD IN THE U.S. by continued and improved domestic promotional efforts.

We are requesting endorsement of this program by the Governor and Legislature of Michigan. We are also seeking endorsement and support of other agricultural groups to constructively build action programs to more fully implement this program. Your prompt attention is imperative.

Elton R. Smith, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors requests your immediate and active support for the following four point program to improve the income prospects for American farmers:

I. 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.

II. MEANINGFUL SET ASIDE PROGRAMS FOR WHEAT AND FEED GRAINS including a voluntary acreage set aside

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 conformance 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
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"MARKET SYSTEM WILL CORRECT IMBALANCE," Grant tells President Carter --

Michigan Farm News

Michigan Farm Bureau's
ACTION
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**Farm
Bureau**
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 DeVuyst, 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 DeVuyst of Gratiot County as chairman, Michael Pridgeon, 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 county 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 conformance 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.



From
the Desk
of
The
President

Action Plan Needs "People-Power"

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 spiraled. 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 agricultural 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

Bean Promoters Protest

Dear Editor:

I was rather appalled to read in your February issue of Michigan Farm News that the directors of our organization apparently have a competitive spirit prevailing in their membership campaign and while I like to see competitive spirits, I think it is always important that we have the very highest image of our foodstuffs produced in Michigan as it is the backbone of our Michigan agriculture.

I take particular exception to the fact that a Bean and Steak Dinner is being planned with the losers eating beans. Beans, to Michigan growers, exceeded \$100 million in value. We rank No. 1 in the nation in their production, and are recognized the world around for our quality. Would it not be more appropriate to provide both the winners and losers with steak and beans and give the losers the privilege of paying? Or, if they must be fed for their inadequacies, perhaps some product that is not produced in Michigan would be more appropriate.

Producers of nearly all agricultural commodities in our great state are currently fighting the economic crunch brought on by high production costs and low marketing returns. I would like to report that, while the average price of all grain commodities that we have marketed thus far this year are more than a dollar a bushel below last year, that

the average sales price of dry beans is more than fifty cents a hundredweight higher than last year.

Do you think that beans, therefore, should be relegated to the position of being a dish fit for losers?

F. Dale Kuenzli
Manager, Bean Department
Michigan Elevator Exchange

Beans are for Winners

Dear President Smith;

After reading the February issue of the Michigan Farm News, I thought it my duty to bring to your attention a possible mistake that was made on page 5. It has to do with the winner and the loser of the Golden Gutter Trophy.

The news reports this trophy is passed back and forth between different districts based upon membership acquisition, and as a part of the award there will be a dinner, in which steak is

fed the winner and beans for the loser.

Surely you must be aware that baked beans are one of the most nutritional foods available. I suggest that if you want this contest to work as planned, you might want to make the losers eat something other than beans.

It appears like all your district directors will be struggling to lose this contest in order to win the prize of eating beans.

Ron Stebbins, Manager
B&W Co-op, Inc.



Newspaper editors depend upon reader "feedback" as the yardstick for measuring the success of their journalistic efforts. Without the benefit of this reader-writer exchange, the communication aspect of newspaper publishing becomes a narcissistic love affair with the written word. Plainly stated, this means the writer, who is crazy about what she has written and in lieu of evidence to the contrary, looks herself in the mirror and says, "By gosh, you've done it again!" This is also known as one-way communication.

Despite a noticeable lack of "Letters to the Editor", the Michigan FARM NEWS staff has avoided this journalistic pitfall. But recently we confided to one another that an over-the-shoulder glance in the looking glass was getting especially tempting.

Luckily a letter from a very disgruntled reader brought us back to the real world. The letter signed simply "A Farmer" upbraided the Michigan Farm Bureau for never having "acquired one thing in favor of the farmers." Many editors would have disregarded the letter writer at a "crank", but we were concerned that the misinformation, or lack of information, which the writer exhibited, reflected upon our

Through the Looking Glass

GUEST COLUMN BY CONNIE

ability to convey Farm Bureau's successes to the grassroots membership. Therefore, unable to respond directly to our anonymous correspondent, we chose to communicate our reply through the FARM NEWS.

We looked through the looking glass to find past successes of the Michigan

Farm Bureau on the behalf of farmers. There were many, particularly in the form of tax relief for farm family incomes. Dollar savings always seem to communicate more effectively, so let us point out some important tax breaks which Farm Bureau has worked diligently to obtain and maintain for agriculture:

Sample Farm
Savings

Michigan gas tax refund	
9c per gallon x 4,000 gallons	\$360
Federal gas tax refund	
4c per gallon x 4,000 gallons	160
Farm truck license	
8,000 lb. truck x \$1 per 100 lbs.	80
Farm wagon license	
3 wagons + \$7.80 per wagon	23
Sales tax exemption	
4 percent sales tax x \$20,000 farm input	800
Repeal of farm personal property tax	
50 percent of value of personal property x local millage rate	800
Tax relief for households and farms - limits	
property tax to 3½ percent of household income, with refund up to \$1,200	1200
P.A. 116-Property tax refund	1500
TOTAL	\$4923

Plus exemption from tax assessment for growing crops; transportation legislation; marketing and bargaining legislation; amendments to labor laws; increase of livestock indemnity payments; tax appropriations for livestock and crop research; program to limit property taxes for farm land to seven percent of household income, and amendments to environmental regulations.

Throughout 1977, Farm Bureau joined many other small business organizations to call for revision of the burdensome Single Business Tax. Only agriculture was able to win complete exemption from this costly and crippling tax on small businessmen.

We are proud of the ac-

complishments of the Michigan Farm Bureau staff and membership as we continue to work together for a healthy economic environment for farmers. To be most effective, we need to strengthen our voice and our policies through the active involvement of every full-time farmer in Michigan.

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:

I. EXPANSION OF EXPORT MARKETS FOR U.S. FARM PRODUCTS.

- Increased direct exports by farmer owned cooperatives.
- Continued overseas market development activities.
- Trade sales missions.
- Elimination of trade barriers.
- Improved CCC credit terms.
- Expansion of P.L. 480 sales and concessions.
- Support of the Poage-Mathias Act.
- Continued access to world markets without interference from dock strikes and government embargoes.

II. MEANINGFUL SET ASIDE PROGRAMS FOR WHEAT AND FEED GRAINS.

- Urge farmers to comply fully with the 20 percent wheat set aside already announced by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Recommend that President Carter and Secretary of Agriculture Bergland implement an effective, voluntary acreage set aside that will reduce 1978 production of feed grains by 20%.
- 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.

III. IMPROVING THE MARKETING CAPABILITY OF FARMERS.

- Immediate passage of National Marketing & Bargaining Legislation.
- Increased on-farm storage.
- Better education, understanding and use of futures markets by farmers.
- Increased efforts in marketing research and information through land grant universities and the cooperative extension service.
- Removal of unnecessary and burdensome regulations.
- Increased effectiveness of AAMA.
- Strict scrutiny of agricultural imports including labeling of foreign products.
- Imposition of countervailing duties on imports that are subsidized by foreign countries.

IV. IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF AGRICULTURE AND INCREASING THE DEMAND FOR FOOD IN THE U.S.

- Continued use of domestic agricultural promotional programs.
- Increased efforts to improve consumer awareness and understanding of the agricultural industry through advertising and educational programs.
- Working with wholesalers, retailers and other segments of the food distribution chain to expand the demand for agricultural products.

V. INCREASED POLITICAL ACTION

- Support and election of legislators favorable to agriculture in 1978.
- Express views on important issues to legislators once elected.

What You Can Do Now

- Visit your ASCS office TODAY for information on the set-aside program as it pertains to your farm.
- 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.
- 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.
- Send telegrams or letters to your Michigan Congressmen urging them to support the Poage-Mathias Act (See National Notes in this issue).

PAC Adds Legislative Impact

(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.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) Encouragement will be given to every member to register and vote in both the 1978 primary and general elections. The surveys showed that about 75 percent of eligible Farm Bureau members vote. 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.

"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

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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.

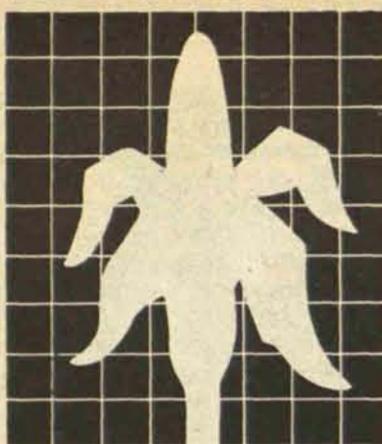


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Farming is everybody's bread & butter



Marketing Outlook



SOYBEAN DAY VI

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 market 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.



JIM GILL

Grant Meets with President

"Market System Will Correct Imbalance"

"President Carter is for free enterprise and so are we in Farm Bureau," AFBF 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 surpluses.

"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 does, 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 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 buy 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.

Jack Anderson, Livestock Marketing Specialist Market Development and Research Division.

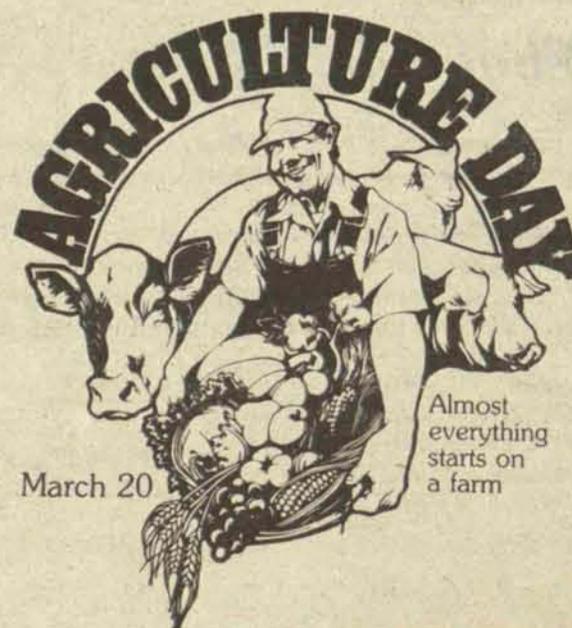
Trade Mission

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 concerned with agriculture 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 state-wide 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 10 percent of these people indicated it was because of concerns about PBB—a total of 3.3 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. 26-March 1.

Pamela Darling, 16, of 13750 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 corn and four acres of soybeans on rented land for the last two years. She said that she used good cultivation, weed control and

fertilization practices to boost her yield.

"I stored my grain last year and am watching the market for the best time to sell," the 4-H'er added. She also has sold some of her 4-H dairy animals for a cash profit in her commodity marketing project.

"I haven't had any financing problem yet," she said. "I work for my Dad. I 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 com-



PAMELA DARLING

modities 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

Membership in Michigan Farm Bureau offers you very valuable benefits in the form of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Group Coverage. Coverage which provides the best possible health care protection for you and your dependents at reasonable group rates.

If you are already enrolled in the Farm Bureau's Blue Cross and Blue Shield Group Plan, now is the time to make any changes in your coverage. If you don't belong, and you are eligible, now is the time to join—before the enrollment period ends.



Belonging is a good thing to do

County Presidents Plan '78 Leadership Goals



Farm Bureau Presidents Donald Armentrout, Clare County and Ed Hebel, Saginaw County, listen carefully as county leaders discuss policy and programs to serve farmer members in 1978.

Despite record-breaking Michigan snowfall which had threatened to cancel the 1978 Presidents' Conference at Midland, Michigan, thirty-one county Farm Bureau presidents and their wives registered on Monday, January 30 for two days of discussions, leadership training and management skills sessions.

Agricultural consultant and lecturer, Dr. Kenneth Hood, provided the county presidents with a ten-point outline for "Linking Leadership to Progress", the conference theme. Bill Eastman, AFBF Director of Member Relations, conducted an intensive afternoon program instructing the county presidents in the principles of management by objectives (MBO). Through practical application of the MBO concept, county presidents will be guided in decision making, program planning, establishing an effective committee structure and managing and motivating volunteer activities at the county level.

During an evening reception and dinner, special guest speaker Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, joined Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith, in responding to the questions of the county leaders. "Our membership is looking to the Farm Bureau organization at the state and national level for strong leadership in legislative, marketing and energy issues," the Michigan county leaders told Grant.

At the request of the county presidents, the January 31 program was re-scheduled to allow an extended session for general discussion. In a straight talking open forum, county presidents scrutinized the role of the Farm Bureau organization in improving net farm incomes.



Also receiving membership goal recognition were Richard Sharland, Wayne County Farm Bureau;



Ed Hebel, President of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau, and



Gary Carmichael, President, Osceola County Farm Bureau. All county presidents who reported "goal" by March 1, 1978 received the personalized briefcase.



Goal county presidents received a personalized briefcase in recognition of their membership efforts. Donald Armentrout, Clare County, is congratulated by Chuck Burkett, Director, Field Operations Division, Michigan Farm Bureau.

Program Sponsored by Jaycees, Farm Bureau Insurance Group

Mumby is Michigan's Outstanding Young Farmer

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 567 acres near Fulton and rents or sharecrops another 645, 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 Litchfield.

Candidates for the Outstanding Young Farmer Award were 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. Ledward 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.

Bulletin from Bonnie

By Bonnie Carpenter
MFB Outstanding Young
Farm Woman



Certainly hope everyone has recovered from January's snow surplus. Being snowbound for five days certainly brought our family closer. I wouldn't say it sometimes got too close, but I can tell you it was really wonderful to visit a close neighbor that I seldom have a chance to visit. However, it was the first time that I literally crawled over to their house towing my three-year-old by the hood of his snowsuit.

I think everyone made the best of the snowstorm and, for some, it was a friendly if inconvenient relief from the monotony of Winter.

It was unfortunate that the snow did cancel so many interesting programs in the

counties, but now that we are cleared out, the pace is picking up again. Branch County's Farmer's Day on February 13 really drew a tremendous attendance in the southern part of the state.

Griffin

Proposes

Tax Break

U.S. Sen. Robert P. Griffin, R-Mich., has introduced legislation to give farmers a tax break by sharply increasing the allowable deduction for the cost of clearing land for farming operations.

His bill, to amend the Internal Revenue Code, would permit a farmer to deduct up to \$12,000 a year in land-clearing expenses. For nearly 25 years, such deductions have been limited to \$5,000 yearly or 25 per cent of a farmer's taxable income, whichever is smaller.

"Needless to say, it costs much more to clear land today than it did in 1954 when these limitations were written into the law," Griffin said in introducing the bill. "In addition, with more and more farmland being subdivided for housing, greater incentives are needed to retain and develop agricultural land."

Griffin, Michigan's senior senator, said the existing limitation "is simply outdated" -- pointing out that the cost of living has risen 130 per cent since the law was enacted. He also said that the 25 per cent restriction "is particularly hard on small farmers," many of whom earn less than \$10,000 a year.

However, he said, removing the percentage restriction entirely might provide "a tempting tax dodge for taxpayers who may not be bonafide farmers." Thus, Griffin's bill would provide that the land-clearing deduction could be claimed only by legitimate farmers who have operated a farm for at least two years before claiming the deduction.

Looking Ahead to March

Looking ahead to March 20, Farmer's Week at MSU is another excellent educational opportunity.

March is also time for pre-planting equipment maintenance on the farm and an opportune time for marking farm machinery through the Farm Bureau Rural Crime Prevention Program while equipment is clean and under storage. (It is clean and

under storage??) Anyone or any community group wishing to purchase I.D. kits should contact Ron Nelson at the Michigan Farm Bureau Office in Lansing. Household and personal belongings can be marked with these kits too.

Most of the Farm Bureau Women in the state are using March to prepare for those April rallies in the Districts. You might be in touch with

your county women's chairman about the dates. A statewide effort is being made by all Districts to upgrade the quality and attendance of these rallies.

But most of all, March is a good month for relaxation before the Spring rush, so I hope each of you has a good March. See you in the Spring!!!! Bonnie Carpenter.

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.

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HARDWARE

\$500 purchase including:

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- Unico® Stalls and Farrowing Crates
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- Unico® Turf Trac Tractors, Tillers, Lawn Mowers
- Farm Bureau White® Heaters
- Farm Bureau Co-op® Twine

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**Farm
Bureau**
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
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*At participating Farm Bureau dealers. The number of jackets to a patron are limited at the discretion of the dealer.

MFB's 1978 "Fabulous Fifteen"



Gary Lathwell Benzie



Dan Bay & Don Davis Clare



Fred Pershinski Mac-Luce



Paul Koviak Cheboygan



Erna Varner Midland



Larry Vanderhoef Osceola



Ken Gasper Ionia



Phyllis Haven & Mary Waters Jackson



Mr. & Mrs. Glen Miller Wayne



Gary Timmer & Jack Sipple Allegan



Betty Brodacki Macomb



Janice Rinke St. Clair



Gerhardt Kernstock Bay



Keith Strum Huron



Ivan Sparks Saginaw

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 Mac-Luce; 351-650 - Cheboygan, Midland and Osceola; 651-1200 - Ionia, Jackson and Wayne; 1201-1500 - Allegan, Macomb and St. Clair; and 1501 and over -

Bay, Huron 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;

Copper Country-Dan Linna; Mac-Luce-Fred Pershinski; and Otsego-Gene Fleming.

In the 351-650 member category: Arenac - Marvin Schwab; Cheboygan - Paul Koviak; Midland - Erna Varner; and Osceola - Larry Vanderhoef.

Three counties have reported goal in the 651-1200 category and include: Ionia - Ken Gasper; Jackson - Phyllis Haven and Mary Waters, co-chairmen; and

Wayne - Mr. & Mrs. Glen Miller, co-chairmen.

Goal counties in the 1201-1500 group are: Allegan - Jack Sipple and Gary Timmer, co-chairmen; Macomb - Betty Brodacki; Ottawa - Richard DeKleine; and St. Clair - Janice Rinke.

In the 1501 and over member category are: Bay - Gerhardt Kernstock; Genesee - Henry Jennings; Huron - Keith Sturm and Saginaw - Ivan Sparks.

Cheboygan Scores Two "Firsts"

Cheboygan County Farm Bureau was the first county in the state to report 1978 membership goal, reporting quota on December 5, 1977. In addition, Cheboygan was the first county in the state to report 100 percent of target goal (regular members).

Congratulations to Paul Koviak and all the membership workers in Cheboygan County for accomplishing the two "firsts."

Farmer-to-Farmer:

"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

INCOME TAX TIME MADE EASIER

"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

LIKES SIMPLICITY

"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're 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

Gutter Award Changes Hands



Facial language tells it all! A reluctant Arthur Bailey (right), director of District 1, accepts the infamous Gutter Trophy from an obviously happy Bob Rider, director of District 7. The trophy is awarded each month to the representative on the MFB Board of Directors whose district is at the bottom of the membership goal status list.

A Day in the Life of a Regional Representative

"I'm Lucky" -- Charles Buchholz,



Howard Heath, broadcaster, Michigan Farm Radio Network and Chuck find they have a common goal - getting news of agricultural events and market information to farmers.



For Betty Bliss, happiness is a regional rep who will be "Guy Friday" while she's vacationing in Florida.



Dean Cousino, Monroe Evening News reporter, jots down the names of area farmers who can provide local insight on farm issues.



Chuck discusses plans for the Rural Crime Prevention program with Oakland County's new Information Chairman, Marge Cook.



Nina Wilson and Cleo Dutkiewicz plan Livingston County's Membership Campaign strategies with Chuck.

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 Ida, at the Monroe County Farm Bureau office, an 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 20-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 AFBF 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)

Southeast Region



WAYNE COUNTY President Richard Sharland and County Secretary Louise Witkowski.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY President Henry Hudson and County Secretary Cleo Dutkiewicz.



MONROE COUNTY President Gary Drott and County Secretary Betty Bliss.



MACOMB COUNTY President Gerald Grobbel and County Secretary Pearl Engelbrecht.



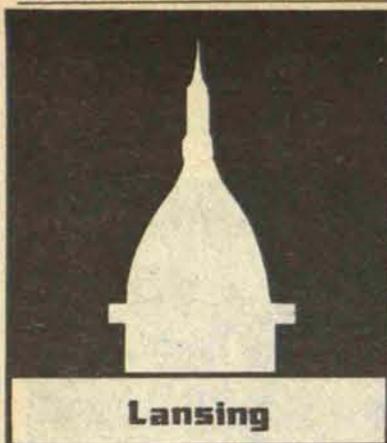
OAKLAND COUNTY President John Cook and County Secretary Cindy Foster.



WASHTENAW COUNTY President Malcolm Leach and Secretary Cecilia Norush.

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith



Lansing

Capitol Notes

COURT REFORM - The statewide petition drive to allow voters in the 1978 election to decide whether the State Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges should be appointed is making progress. Farm Bureau strongly supports the proposal in order to remove the courts from partisan and political pressures of the present system and yet maintain the rights of the voters to reject or reelect the judge on his individual merit. Each Farm Bureau member received a copy of the petition in the February issue of the Michigan Farm News. It is urged that each member sign the petition and circulate it if possible in order to allow this issue to be put on the November ballot.

LAND USE - Land use continues to be highly controversial with misrepresentation and misinformation rampant. While there is a bill in the senate (S-692) now having public hearing in some areas and a similar bill H-4189 in the House, both bills are tied up in committees and are not likely to be released for a vote by the entire Legislature. The House bill has been substituted and is in line with Farm Bureau policies as determined by the voting delegates at the state annual meeting.

TRESPASS - The new law requiring written permission for hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers, and ORV operators before entering farmland is under attack. H-5843 has been introduced to repeal the written permission requirement. DNR spokesmen told Farm Bureau that the new trespass law worked very well during the 1977-78 hunting season and that they see no need for any revision at this time. S-558 would allow owners of hunting dogs to enter the property of other persons without consent, without arms of any kind, for the purpose only of retrieving their dog.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS - HB 5866 has been introduced to repeal the current requirement that all persons voting for soil conservation district directors must own, lease, rent or otherwise occupy at least

(Continued on Page 16)

Highway Funding

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 from 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 30 percent and the commercial weight tax an average of 34 percent. Motorcycle fees would be increased from \$7.50 to \$12.00 and trailers would have a 35 percent increase. It has been nine years since these fees were increased. During that time, the average weekly

wage has increased more than 93 percent, and roads 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 areas 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.

Governor's Budget Message

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 any other program. 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 \$8.721 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, schools, cities, etc. About 25 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 21 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 a 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 \$658,400 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)



Rep. Paul Porter (D-Quincy) listens intently to Mrs. Genevieve Wright of St. Joseph County at the Southwest Legislative Seminar held recently at the YWCA in Lansing.

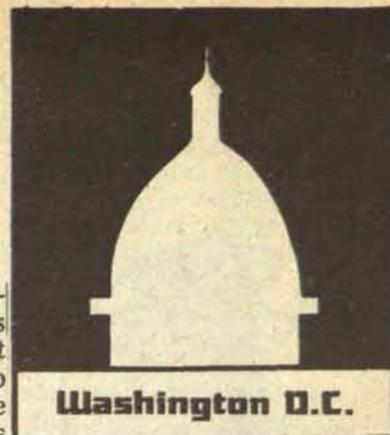


Berrien County Farm Bureau President Alan Prillwitz talks with Rep. Harry Gast, Jr. (R-St. Joseph) at a recent Legislative Seminar in Lansing.

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Poage-Mathias Bill Would Boost Markets



EXPORTS

In recent weeks there has been much discussion about solutions to the farm price problem facing the wheat and feed grain sectors of agriculture. Emerging from the discussion has been general agreement that exports must be increased to help draw down surplus stocks of wheat and feed grains.

On January 19, a bill was introduced by Congressman Bob Poage (D-Texas) and Congressman Dawson Mathias (D-Georgia) which if enacted would provide a substantial boost to efforts to develop markets for U.S. wheat and feed grains in foreign nations. The bill is H.R. 10434 and is commonly referred to as the Poage-Mathias bill. The bill recognizes that the economic strength of U.S. agriculture depends on developing, maintaining and expanding international markets for agricultural commodities. To accomplish this goal the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to establish up to 25 U.S. Agricultural Trade Offices in foreign nations. Each office would be staffed by a U.S. Agricultural Trade Officer whose sole responsibility would be market development for U.S. agricultural commodities. The Trade Officer would be responsible for establishing goals by country and by commodity for developing, expanding and maintaining

markets for U.S. agricultural commodities and initiating programs to achieve the export marketing goals. The Trade Officer would also maintain facilities for use by private trade groups, individuals and others engaged in the import and export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

Currently, government operated market development programs for U.S. agricultural commodities are conducted largely by Agricultural Attaches. However, it is becoming more apparent that the Attache does not have the status or expense allowance to operate effectively in developing foreign markets. The Poage-Mathias bill would upgrade the Attache to the rank of Agricultural Counselor and increase the expense allowance commensurate with the rank and responsibility.

The Poage-Mathias bill also declares that international affairs have become more important to the implementation of U.S. agricultural policies, and

especially with regards to farm prices and exports. The bill would enhance the status of international affairs within U.S.D.A. by replacing the position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Commodity Programs with two separate positions. First, would be the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs. The person filling this position would be appointed by the President with approval of the Senate and be responsible for all U.S.D.A. duties related to foreign agriculture.

The second position would be that of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Commodity Programs. The person filling this position would also be appointed by the President with approval of the Senate and be responsible for duties related to agricultural stabilization and conservation.

Finally, the Poage-Mathias bill recognizes that terms, conditions and availability of credit are important for the export of

U.S. agricultural commodities. The bill establishes a new intermediate credit program of 3-10 years to finance export sales. The credit terms under this program are commercial and not concessionary. Repayments to the U.S. will be placed in a fund for the purpose of extending additional loans.

The Poage-Mathias bill has been referred jointly to the House Agriculture Committee and the House International Relations Committee. In its testimony on current price problems facing agriculture delivered February 8 to the House Agriculture Committee, the American Farm Bureau Federation gave complete support to the bill.

Consumer Protection Agency
For several years legislation has been pending to create an independent

CPA

Consumer Protection Agency (CPA) within federal government. The CPA was to be a consumer advocate

during proceedings by virtually all federal departments and agencies. The House had passed bills on previous occasions to create a CPA but the margin of victory became smaller each time. However, the Senate either failed to act on the bills or when it did pass legislation in 1975 it was vetoed by President Ford.

On February 7, 1978 the issue of a CPA was dealt a blow by the House that is considered to be fatal. The House defeated CPA legislation by a 189-227 vote. This surprising margin of defeat will likely put the issue to rest for a long time. It clearly indicates that constituents of the 227 Congressmen who voted against the bill want less government in their lives. Farm Bureau was a leading opponent of the legislation.

A Day in the Life of a Reg. Rep.

(Continued from Page 9)

frequent night meetings don't do much toward keeping a trim physique. So Charlie, a former star football player, tries to schedule a game of paddle ball, tennis or softball whenever possible. He and Jody are also active in the Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor.

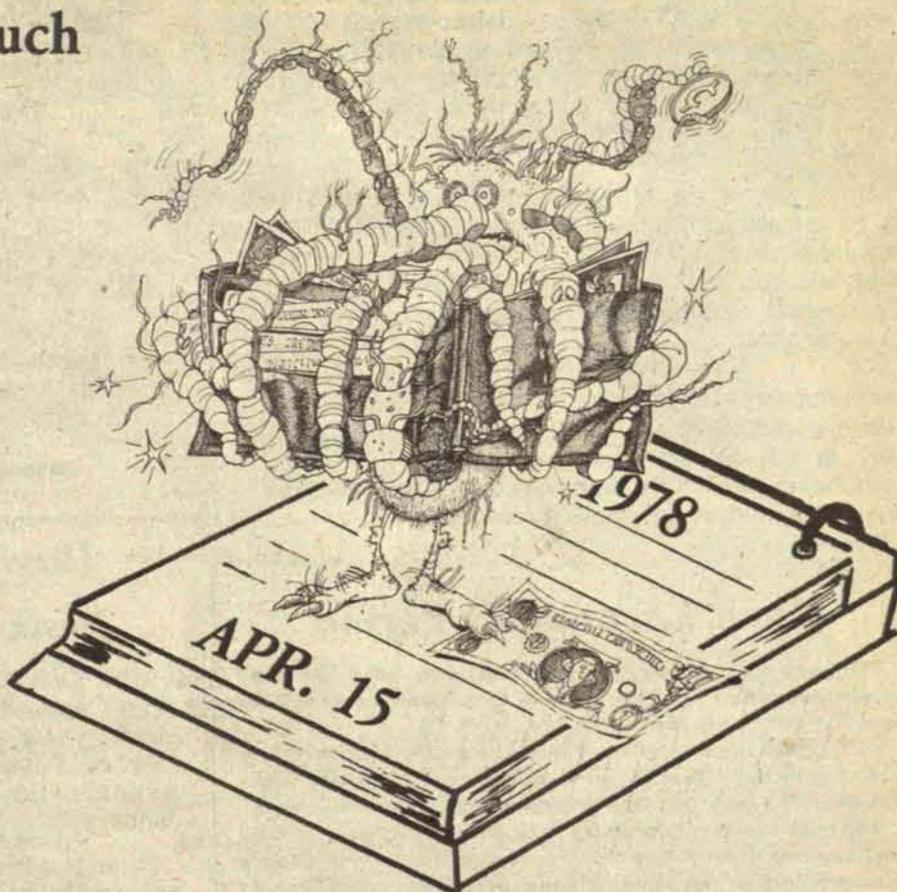
Charlie is proud of his region and feels he's lucky to be assigned to the Southeast. He credits good presidents and secretaries for making his job easier and also salutes another regional representative, Don Ruhlig, for his assistance when Charlie started his job about a year and a half ago. "Born, raised and weaned on Farm Bureau," he sees his most important function as "helping members solve their particular problems by providing them with the information and resources they need."

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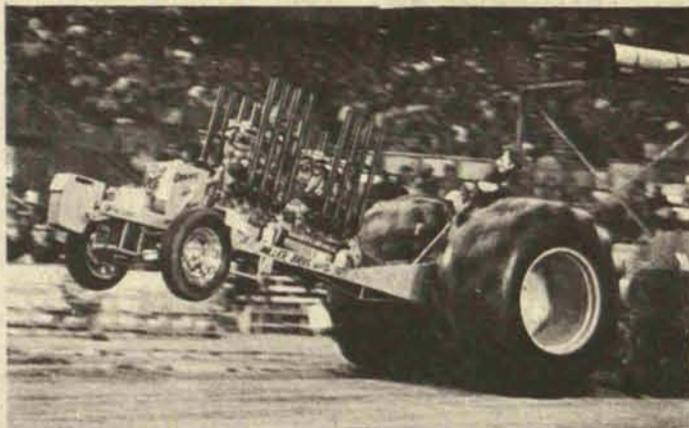
I would like more information about saving tax dollars with Farm Bureau's FARM RECORDS PROGRAM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Farm Bureau

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, blown engines that develop over 2,000 horsepower, and many more, **pull 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 Econo-Plan which costs less money but provides you with basic coverage while you share the cost of hospital and physician services.



Porter Wagoner



Minnie Pearl

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 with 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 member 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.

March 1 - District 1
March 6 - District 4
March 8 - District 6
March 9 - District 8
March 13 - District 5
March 14 - District 7

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 agency 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 1:45 p.m. Cost will be \$4.50 per person and includes coffee, rolls and luncheon.

March 7 - North, Northwest, Northeast, and Upper Peninsula Regions
March 16 - West Central Region

MASA ANNUAL MEETING AND FARM LABOR CONFERENCE

These two important events for agricultural employers in Michigan have been announced by the Michigan Agricultural Services Association. The meeting will be March 17 at the Midway Motor Lodge in Grand Rapids.

MICHIGAN CERTIFIED FARM MARKETS ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for March 15-16 at Webers Inn, Ann Arbor. Business meeting, workshops and a mini-product show will be featured.

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).

MAFC 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: Director 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 - Zehnders, Frankenmuth
March 28 - 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



CARY BLAKE

Michael W. Rogers has been named manager of the Broadcast Services Department of the Information and Public Relations Division. Rogers has served as Broadcast Coordinator since March of 1976.

Assuming 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 shrinking.

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 come 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 turnaround from its stand of seemingly discouraging grain exports to a positive promotional campaign.

Halow blasts USDA for statements over a period of time that U.S. grain was inferior in quality and that a costly new set of export inspections was needed. The facts are that U.S. grain is superior in every way, but bad-mouthing the product

hurt overseas markets.

In addition, the federal government has remained largely silent while maritime unions have pressed for greater use of more expensive U.S. ships to handle export grain. The move may help longshoremen and ship owners but it adds heavily to the cost-per-bushel of grain delivered to foreign ports.

Halow sees immense prospects for developing markets for U.S. grain in Soviet Russia, Red China,

and other consumer parts of the world where unstable harvests make imports necessary and which only the American farmer can supply. He bemoans so little lack of USDA effort to cultivate these overseas 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

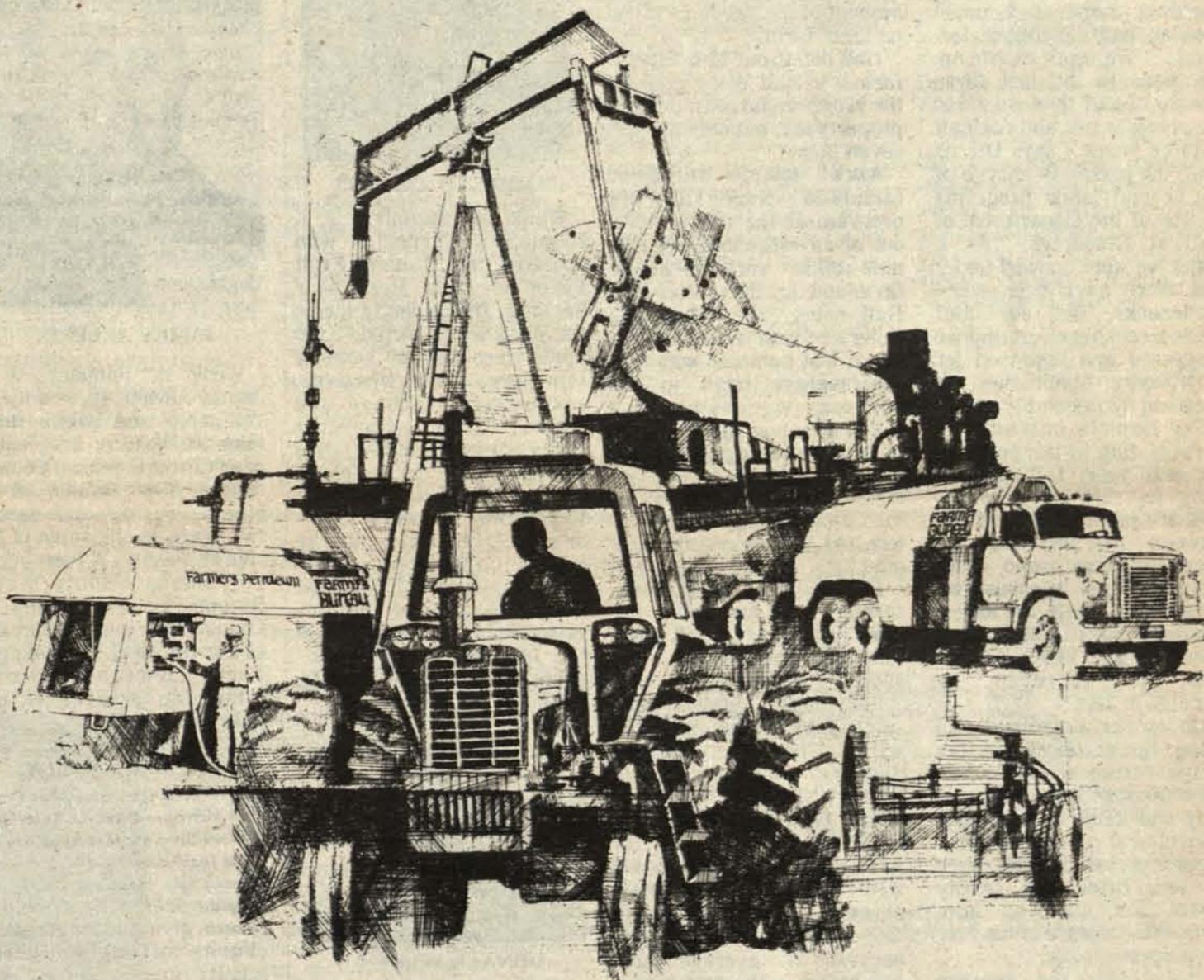
prices. The latter would make the U.S. even less competitive in selling off surplus domestic grain production.

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 per-

sonally 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)



Who Is The Petroleum Products Leader In Michigan?

Farmers Petroleum Co-operative sells more products and has more services for Michigan farmers than any other petroleum supplier or auto accessory store. A recent independent survey proved this.

Farmers know they can depend on their Farmers Petroleum dealer for anything from anti-freeze to on-farm tire service. The service is fast and friendly, the Co-op products

are top quality and prices are fair.

If you're not a Farmers Petroleum patron right now, ask your neighbor about the good things we've done for him. We can do them for you, too. Ask the Farm Bureau people.

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARMERS PETROLEUM

INTERVIEW



"HAPPY LANDING"

by Mike Rogers

A special program designed to protect farmland from pavement and parking lots, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, is proving more and more popular with Michigan farmers. "We got more applications in the last three months of 1977 than we did in the previous two and one half to three years," says Dennis Hall, the person in charge of the special lands programs section of the Department of Natural Resources. "As a result we were snowed under and there have been some bottlenecks. But our staff made a real big effort and we processed and approved for 1977 every application we received by December 23rd."

For farmers interested in participating in the program for next year, Hall advises filing as soon as possible. "We are getting requests for between 700 and 800 applications from some counties," he says. "Because we have a small staff, the longer a farmer waits in the '78 tax year, the less likely it is he will be approved by December 31st."

Under the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, farmers sign an agreement with the state that they will keep their land in agricultural production for a certain period of time, such as ten, fifteen or twenty years. The state, in turn, gives the farmer a refund on his property taxes.

"Last year the average farmer in this program got

back about \$1,878 on his property taxes," says Hall. "Between this refund and the Homestead Credit, many farmers in the program can be reimbursed for the total amount of the property taxes on their farm."

Hall points out that when a farmer's land comes out of the program, he must pay the property tax, but only the last seven years.

About 400,000 acres of farmland were in the program at the end of 1977, out of an estimated eight or nine million acres of active farmland in the state. But Hall notes "the interesting thing we found from a survey taken last summer was that the average farm in the program was within 22.7 miles of a population center of 25,000 or more people. This is significant because it indicates to us that farmers in the urban fringes are interested in preserving their land."

Hall believes it is these farmers who are under the most pressure to sell their land for subdivisions and shopping centers.

Fifty-three counties have some land in the program, with Clinton, Ingham, Saginaw and Tuscola counties leading the way. "The typical participating farm is an individual or family cash crop operation with approximately 274.5 acres in the program," Hall says. "This is interesting because the average farm size based on the 1974 census is only 158 acres."

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, Connie, have one child.



DONALD WYKES

Week of January 9 -- Donald Wykes, a dairy far-

mer from Gaines in Genesee County who farms 353 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.



JAMES ALLISON

Week of January 16 -- James Allison, 41, who farms 720 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.



ROBERT SUTTON

Week of January 23 -- Robert Sutton, 24, a dairy farmer from Metamora in Lapeer County. Sutton, who has been farming for 22 years, farms 200 acres and has 75 dairy cattle. He serves as treasurer of Lapeer Township and is a member of the Michigan Milk Association, having served as district secretary-treasurer of that organization. He is a member of the Lapeer County Farm Bureau, served as County FB president from 1975-77, and served on the board of Lapeer County Co-op. Sutton and his wife, Sally, have three children.



HENRY EBERHART

Week of January 30 -- Henry Eberhart, 52, of Clare, who farms 800 acres and raises about 500 beef cattle in partnership with his father and son. Eberhart serves as a township trustee, vice-chairman of the area ASCS Committee, and is a member and past president of the Clare County Farm Bureau. He is a member of the Square Dance Club, the Michigan Cattleman's Assn., the National Livestock Feeder Assn. and has served on the local Soil Conservation Board for the past 10 years. Eberhart and his wife, Bernice, have six children.

"Tomorrow Belongs to Me"

Young Farmers' Leader Conference March 7-9

Participants of the MFB Young Farmer Leaders' Conference, scheduled for March 7-8-9 at the Valley Plaza Ramada Inn, Midland, will have the opportunity to discuss a wide variety of agricultural topics, as well as develop their leadership potential.

Keynote speakers during the 3-day session include Esther Shapiro, consumer affairs specialist for the City of Detroit, and state representatives and senators. Richard Neubauer, AFBF director of Young Farmer and Rancher activities, will be on hand to assist the Young Farmer leaders in developing their 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 don't 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.

63rd Annual MSU Farmers' Week Set for March 20-24

Michigan State University's 63rd annual Farmers' Week, the oldest continuing farm event of its kind in the nation, is March 20-24. More than 18,000 persons are expected to attend.

This year's theme, "Your Family TRE," stresses importance of MSU's teaching, research and Cooperative Extension Service throughout the state.

"Agricultural technology is rapidly changing throughout Michigan and the U.S. and it is incumbent upon all land-grant universities, such as MSU, to provide leadership," says Dr. James H. Anderson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Just how MSU is fulfilling that role will be the emphasis of this year's Farmers' Week. "We hope participants will become more aware of the help we provide through our research activities, the careers open to students, the grass-level assistance available through our Extension services," Anderson says.

Farmers' Week offers Michigan residents more than 170 educational programs ranging from basics in home horticulture to management courses for

commercial farmers. More than 300 speakers from throughout the nation will make special presentations for these sessions. There will be scores of MSU departmental displays and activities, and a farm trade show containing more than \$2.5 million in equipment.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

Activities begin Monday (March 20) with a variety of dairy association meetings: American Dairy Association of Michigan, Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Ayrshire Breeders' Association, Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association, Guernsey Breeders' Association, Jersey Cattle Club, and the Milking Shorthorn Association.

MSU's Department of Dairy Science will hold its dairy breeds and awards luncheon at noon, during which outstanding Michigan dairymen 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 Science Department, 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) 355-3414.

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.

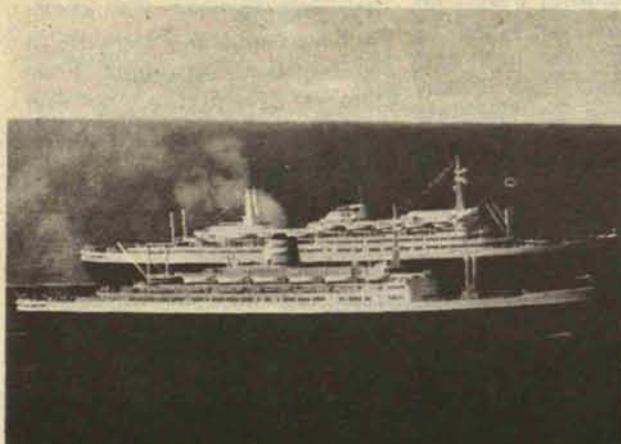
That evening, the annual Farm Management Banquet at Kellogg Center will recognize Michigan's outstanding producers of the year who are participants in MSU's Telfarm and Telplan programs. There will also be a horse industry banquet at the MSU Student Union Building, held in conjunction with the annual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

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-AFBF 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 BOHEME	
Saturday, January 6:	3:45 PM - Leave Miami
Monday, January 8:	8:00 AM - Arrive Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic
	1:00 PM - Leave Puerto Plata
Tuesday, January 9:	9:30 AM - Arrive St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
	4:45 PM - Leave St. Thomas
	9:30 PM - Arrive San Juan, Puerto Rico
Wednesday, January 10:	4:00 PM - Leave San Juan
Thursday, January 11:	1:30 PM - Arrive Cap Haitien, Haiti
	8:00 PM - Leave Cap Haitien
Saturday, January 13:	10:00 AM - Arrive Miami
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 - Leave Montego Bay
	8:00 AM - Arrive Port Antonio, Jamaica
	5:00 PM - Leave Port Antonio
Wednesday, January 10:	8:00 AM - Arrive Port Au Prince, Haiti
	5:00 PM - Leave Port Au Prince

Thursday, January 11: Arrive Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic
5:00 PM - Leave Puerto Plata

Saturday, January 13: 9:00 AM - Arrive Miami

In addition to cruise arrangements, the following will be done for the group:

Saturday, January 6: Air from Detroit to Miami, based on Group 40 airfare.

On arrival at Miami International Airport, transfer to the docks to board your cruise ship.

Saturday, January 13: On arrival at Miami, and after clearing immigrations and customs, transfer to Miami Beach to your convention hotel.

Thursday, January 18: Transfer from your Miami Beach convention hotel to Miami International Airport for your air departure back to your home airport.

Cost:

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

M/S BOHEME:	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 there 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 or 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 1979.

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 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 cancelled 30 days before departure are not subject to any charge. Those cancelled less than 30 days prior to departure may be subject to a 25% cancellation charge.

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 \$_____ (\$150.00 per person required.) Balance due 40 days prior to departure.

Name(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____

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

_____ M/S BOHEME

_____ M/S CARIBE

_____ Inside Restaurant Deck or Outside B 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

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 employee 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 law-makers do 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.

Capitol Notes

(Continued from Page 10)

three acres of land. Similar legislation has been defeated twice in recent years. Farm Bureau has supported such efforts believing that the present requirements are very broad and that elections should not be extended any further.

FARMING CONTROLS - SB-9, introduced several months ago, originally was written to regulate corporate farming operations. However, it has been substituted and would, if passed, prohibit any farm, whether incorporated or owned by an individual or partnership, from producing more than 5 percent of the total production of any commodity. Many farmers, such as beef and speciality crop producers such as cabbage, are already near or above this production level. Each farm would be required to file an annual report showing the exact amount of each commodity produced on his farm.

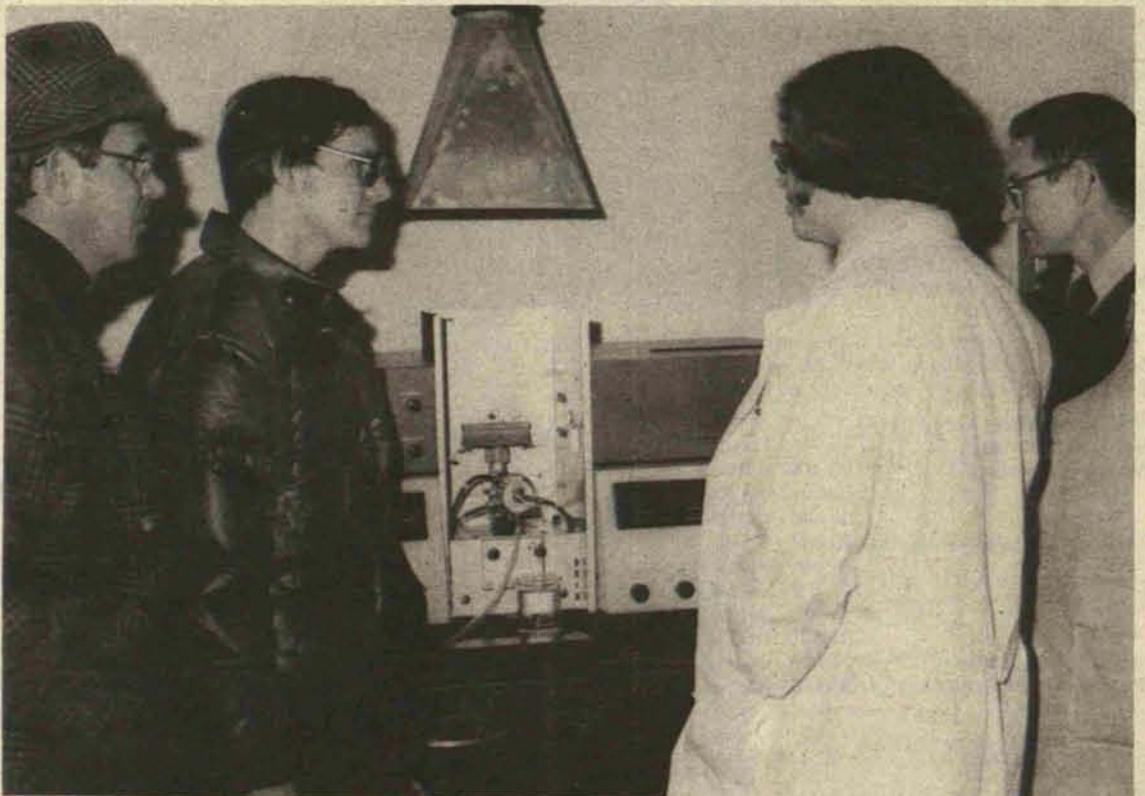
FBS Battle Creek Plant and Lab Open for Tours

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 has quickly attracted several enthusiastic farmer organizations as guests. Tours are now open to agricultural supply co-ops or other agricultural organizations. Tour guides give an in-depth explanation of the total plant facilities and

procedures. The laboratory analyses 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 Telle, 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.



Members of Calhoun County Agricultural Council were recent visitors to Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Analytical Laboratory at the Animal Food Plant near Battle Creek. Pictured above are William Plummer, Calhoun County Extension Director; Roger Nanny, District Conservationist SCS; Brian Gates, Laboratory Manager; and Bruce Upston, Security Bank of Battle Creek. Other members of the visiting group, but not pictured, were James Swat, District Field Crop Extension Agent; Louis Daniels, Michigan Livestock Exchange; and Robert Powers, Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Their attention is on an Atomic Absorption Unit, one of several precise and sophisticated testing instruments. Group tours of the Animal Food Plant and the Laboratory are encouraged and may be arranged by contacting Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Public Relations Department in the Lansing Farm Bureau Center.

TWO SPECIAL FARM BUREAU TOURS FOR 1978!

—ALASKA—
July 11-20

—HOLLAND-SWEDEN-U.S.S.R.—
August 8-22

Both designed for seeing the sights, including farm visits.

Get your friends and neighbors to join you for a super fun time.

SEND FOR DETAILS NOW!

An Agrigroups Abroad Planned Tour
Ralph Kirch, Director
P.O. Box 65, 8013 Church
Richland, Michigan 49083
616-381-0200

RETURN THIS COUPON FOR DETAILS!

Name _____
Address _____
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SUPPLY REPORT

By Greg Sheffield



LOOKING TO SPRING

Farmers are planning to plant considerably more acres of soybeans, oats, dry beans this spring in Michigan, says the Michigan Crop Reporting Service. No change in sugar beet acreage 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 1 percent which would boost the corn planted by 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 for other crops.

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. Knock-about - town - type jackets will be used as a bonus to farmers purchasing feed, fertilizer, chemicals, hardware, petroleum 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 all 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 Feeds 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



Arnold Riester increased his rolling herd average by 877 pounds of milk in one year with the Farm Bureau NU PRO™ dairy feeding program.

WATER

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 forebearers 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. It 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 a "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.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**
Manager Member Relations

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 low 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 groundwaters 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

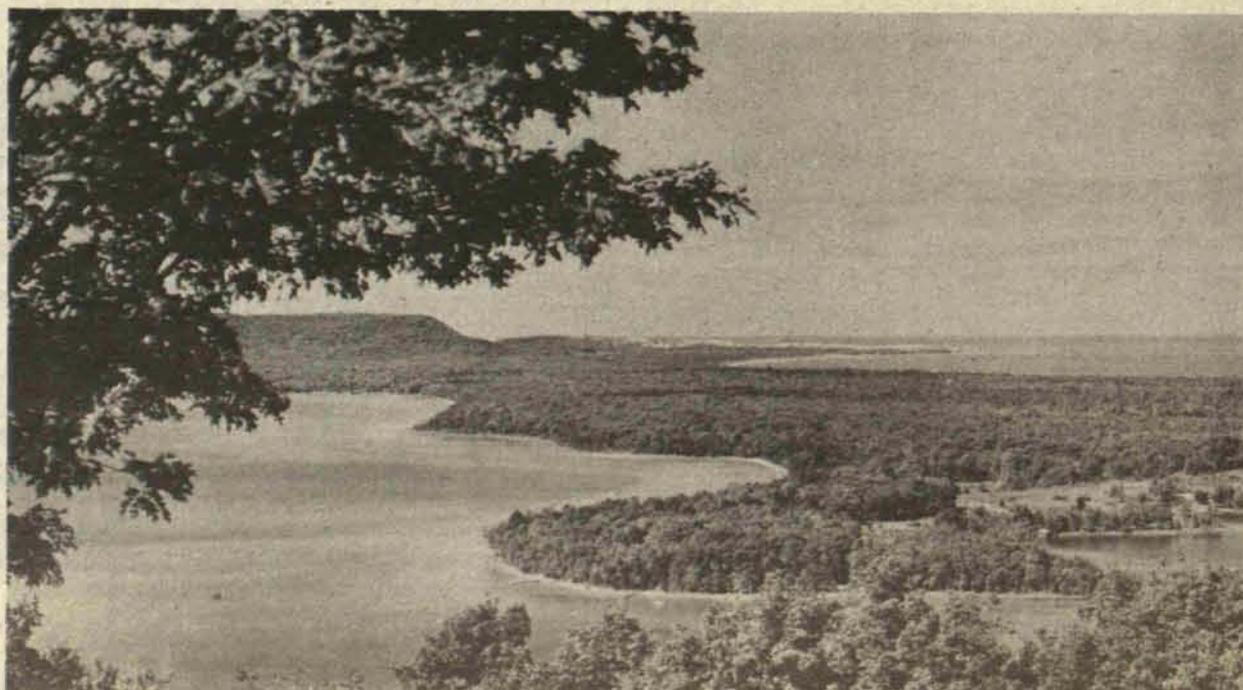
The concept is currently being used in Muskegon County. Wastewater from the city of Muskegon and adjacent towns is collected, given initial treatment and applied through irrigation on nearly 6,000 acres of farmland. The crops being grown, primarily corn, are responding very well to the water and nutrients 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 1985, 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.



Governor's Budget

(Continued from Page 10)

also enforce the new commercial feed regulations.

Approximately \$10.9 million would be used for con-

tinuation of the funding of PA 77 which requires the testing of cull dairy cattle for PBB contamination.

There are concerns, however, about the agricultural budget. For example, the appropriation for fruit and vegetable in-

spection has been cut over \$107,000. Farmers and others have been paying one-third of the cost. This means that their share will be increased to one-half of the cost. Fruit and vegetable third party inspection is essential to not only producers and buyers but it also assures the con-

sumer of receiving quality products. It is also most helpful in seeking markets in other states and overseas.

Another area of concern is need for additional and adequate funding of the Crop Reporting Service. This data is necessary for producers but again it is essential in

seeking export markets.

Adequacy of appropriations is also needed for the M.S.U. Agricultural Experiment Station and the Extension Service. Research is needed badly on many Michigan crops due to increased disease problems and the need for new varieties.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership, additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word **NON-MEMBER** advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy

deadline: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, MI. 48904 Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

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FOR SALE: 3 Point; Plows, Discs, Scoops, Blades, Post Hole Diggers, Mowers, Rims. Disc Blades 20", 9 gauge \$9.25. Steiner Farm Equipment, (313) 694-5314, Grand Blanc, Michigan. (3-61-25f)

40 RC JOHN BEAN Sprayer, new engine. 2-80 Rod Moore rain side rolls. 40 HP electric pump. Robert Davis & Sons, Carson City, 48811. (517) 584-3244. (3-11-25f)

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FOR SALE: 1972 Wilde Pickle Harvester with hydraulic dump cart. Harvested approximately 700 acres. New style quick attachment to tractor. Phone (517) 895-8417 or (517) 754-5936. (3-11-23f)

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FOR SALE: One stainless steel, gas-fired chicken scalding and automatic dipping machine. One Ashley open-drum chicken picker with timer. One big Dutchman stainless steel basket egg washer. One big Dutchman doublechain feed hopper. Mid-dleton, Michigan, Phone (517) 236-7716. (3-11-25f15p)

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LETT GRINDER MIXER 2 ton good condition, always housed, takes less power and maintenance than hammer mills. Cole Bros., 5281 Wilson Avenue, Grandville, MI 49418. (3-21-25f)

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RUSTIC RAIL FENCES - Big winter discount. 2 to 4 rails all cedar for yard or livestock. 4.50 a sec. and up. About 20 miles south of Houghton Lake. Ronald Garber, R No. 2, Gladwin, MI 48624. Phone (517) 426-5583. (3-11-25f15p)

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ARMY REO 2 1/2 ton dump and GMC 2 1/2 ton cargo trucks, with or without winch, good condition, low mileage, McEwen Farms, Flushing, Michigan. Phone (313) 659-6535. (3-11-25f)

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1975 CHEROKEE JEEP, excellent condition, fully loaded. Evenings, (313) 664-2451. (3-11-9p)

FOR SALE - Animal Feeds. Bird, 50 lbs., \$3.50. Dog food, 50 lbs., from \$7.50-\$9.00. Horse, 100 lbs., \$8.50. Rabbit, 50 lbs., \$5.00. Rabbits. (313) 664-2451. (3-11-24p)

WOOD STOVES and furnace supplement heaters -- Johnson Monarch, Energy Mate, King space heaters & Merit coal and wood stoves. 30 years at same place of business. Call us before you buy! Fowler Plumbing and Heating, Fowler, Michigan. Phone (517) 593-2300. (1-81-25f14b)

STRAWBERRIES

STRAWBERRIES - Blueberries, raspberries, grapes, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, other fruit plants and trees. Virus-free. Write for free catalog. Our 141st year. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES, Box FBN-22, Hartford, Michigan 49057. (1-51-23b)

Michigan certified GUARDIAN STRAWBERRY plants - grown on fumigated sandy loam soil. \$48 per 1000, picked up at farm. Add 20 percent for shipping & postage. Can ship by United Parcel Service, Parcel Post, Bus Freight (Air Freight extra). Minimum order 1000 plants. BILL KROHNE, Route 6, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047. Phone 616-424-3450 or 5423. (3-21-25b)

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FREE FRUIT CATALOG - Color catalog with 82 strawberry varieties plus all other fruits. Write for free copy. Our 141st year. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES, Box FBN-22, Hartford, Michigan 49057. (1-51-28b)

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REAL ESTATE

FARM: Mayville area, 115 acres. Dairy barn, outbuilding, 4 Bedroom, 2 story home all remodeled. Approx. \$1,000 an acre. 77224-F. Hutchinson Realty, Inc. Phone Caro (517) 673-7773. (2-21-26b)

FARM: 173 acres, dairy set up, barn, tool shed, outbuilding, 2 story home, 5 bedroom, good condition. Approx. \$1,800 an acre. 77225-F. Hutchinson Realty, Inc. Phone Caro (517) 673-7773. (2-21-28b)

KALKASKA 10 ACRES, \$10,500. Well, Pump, Tank, Electric, Septic tank. South Boardman, 50 acres, \$24,500. Good Road. Owner, Esther Carpenter, Ozard, R.R. 1, Moran, Michigan 49760. (3-11-25f)

10 ACRES NEAR PITTSFORD in Hillsdale County. Some woods, mobiles OK. \$9900 with \$1000 down. \$95 month. State Wide Real Estate of Adrian, (517) 263-8382. (3-11-24f)

PEACH FARM - 35 acres in Watervliet Township. First class site, north slope. Write: Solid M. Spread, Hartford 49057, or phone Solid-M-Chateau (616) 424-3752. \$152,000.00 firm. (3-11-25f)

180 AND 232 ACRE FARMS near Scottville and Custer plus 490 acres for lease with large feedlot. Lease rate very low. These are crop and livestock farms. Take one or all. Owner consider lease-back. Exchange your farm as down payment. "Easy as ABC." Call Art Boroughs Company, (517) 349-3346. (3-11-25f24p)

FOR SALE: 5 acres water 3 sides, 5 acres all pines. Both very private. 3 lots, Barber Road, 3 miles to Hastings, Michigan. Call (616) 267-5688. (1-31-25f)

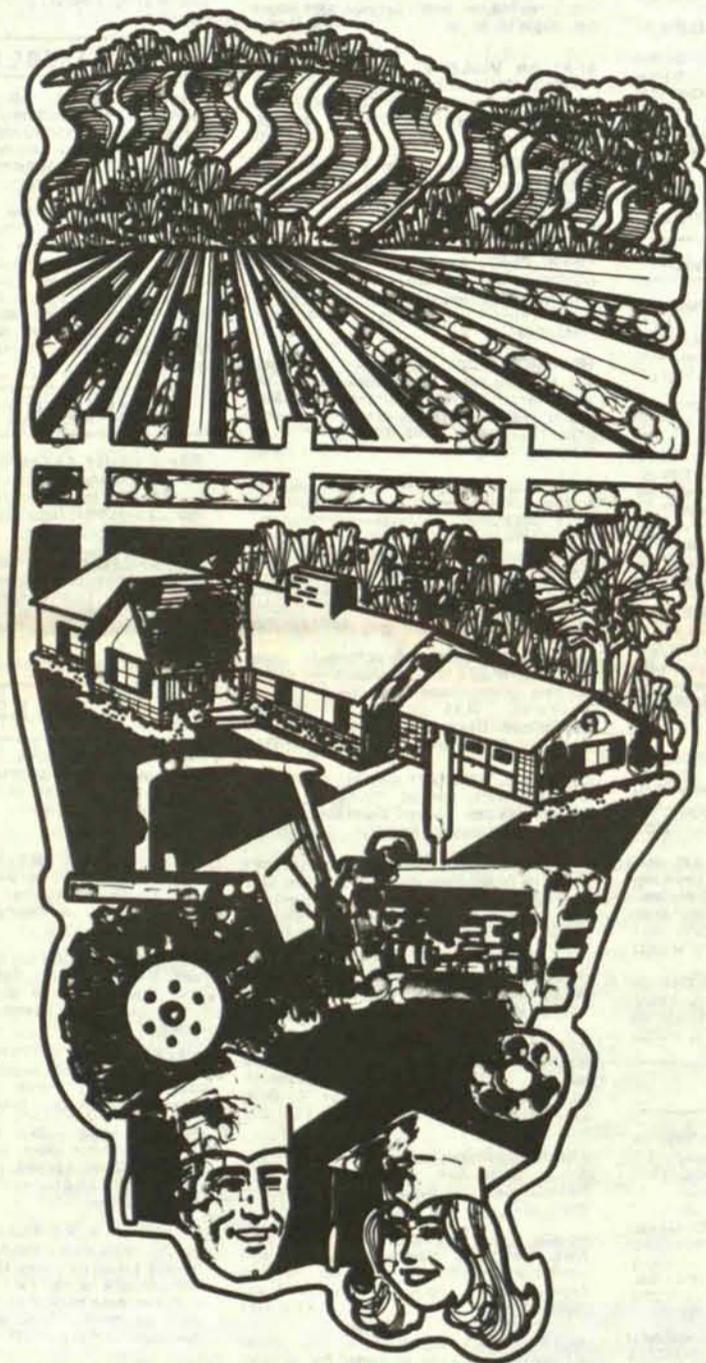
GRADE A DAIRY FARMS 140 Acres with good buildings and home, also old set of farm buildings. \$98,500. Brochure available. Also GRADE A 3/8 Acre Farm with excellent buildings and home. \$320,000. Brochure available. Everitt Realty, Inc. REALTORS R. Member Partridge & Associates, Inc. Lake City, MI 49651. (616) 839-4342. (2-31-48p)

HAY LISTING

Michigan Farm Bureau is now making available a Hay and Silage Listing Service. Buyers and sellers can list their needs and offerings in the classified section of the Michigan Farm News. The service is free to Farm Bureau members. If you have hay for sale or want to purchase hay, simply mail your request to: Hay and Silage Listing, Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909. Your ad, 25 words or less, should include the amount and quality of hay or silage you want to buy or sell plus your name, address and phone number. (3-21-21f)

FOR SALE: Good quality alfalfa hay, 1st & 2nd, also some straw. Phone after 6 p.m. (517) 521-3332, 2473 Wallace Road, Webberville, Michigan. (3-21-21f)

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