

Senate Pulls "Cruel Hoax" on Farmers

Legislation to ease farmers' current economic woes, which originally was consistent with Michigan Farm Bureau's 5-point plan of action and supported by both MFB and AFBF, was turned overnight into a three-headed "monstrosity" by the U.S. Senate.

Following a meeting with the AFBF board of directors, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman, Herman Talmadge (D-Georgia) introduced S. 2690, which would have required the Secretary of Agriculture to make diversion payments available to farmers to take 31-million acres of land out of production. To participate in the diversion payment program - which would be voluntary - a farmer would have to participate in the set-aside programs already announced. Amounts paid to individual farmers would be determined through an offer system. It was estimated that the national average diversion payment would be about \$75 an acre.

The Talmadge Bill was adopted by the Senate Agriculture Committee and Farm Bureau members, through a special all-member bulletin, were urged to ask their U.S. Senators and Congressmen to do everything possible to obtain prompt and favorable action on the legislation, as the best solution to the farm price problem.

A Complex Package

Before many members received this request for action, S. 2690 had become what MFB President Elton R. Smith called "a garbage can of unworkable measures, with a crumb to pacify everyone in the gallery - not to solve the economic woes of farmers."

The Senate, on March 21, took the Talmadge Bill, added a flexible parity measure introduced by Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas) and a price-support increase plan of Senator George McGovern (D-South Dakota) and passed the combined package by a 67 to 26 vote. This "Emergency Agricultural Act of 1978" would:

1. Provide for a voluntary land diversion program of at least 31 million acres with performance payments.
2. Provide for an increase in the borrowing authority of CCC from \$14.5 billion to \$25 billion.
3. Provide for an increase in the lending limit on farm real estate and operating loans under the consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.
4. Provide for the flexible parity concept of increased

target prices up to 100 percent of parity for increased set-asides up to 50 percent - on wheat, feed grains, and cotton.

5. Provide for increases in target prices and loan rates: wheat - target of 3.55 (up from 3.00); loan of 2.85 (up from 2.25); corn - target of 2.50 (up from 2.10); loan of 2.25 (up from 2.00); cotton - target of 70 cents (up from 52); loan of 50 cents (up from 44).

6. Permit grazing, haying, and normal tillage practices of set-aside acres.

7. Permit use of diverted acreage for crops devoted to production of gasohol.

8. Prohibit the use of set aside acreage for growing Irish potatoes.

Puts Government in Farm Business

"If this monstrosity should become law," Smith warned, "it will mean that the Federal Government will be in the business of farming, the worst possible thing that could happen to our industry and our economy. It is our position that reduced production through an effective set-aside, with diversion payments to help cover overhead costs, will restore farm income in the shortest time. It will allow farmers to obtain their income from the marketplace rather than the Federal Treasury."

The farm leader called on Secretary of Agriculture Bergland and President Carter to step in immediately and "end political confusion." Bergland has the authority, currently, to utilize diversion payments in previously announced set-aside programs, but has chosen not to do so.

"With planting underway in southern states, farmers can't wait for legislative action," Smith said. "Bergland and Carter have the power to end this political confusion with a single stroke of the pen. Their refusal to do so only prolongs the ridiculous grandstand plays in Washington - with nothing accomplished to relieve the economic plight of farmers."

A "Costly Monster"

Some Senators themselves agreed with President Smith's description of the proposed legislation. Senator Dick Clark of Iowa called it a "cruel hoax on farmers" and said "We can report to farmers that we voted for everything that anyone could possibly think of." The Senator predicted that it would never become law. Senator Edmund Muskie called the bill a "costly monster" with unknown

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Farmers talking to farmers was the focus at the Michigan Farm Bureau exhibit during Farmers' Week (March 21-March 23) at Michigan State University. Vivian Lott, Ingham County Farm Bureau member, spent several hours on March 21 discussing farm prices, parity and MFB's five point Program of Action with visiting farmers and exhibitors.

budgetary, inflationary and economic consequences. He said the combination measure would add a full percentage point to the inflation rate in the U.S.

The House Committee on Agriculture met March 22 and decided to go to conference on the bill rather than to proceed with a separate House bill. As the FARM NEWS goes to press, it was doubtful there would be action on the bill prior to the Easter recess.

Member Action Requested

Farm Bureau members are urged to contact their Congressmen immediately urging rejection of the flexible-parity and increased loan-target provisions of the Talmadge-Dole-McGovern Bill. Congressmen should be urged to approve the additional 31-million acre set-aside program with diversion payments contained in the original version of S. 2690. Members should also write both President Carter and Agriculture Secretary Bergland telling them to use the authority they already have to utilize diversion payments in previously-announced set-aside programs.

AFBF:

Emergency Act Has "Serious Implications"

According to the AFBF, the Senate's emergency agriculture act has these four serious implications:

1. It overlooks the importance of agricultural exports and the need to remain competitive in world markets.
2. It creates a serious conflict in public policy by encouraging farmers to reduce plantings in an effort to adjust production in line with demand while at the same time increasing incentives to produce through higher target prices and loan levels.
3. It provides significant advantages to some farmers over others by allowing certain kinds of production on so-called diverted or set-aside acreage.
4. It unnecessarily increases the costs of farm programs to the Federal Treasury—by sizable amounts.

Passage of the Senate bill does not put a limitation on efforts to amend the 1977 act. Consideration can still be given during conference to new measures to provide for the escalation of target price levels in future years. Most likely to be considered is a proposal to provide increases to reflect increases in cost of living and minimum wage adjustments to provide "better harmony between agriculture, labor and industry." Such would be inconsistent with Farm Bureau's support for a market-oriented agriculture and would make the fight to control inflation much more difficult.



From
the Desk
of
The
President

The Dangers of Division

I read once that "every worthwhile accomplishment starts with a dread, endures a struggle and ends with a victory — which is invariably followed by the next dread."

That's really what makes our Farm Bureau world go 'round. . . each of our many accomplishments started with a problem, we endured a struggle as we searched for the best solution to the problem. . . and then the struggle ended in victory. We never have much time to savor these victories because, invariably, they are followed by yet another problem.

There are those who become impatient with the length of the struggle portion of this unending cycle, who think there should be quick, simple answers to the problems they face, who wonder why Farm Bureau doesn't "fix it" overnight.

The truth is, the problems farmers face — such as the current economic crunch — do not happen overnight, and there is no such thing as a quick, easy solution to those problems. Impatience . . . demands for quick solutions . . . can be extremely dangerous to our industry. There is the danger that we might get what we ask for and the end result would be aggravation of the very problem we sought to solve.

The solutions we seek today are especially complex because farm prices are not the only problem. There are many contributing factors such as inflation created by the gross excesses of a bloated federal government, monopolistic labor practices, regulations that drive our costs up, and restrictions that block expansion of our markets. These are all factors that contribute to our current economic plight and there is no neatly-packaged, multi-purpose, achievable solution that will magically erase them.

There has never been any question that ALL farmers agree that they must get a fair return on their investments to stay in business. There has, however, been a difference of opinion on how best to achieve that goal. There are even those within our own membership ranks who are impatient with the organization's constructive, forward-thinking, realistic approach to the problem. This will probably always remain so.

But the real danger lies in those outside the agricultural industry who have seized upon this indication of division in the farming community. Labor, still smarting from defeat of the common situs bill (made possible through a united voice in agriculture) and concerned about our current efforts against the so-called labor reform act, quickly stepped into the public arena to "take sides." Politicians, who would like nothing better than to divide the farm vote and make it absolutely impotent, are eager to fan any fires of dissension.

We must not let this happen to our industry. The 1978 elections will have an impact on all farmers and the need for a united agriculture has never been greater. We have a common goal — a healthy, viable agriculture; it will take all of those involved in the industry, plus friends who understand and support it, to make that a reality.

It is not likely that all farmers will ever come to complete agreement on any issue, simply because of our nature of independence and self-reliance. But if we are to have any influence over the forces that so eagerly await to control our destinies, we must present a united front.

Won't you take a moment today to sit down with a farm neighbor and discuss these very real concerns and the need for combining the strength, resources and energies of all farm people to protect our industry. Let us struggle together toward that victory.

Elton R. Smith

The Power of the Pen

While some people wring their hands, make "tschl tschl" noises and complain during coffee klatches about things they're displeased with, others bring about changes because they are willing to speak up. The recent Bean-Steak membership gimmick was one example. We heard protests from those within the industry and just recently received a note from a non-producing bean fan.

H. J. Benson, D.V.M. from Howell, wrote: "Shame on you! If I had won I would have insisted on beans. I love them and always have. I cannot see anything wonderful about steak, but beans I love. More power to beans from one not involved in raising them."

Although nothing official has been announced, chances are that beans will no longer be associated with losers in the membership drive.

We also received a thoroughly entertaining letter to the editor from Mrs. Gertrude Berenda from Byron Center. Our February



One of the real, but often unlisted, benefits of Farm Bureau membership is the organization's ability to attract the nation's top speakers, giving members the opportunity to actually experience what others only read about in the news. The fact that our famous Earl Butz is now, in the eyes of some, infamous, only heightens the envy that others have that we were privileged to have him share his thoughts and philosophy with us not just once but several times.

And have you noticed — as we've had these opportunities — that the speakers who receive the standing ovations are the ones who tell us what we want to hear, who reinforce our feelings of importance and well-being and share the same beliefs as we do?

And have you noticed . . . that the ones who tell us things that we don't want to hear, who share a different philosophy, a different viewpoint than we do, are the most thought-provoking, the most challenging, the ones who make us angry enough to take some action? In other words, have you recognized that the most "unpopular" speakers may be the real motivators?

Editor's Notebook



issue provided her with some clipping fun and brought back fond memories. The letter was too long for publication, but we'd like to share portions of it with you. First, she talked about "the man who says he's a nut" (the man is a lady, Mrs. Berenda, but no argument about the nut). Said our reader-poet: "I'm also a nut, for I like to cut, the kernels out of the shell. These nuggets of paper just love to caper to tell me that most things are swell."

Then Mrs. Berenda had some nice words to say about our Outstanding Young Farm Woman column. "Bonnie Carpenter had such a wealth of grand ideas that I cut her out. I've enrolled in a 'Communications' course for Senior Citizens enrichment at a college in Grand Rapids. I shall take along Bonnie's fine article."

The FARM NEWS editors, whom she addressed as "Friends of the Farmers," appreciated her kind words and humor.

St. Joseph County Farm Bureau member Phyllis Peters, handicapped by polio since 1940 at the age of 13, has compiled a 96-page cookbook called "The Friendship Cookbook." Scheduled to be in circulation by April 15, the book is a collection of old and new favorite recipes from her many friends and relatives. "The Friendship Cookbook" is dedicated to Phyllis' teachers, church friends and the families "who have accepted the added responsibility of the disabled and special child."

Phyllis sold her first article at the age of 16 and at intervals after that until after her family had grown. Now she is writing full time and her articles have appeared in newspapers and magazines over the past nine years.

You can order "The Friendship Cookbook" for \$3.95 plus a 35-cent mailing fee by writing to Phyllis at Route 4, Box 457B, Oakwood Drive, Three Rivers 49093.

Are We Too "Quiet"?

What brought all this to mind was the recent MFB Young Farmers Leadership Conference in Midland. I was moved to tears (real ones) by the standing ovation given to us for the slide tape production, "Tomorrow Belongs to Me." And I'm sure AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Coordinator, Richard Neubauer, was stirred by his standing ovation. But the person who was the real motivator on this impressive three-day program, I'd be willing to wager, was a woman who did not tell the young farmers what they wanted to hear — consumerist Esther Shapiro.

The young farmers did not like seeing themselves through the eyes of a consumerist. They were shocked by some of her observations. She provoked late-night bull-sessions with references to those who inherited "Daddy's farm." No . . . Ms. Shapiro didn't get a standing ovation, but I'd be surprised (and disappointed) if she didn't stimulate some action on the part of young farmers to

correct the image she drew of agriculture.

I had a similar experience at SOYBEAN DAY VI. Darwin Stolte, president of the U.S. Feed Grains Council, was one of the best speakers I've heard in a long time. He shared Farm Bureau's views on the need for expanded exports and our concerns regarding organized labor's influence on the agricultural industry. But he also made me angry! In giving credit to the AAM for bringing public opinion to American agriculture, he said: "The only other vehicle that has done that in the last decade is Earl Butz."

The only other vehicle? What about those Farm Bureau members who, every year, went to Washington to discuss issues of concern with their Congressmen? What about those Farm Bureau members who took on organized labor and defeated, against great odds, the common situs issue because they took the time to let their views be known? What about

(Continued on Page 12)

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“Further expansion of export markets could make a significant contribution to the improvement of farm and ranch incomes.”

*Elton R. Smith, President
Michigan Farm Bureau*

Testifies Before House Committee

Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau and member of the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors, testified recently before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Speaking on behalf of the 2.6 million family-member AFBF, Smith told the Congressmen that further expansion of export markets could make a significant contribution to the improvement of farm and ranch incomes.

The Michigan farmer urged “prompt action” on the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (H.R. 10434), introduced by Congressmen Poage and Mathis, and the Agricultural Trade Expansion Act of 1977 (H.R. 10377), coauthored by Congressman Findley and the late Senator Humphrey. The Poage-Mathis bill provides for the establishment of six to

25 U.S. agricultural trade missions, a new medium-term commercial credit program for financing exports, the appointment of an under secretary of agriculture for international affairs, and an upgrading of the role of U.S. agricultural attaches. The Agricultural Trade Expansion Act allows CCC loans to non-market economy countries such as the People’s Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and Eastern European nations.

Smith said that Congress should also address itself to such areas as increased funding for export sales credit and expanded P.L. 480 (Food for Peace) sales.

He told the committee that farm exports are beneficial to the rest of the economy as well as to agriculture. “It has been estimated that for every one dollar that is earned by the farm sector from exports,

another \$1.33 is generated in the rest of the economy for such services as transportation, financing, warehousing, and supplying farmers with machinery, fertilizer, and other goods,” he said. “Thus farm exports of \$24 billion generate more than \$50 billion worth of total business activity in the United States.”

Smith reminded the Congressmen that some 1.2 million jobs, both on and off the farm, are related to the export of farm products; of these, more than 650 thousand are non-farm jobs.

“The growth of commercial agricultural exports and their contribution to our balance of trade has helped to keep the value of the dollar from dropping to still lower levels in the world markets,” Smith said. “In addition to these



Elton R. Smith testifies before subcommittee of Congressmen on need for export markets for agricultural products.

benefits, U.S. agricultural exports have played a very important role in our relations with other countries. During the past several years increasing ability to export agricultural commodities has helped build a firm domestic base for our political and economic foreign policies.”

President Smith testified that further expansion of agricultural exports can be achieved by liberalization of restrictive trade barriers and

aggressive market promotion and development. He urged Congress to take an active interest in the current multilateral trade negotiations to ensure that American agriculture’s competitive position in world trade “is at least preserved and is improved wherever possible.”

“Given the proper climate, prospects for future expansion of U.S. agricultural trade look bright,” Smith said. “We shall continue to have strong demand in such traditional markets as Japan and Western Europe. In addition, as the nations of the third world continue to develop and become full partners in the international commercial marketplace, they will become customers for more of our food and fiber. In recent years, the non-market economies or Communist bloc nations have been a very important market for U.S. agricultural commodities and promise to remain so in the future.”

“If U.S. agricultural commodities and products maintain their competitive prices and high quality – and if we make aggressive efforts to remove impediments to trade and to market our products abroad – there is very little doubt that we shall continue to experience a continuing expansion of agricultural exports,” he concluded.

Help Send “Friends of Agriculture” to Lansing and Washington WE NEED THEM!



Farmers need representatives in Lansing and Washington, D.C. who understand and will support agriculture. If we do not have that representation, decisions will be made that adversely affect our industry.

In line with policy adopted by voting delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting last December, a Political Action Program has been developed. A Political Action Committee (PAC) has been formed to accept voluntary contributions from members and disburse these contributions to “Friends of Agriculture” in support of their campaigns.

The selection of “Friends of Agriculture,” and financial assistance to their campaigns, will be based on demonstrated basic beliefs and/or actions which are consistent with those of Michigan agriculture—irregardless of their political affiliation.

Help send “Friends of Agriculture” to Lansing and Washington, D.C. Mail your check today to PAC, Michigan Farm Bureau, Public Affairs Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909.

(Make checks payable to Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee)

Enclosed is my check to help elect “FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURE” in the amount of: _____ \$20 _____ \$50 _____ Other (Indicate amount)

Name _____

Address _____

Occupation _____

Farmer-to-Farmer:

"This is Why I Belong"



"Can't Beat the Quality"

"Last year, in anticipation of needing a new set of pickup tires, I ordered a set of Safemark tires from my local dealer. To date I have had excellent service from these tires.

"Although cheaper tires, in dollar terms, are available in the tire market, I do not believe you can beat the quality for dollars spent on Safemark tires."

Richard Sharland
Plymouth



RICHARD SHARLAND



LEVI VAN TUYLE

"Wet Fields No Problem"

"Last spring we needed some new rear tires for our largest tractor. After much shopping and looking, we decided to go with Safemark."

"Since we had no dealer in our area, we worked with Gene Greenawalt, Safemark Operations Manager, and through his guidance, we purchased a size larger tire and widened the rims on our tractor. By doing so, we were able to go through our wet fields last fall and get our silos filled.

"We have also been able to keep most of the manure hauled this winter through the deep snow -- which I am sure we wouldn't have been able to do if we had not had these Safemark tires."

Levi Van Tuyle
Dowagiac

"Completely Satisfied"

"The Safemark program was advantageous to me when I had to purchase tractor tires. I'm completely satisfied with the two 18 x 4 x 34 6-ply tires I have. They have given performance through quality of the product.

"In comparing with other brands before buying, I found weight, traction, lugs, service and cost better."

Lee Yeiter
Belding



LEE YEITER



RICHARD NELSON

"Far Superior Snows"

"I think Safemark group purchasing is one of the many important services offered to Farm Bureau members. I first became aware of the Safemark program when we attended the 1975 AFBF annual meeting. I was very pleased when the special delegate session made the decision to offer this service to our membership.

"We purchased a set of Safemark mud and snow tires for my pickup last fall. I feel they are far superior to any other snow tire I have had on my pickup. I have been able to go places this winter and not get stuck as I would have with the tires they replaced.

"I'm anxious for spring to arrive to be able to use the first Safemark steel products I have purchased."

Richard Nelson
West Branch



ELMER GOWELL

"Amazingly Little Tire Wear"

"High quality, fast service - with a good warranty -- are a must for today's fast-moving farm operations. Safemark gives me all this plus a price that is very competitive.

"We like the 7:00 or 7:50-16 truck tires on our four-wheel drive GMC trucks. The deep mud and snow tread keeps us going in this deep Oceana County snow.

"My wife puts on 35,000 to 40,000 miles per year as a large animal veterinarian, with much less tire noise than original equipment. Ronda's business necessitates driving on many types of roads, often under difficult conditions. She accomplished this with amazingly little tire wear.

"My light sharp sand can be disastrous to plow and chisel points at high speeds, but high quality Safemark steel products pay off."

Elmer Gowell
Rothbury

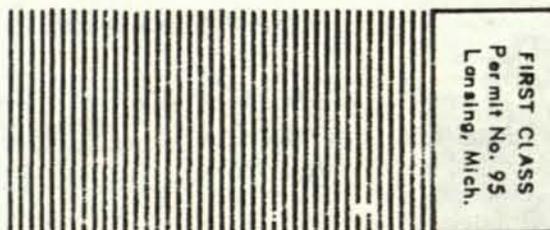
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A Day in the Life of a Regional Representative



MFB policy books delivered to the Calhoun County Cooperative Extension office will keep the agent aware of Farm Bureau's position on agricultural issues in 1978.



As state membership totals near 100 percent, membership campaign efforts in Calhoun County merit extra attention from Donna Morse, County secretary, and Ruhlig.



Looking to spring and summer sales, Safemark Committee Chairman, Phil Ackmoody; dealer, Steve Shook, and Ruhlig determine promotion and instock supply needs for the Branch County Safemark dealership.



Hillsdale County secretaries, Anna Mae Bertalon and Ardath Gillette question Don regarding administrative procedures for group health conversion.



Ruhlig spends a few minutes at the Elwyn Marks farm in Hillsdale County. A membership chairman for many years, Elwyn is "sitting out" the membership campaign this year, but follows the progress of membership totals closely.

"It's the People that Keep Me Going" -- Don Ruhlig, South Region

An easy smile and friendly greeting warmed the misty March morning as FARM NEWS reporters joined Don Ruhlig, South Region field representative, for a day's journey through the agricultural counties of Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Calhoun and Branch. Briefly outlining the day's itinerary as a bulky movie projector was transferred to his car, Ruhlig ticked off the stops planned for the day and added that there was a good possibility of seeing some sap buckets plugged into maple trees over in Hillsdale County -- a sure sign of Spring.

But passing stretches of snow-covered, dormant fields along the expressway, we realize that Spring will not be rushed by our hopeful forecasting and the talk returns to the schedule of county office and farm visits.

In Marshall, the Calhoun County seat, Don stops by the Cooperative extension office hoping to find the agent and to deliver the 1978 MFB policy books, but like Don, he has a busy schedule of farm visits and meetings, so the books are left with the receptionist.

"He's a difficult man to catch, but people in agriculture seldom do their real work from behind a desk", he reasons. He will stop by again as he criss-crosses the county in his daily round of duties and concludes, "We'll get together".

There's a short jaunt to the Calhoun County Farm Bureau office to deliver an agricultural film. A few extra, important moments are spent with county secretary, Donna Morse, to discuss the progress of the 1978 Farm Bureau membership campaign. As the state total nears the 100 percent mark, Donna worries that Calhoun County will be left standing in the wings. They talk of "gain" and "target" and "goal" like the seasoned veterans of Farm Bureau that they are.

Don has been involved with Farm Bureau membership drives and member activities since 1950. He has served on the MFB Board of Directors, State Policy Development Chairman and county president. He recalls with a chuckle his own induction as a county leader. Absent from a community group meeting, he was nominated for the county board and later elected. But the surprises continued when at the first board meeting, he was elected to the executive committee. Back in 1958, Ruhlig was "green", a tenderfoot in the new personal frontier of Farm Bureau leadership, but says the work has always been rewarding.

Today as a field representative for the organization, Don continues to find his work rewarding. "It's the people that keep me going. They're fine, hard-working, tolerant people. They understand from their own experience in farming that there is no single formula which will produce the success of a program or activity". Nevertheless, it was quite an adjustment he says when he went "on staff". Don knew well the feeling of accomplishment when looking behind the plow, a day's work could be measured in so many furrows turned or so many bales of hay stacked on the wagon. In the first months as a field representative, he often wondered as he travelled from one corner of the region to the other what part of the member's dues he was earning, but the feeling was dispelled as he began to see some results from his efforts.

This year Don looks forward to seeing real gains in the Safemark program in his region. As he pulls to a stop in front of the Branch County Safemark dealership operated by Steve Shook, he tells us that it will be an important year for this new program. In 1978, dealers have been established throughout the state and supplies are adequate to serve the Farm Bureau community through the member-only service.

Inside the new building, Don and Steve check in-stock supplies and discuss store displays. But the business of reviewing sales and spring sales promotion begins when Phil Ackmoody, County Safemark Chairman arrives. The decisions are made quickly, interrupted briefly by a customer who requests price quotes on Safemark tractor tires. Obviously, they are not the only ones who are preparing for the spring planting season.

In the winter, the schedule of meetings is full. There is an appointment at the Hillsdale County office to meet with the Farm Bureau Women. Reporting to the women on the legislative efforts of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Don also challenges them to become an informed minority. Women, too, are needed to represent the agricultural viewpoint at hearings. He reminds them that legislators do not schedule important hearings at the farmer's convenience, that as Farm Bureau's ACTION WOMEN, they must be involved in determining the course of agricultural legislation.

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Bob Bush, Lenawee County President



Dick Knirk, President, and Jenny Hauska, Secretary - Branch County



Ardath Gillette, Secretary and Ted Kneebush, President - Hillsdale County



Bea Leeke, Secretary; Howard Haven, President and Leonard Schultz, Mini-PAC director - Jackson County



Paul Piepkow, President, Donna Morse, Secretary and Alan Shepard, Vice President - Calhoun County

"Farmers of our country do a better job at lower costs when producing at full capacity. We do not fear competition."

*Allan Grant, President AFBF
Trade Expansion Mission
Ludhiana, India*

AFBF Trade Mission in India

A trade expansion delegation of Farm Bureau leaders and staff left New York City March 10 for a three-nation trade mission with stops in India, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

The group, headed by Allan Grant, AFBF president, sought to stimulate agricultural exports, especially to India, now considered one of this country's prime trading partners.

Included on the group's itinerary was a visit to Punjab Agricultural University at Ludhiana where Grant addressed the faculty and students.

"U.S. farmers and ranchers are international

minded," he told them. "We seek expansion of mutually-advantageous trade with you. While in your country, our group will try to discover new trade areas of importance to you and to us.

"Trade expansion means improved markets and improved incomes. A high level of commercial farm trade creates incentives for a greater agricultural efficiency," Grant said. "Trade is one of the best forms of international communication. It can be a pathway to understanding."

Grant expressed concern regarding growing trade protectionism in the U.S. and in the world and called for fewer national trade barriers and restrictions. "There are

people within the United States," he told the faculty and students, "who do not want to see vigorous export-import programs. They would like to keep our farm commodities within our national boundaries to assure cheap food for consumers -- at the expense of the farmers who produce it."

Most American farmers have an opposite view, he told them. "Farmers of our country do a better job at lower costs when producing at full capacity. We do not fear competition from you, or anyone else. We think competition is good, and that it is through the spirit of competitive enterprise among farmers of the world that all citizens will benefit."

Trade Negotiator Assures Farmers Treaty will be Equitable to U.S. U.S. Ag

Ambassador Robert S. Strauss, U.S. Special Representative for Trade Negotiations met with the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors in early March and told them that the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva must be advantageous to agriculture. "What is bad for agriculture is bad for the

country," Strauss told the farm leaders. Michigan Farm Bureau's president, Elton R. Smith, is a member of the AFBF board.

Strauss said one of his objectives for the Geneva negotiations is for the trading countries "to come to grips with the question of subsidies." To recognize that

there are impediments to world trade is quite simple -- but to remove them is not, he said. "Every impediment got there because it served someone's narrow interest," Strauss told the farmers, "even though it might not have been in the broad national interest or in the interest of a healthy world economy."

The source of this shortcoming is not the inadequacy of good will or understanding, he explained. "Rather, it comes because trying to solve the problems in a multilateral context is to deal with every selfish economic interest in the world and all of the political pressures that go with it."

Strauss gave his assurance to the Farm Bureau leaders that the treaty resulting from the Geneva negotiations will be progressive and equitable to the interest of America and U.S. agriculture.

The meeting with Strauss was one of several discussions held between the AFBF board and congressional and government agricultural leadership to consider legislation aimed at remedying the current farm income situation.

M.E.E. Official Looks at Cuba Trade Potential

The March issue of MICHIGAN FARM NEWS reported on the adoption of a Five-Point Action Plan by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors at its February 9 meeting, designed to alleviate the current financial plight of farmers.

One of the points stressed in the plan was for expansion of export markets for U.S. farm products. On February 13-18, an American contingent of 62 businessmen traveled to Cuba under the auspices of the East-West Trade Council, a non-profit Washington-based organization. Among those in the trade mission was Edward R. Powell, Farm Bureau Services vice president and general manager of the Michigan Elevator Exchange.

Cuba may become a substantial new market for Michigan-grown dry beans, but opening that potential new export market may take some time. It depends on improved diplomatic relations between Communist Cuba and the United States and lifting of the current embargo on nearly all trade with the country.

That was the conclusion reached by Powell following the five-day visit to Cuba as part of the trade mission which included bankers, industrialists, businessmen and a few agricultural representatives. Powell was the only representative from Michigan.

"There still are many problems to be overcome before any trade can be re-established between the U.S. and Cuba, but if that day comes, the prospects are good that Michigan dry beans will find a ready market in Cuba," Powell said.

"I participated in the trade mission because of our

continuing interest in helping Michigan farmers find new markets and to establish early contact with Cuban food import officials in case commerce is resumed," Powell explained.

Cuban officials reported that they consume about 100,000 metric tons of dry beans annually and since Cuba produces only a few dry beans, almost all of the product must be imported.

"Conversations with Cuban Alimport (Cuba's government import agency) officials indicated a strong interest in buying U.S. dry beans," Powell reported. "They recognize the better quality of U.S. beans, and lower freight rates because of distance, and seem anxious to do business if the doors are opened to trade."

Though Cubans seem to favor black, pinto and kidney beans, officials assured Powell that all types of dry beans, including navies, could be imported.

Noting caution expressed by officials of the U.S. Department of State on the resumption of trade with Cuba at an early date, Powell stated, "Whether or not trade is resumed with Cuba at any early date, the trip was worthwhile for me in obtaining a better understanding of our potential markets for Michigan farm products in Cuba and in making some vital personal contacts with Cuban import officials."

"One official said he would buy 15,000 tons of Michigan beans right now if we could trade with them," declared Powell.

As part of the exchange, Cuban trade officials were invited to visit Michigan at some future time to see the advantages the Michigan bean industry has to serve their needs.

Did You Know.

That Farm Bureau actively supported the Trade Act of 1974 which authorized the United States to participate in the current multilateral trade negotiations? These trade talks provide opportunities for action to expand mutually advantageous trade through reciprocal agreements among nations to reduce their trade barriers.

That to ensure that significant results are achieved in terms of liberalizing the barriers affecting our agricultural exports, Farm Bureau has been monitoring these negotiations closely?

That Farm Bureau leaders are serving on the agricultural trade advisory and agricultural policy advisory committees which advise our trade negotiators with respect to agricultural matters?

That Farm Bureau has assigned staff members to monitor and report on the progress of the trade negotiations, in Geneva, Switzerland and Washington, D.C.?

That during the past two years, Farm Bureau has conducted numerous trade missions abroad, including trips to Western Europe, Israel, Japan, Mexico and India? These missions are part of Farm Bureau's continuing effort to expand international trade and to improve relations with our trading partners.



Edward Powell, Farm Bureau Services' vice president and general manager of Michigan Elevator Exchange, is interviewed by MFB broadcaster Mike Rogers regarding his recent trade mission to Cuba.

MFB Members Communicate with Legislators



Michigan Farm Bureau members make the most of the annual Legislative Seminars held in Lansing during February and March to share their concerns for agriculture and the legislation which affects their industry with Michigan lawmakers. (Above) Leonard Troost, President, Allegan County, and Donald Gilmer, R-Augusta find time for one-to-one discussion at the West Michigan Seminar on February 15. (Right) Mike Conlin, R-Jackson, visited with Farm Bureau members at the Southeast Regional Seminar on February 21.



Seminars Promote Agriculture's Message

The Public Affairs Division of Michigan Farm Bureau recently completed the 26th series of annual Legislative Seminars. The member-oriented legislative event has been sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau each year since 1952. The purpose of the Legislative Seminars is to give the State Affairs Committee, County President, Young Farmer Chairman and Women's Chairwoman an opportunity to come to Lansing where they are briefed on pertinent legis-

lative issues and then meet with the legislators from their area. After the noon meeting, the participants are invited to attend House and Senate sessions at the Capitol and possibly visit further with lawmakers.

Metropolitan legislators are also invited to attend the luncheon meeting in order to have some interface with the issues of concern to Farm Bureau members and Michigan agriculture. Each year all Michigan legislators are

invited to at least one Seminar meeting.

According to Robert Smith, Senior Legislative Counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau, the Lansing Legislative Seminars are very similar to the Washington Legislative Seminar. This year there will be 132 member-representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau arriving on April 4 in Washington, D.C. to meet and talk with Michigan congressmen.

"Friends of Agriculture" Will Get F.B. Support

Political Action Program Underway



A special election in Jackson County has spurred added interest in the 1978 election picture and a county-wide Mini-PAC to identify the "friends of agriculture" in Jackson County.

"Mini-PACs" Formed

A bipartisan group of Farm Bureau members, appointed to serve on the organization's Political Action Committee (PAC), held their first meeting in Lansing on March 10. Committee members are: Larry DeVuyst, Gratiot County, chairman; George Robb, Livingston; Al Prillwitz, Berrien; Clay Maxwell, Gladwin; Robert Lamoreaux, Kent, and Myra Hand, Cheboygan.

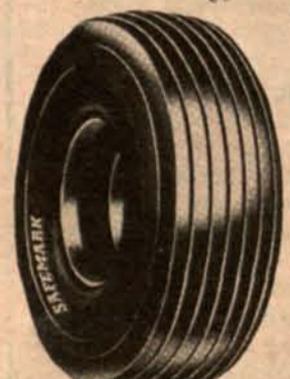
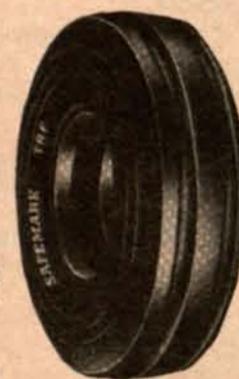
A policy statement to guide the activities of the new program was established by the committee: "It is the policy of the Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee to influence the nomination and election of qualified candidates who have demonstrated basic beliefs and-or actions which are consistent with those of Michigan agriculture irregardless of their political affiliation."

Responsibilities of the PAC include soliciting voluntary contributions from Farm Bureau members and disbursing those funds to candidates who will best support Farm Bureau policies in public office. They have established criteria for identifying "Friends of Agriculture" and will recommend to the MFB board those candidates they believe are worthy of that designation.

Jackson and Macomb County Farm Bureaus have organized their own "Mini-PACs," and several other counties have expressed an interest in doing so. To have an impact on the August 8 primary elections, county Farm Bureaus should have the necessary legal papers filed by the end of April.

Increased political action is a part of Michigan Farm Bureau's five-point action plan to solve the current farm income problem. The plan calls for the support and election of legislators favorable to agriculture in 1978, and expressing views on important issues to legislators once they are elected.

SAFEMARK'S "TRF and MULTI-ANGLE" Top Field Performers...



Multi-Angle
Safemark's newest, biggest, toughest rear tractor tire—three years in the making, and well worth the wait!

TRF
Triple Rib Front tire is designed for positive action in all types of soils... smooth rolling, easy steering on the road.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Into wet fields quicker. More work done in less time while there. More ground covered per gallon of fuel. Up to a season or more of extra wear. All this we build into our new Multi-Angle and TRF tires for farmers with man-size work ahead. **Extra pounds of rubber** in the husky undertread and wide, ground-biting cleats. Traction as positive as a crawler digging through soft loam or clay hardpan. **Cleats 20% wider** than any farm tire we've ever built. Greater rigidity under drive torque. More resistance against flex cracking. **Cleats are action-angled** from shoulder to center riding bar—each precisely curved from 0 to 33° to give a continuous biting surface and full-time positive traction. **Sidewalls of heat-treated, pre-stretched nylon cord** protect against seepage, damp rot or ply separation. TRF front tires guide the tractor surely, resist sideslip.

Quality Products For Farmers

SEE YOUR LOCAL SAFEMARK DEALER



SUPPLY REPORT

By Greg Sheffield

GENERAL OUTLOOK

Predicting strictly from the economic figures one would suppose the general trend of farmer buying should continue. Supporting this is the fact that food costs are being paid by consumers with little resistance. Also, livestock prices received by farmers have been rising. This includes higher cattle, hog, calf, egg and broiler prices. All helped to push up the USDA Index of prices received by farmers by three percent through February, with the trend continuing into last month. This was the fifth consecutive monthly increase. The prices farmers paid for feeds were down 1 percent through mid-February.

Larger crop outlook helped farmers build crop inventories to boost total net income to \$21.3 billion, up from \$20.0 billion in 1976. "Realized" net income was down at \$20.4 billion from \$21.9 billion in 1976. But cash receipts from farm marketing hit a record \$95.0 billion in 1977, up from \$94.3 billion in 1976.

Grain storage announcements are being circulated. The reserve agreement extends the period for three years. In essence there's 25c per bushel of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, and barley, and 19c for oats.

A boost is expected in milk support prices this month, perhaps to \$9.34 at 82.3 percent of parity.

Farm Bureau Jubilee Jackets are available at participating Farm Bureau dealers when you buy your supplies. Dealers can tell you how your purchases can qualify you at your co-op.

FERTILIZER

We are expecting a heavy rush for fertilizer in April and we've made plans for warehousing and transportation. Currently there are railroad car shortages making in-season delivery difficult. Ordering now, if you haven't done so, and taking delivery is the best course.

PESTICIDES

Furadan 10G soil insecticide is in extremely short supply due to a shortage of methyl isocyanate. Union Carbide is the basic supplier of this chemical intermediate. The manufacturing plant that produces MIC has been under repairs. Another reason for the shortage of Furadan is the increased demand, since it is not a restricted pesticide.

UNICO Atrazine herbicide production is on schedule and we expect to supply all of our order throughout the use season.

Most all pest control chemicals are in excellent supply, but it will become a physical problem to get them into position with transportation deep in the business of making last

minute Spring deliveries.

FEEDS

Farm Bureau has announced new pork feeds proved at CRF Research Farms. Pork Prestarter 301-1 (ASP 250) and 301-2 (Mecadox) innovations include a new pellet size, an all-natural flavor enhancer, lysine, lower protein and higher energy. Also, Pork Starter 305-1, 305-4, 305-7, 306-7 are new. These, too, have

the natural flavor ingredients, lysine, and available nutrients for better feed utilization.

New Porker "500", 351-0 Plain, 351-1 - ASP 250 is designed for the pork producer who uses his own corn and soybean meal. It makes a highly palatable and nutritious prestarter and starter.

Tours of the Farm Bureau Battle Creek Animal Foods

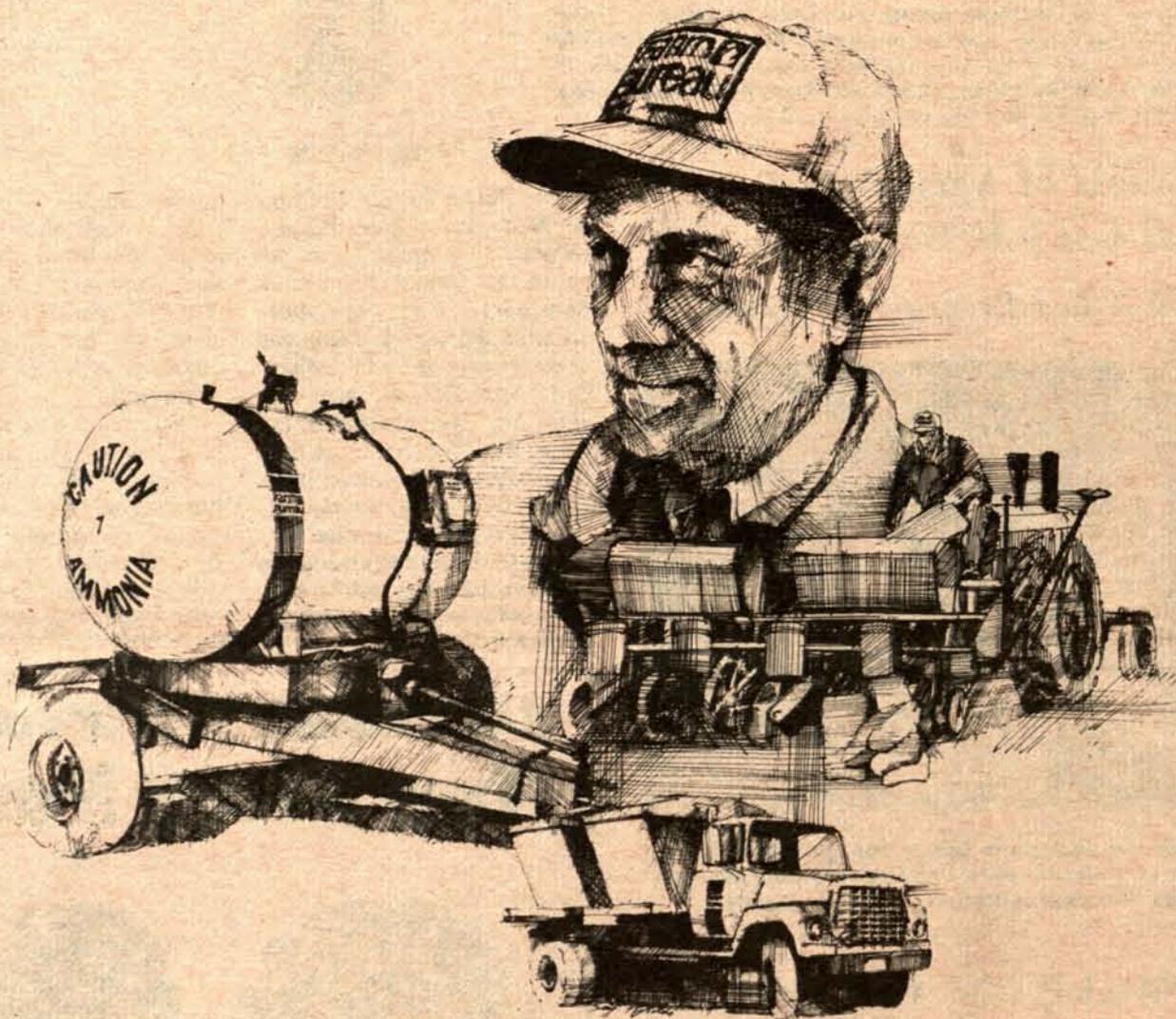
Plant can be arranged for groups through your Farm Bureau dealer.

HARDWARE AND BUILDINGS

The movement of livestock feeding equipment, fans, steel posts, gates and fences is expected to continue strong as we go into milder weather. All of these items are in good supply at Farm Bureau locations and priced competitively.



(Continued on Page 11)



Get The Most For Your Fertilizer Dollars

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

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

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

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

and get the full story. Ask the Farm Bureau people.

Where Your Farm Comes First
Farm Bureau
 FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

AT MASA ANNUAL

Farm Labor Expert Warns of Dangers to Agriculture if "Labor Reform" Bill Passes

Jack Angell, AFBF Communications Director on Farm Labor Activities, speaking at the Michigan Agricultural Services Association annual meeting in Grand Rapids on March 17, 1978, urged agricultural employers in Michigan to oppose attempts by the union leadership to push passage of "labor reforms" through Congress. "Even as union numbers decline, these organizations are reaching for more power through Senate Bill 1883," he warned. "Passage of S. 1883 would rewrite the National Labor Relations Act and would pack the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) with two additional members to be appointed by President Carter. It would invite union access to our properties, farm properties as well as industrial properties, because there is no agricultural exemption to this law. It would deny time for employers to make a case against union petition and," he continued, "worst of all, it would intimidate collective bargaining efforts on the part

of employers who would be subject to penalties underwritten and imposed by the NLRB itself. In other words, this decision would be taken from the courts where it has traditionally been, and make it an administrative power of the NLRB".

Referring also to CETA funds allegedly granted to the United Farm Workers organization to provide English language training for migrant workers at an approximate long-range cost of \$32 million, Angell told the MASA group that the organization of farm workers need not come through unions, but also through the actions and sponsorship of migrant action groups and-or federal monies. "Although there are no signs of an imminent move to organize farm labor nationally, I am more concerned that the use of federal monies through migrant programs which offer strike encouragements may ultimately deliver loosely- organized migrant workers to union leadership," he concluded.

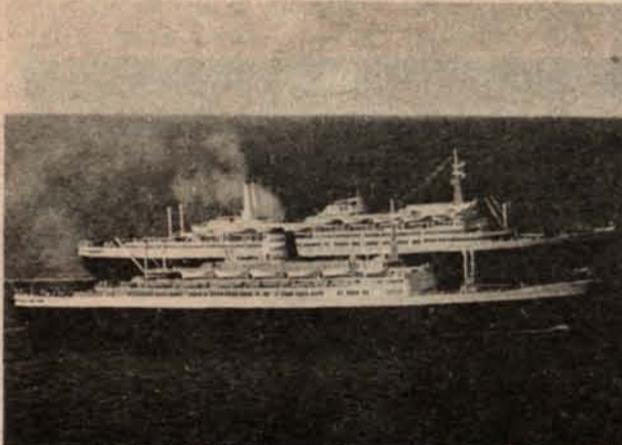


"There is no imminent move to organize farm labor in Michigan," Jack Angell, Communications Director for AFBF farm labor activities said at the MASA annual meeting on March 17. Angell believes that farm workers may become loosely organized through migrant or legal aid programs funded by federal grant monies.



Agricultural employers attending the MASA annual meeting in Grand Rapids directed questions to James Broakora, Director, Bureau of Workers Compensation, regarding proposed revision of the Michigan Worker's Compensation law, compensation insurance premium rates, and management precautions to reduce claims in their farm businesses.

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 of the pier, from the pier to the convention hotel and from the convention hotel to the airport in Miami. (Transfers, etc. not included in Miami price)
 All rates are based on those in effect December 15, 1977. Some increase, particularly in the air portion, could be expected between now and January of 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

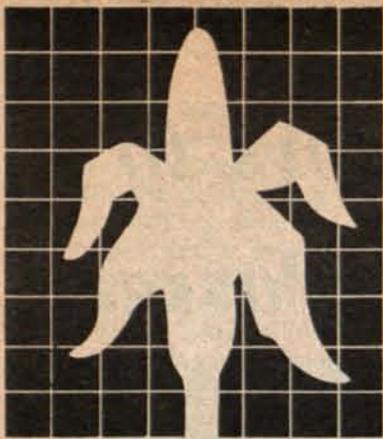
Please reserve _____ spaces on the Farm Bureau 1979 pre-AFBF Convention Cruise. Enclosed is my check made payable to "Hoosier Travel Service, Inc." for \$ _____ (\$150.00 per person required.) Balance due 40 days prior to departure.

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



Marketing Outlook



National Marketing and Bargaining Law May Be Introduced in Near Future

Legislation which would create a more favorable bargaining climate for agricultural marketing associations is expected to be introduced in the U.S. Congress in the very near future.

The proposed bill, which is the culmination of fourteen months of cooperative effort by the nation's general farm organizations, is currently undergoing final review by the proponent organizations before being introduced.

The major provision of the bill will require buyers of agricultural commodities to bargain in good faith with accredited associations and will also provide for the establishment of fair prac-

tices, standards for accreditation, mediation, arbitration and procedures for administration and enforcement.

The self-help legislation has been patterned closely after the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act enacted by the Michigan Legislature in 1972. According to Noel Stuckman, General Manager of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA), which is accredited under the Michigan act as the exclusive marketing agency for four Michigan commodities, "The National Marketing and Bargaining legislation is

recognized by many farmers as a far better approach to solving their income problems than having commodity prices set by government. Our successful experience in Michigan, where the farm bargaining legislation has proven to be workable and effective, has contributed greatly to the widespread support for national farm bargaining legislation."

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers Union, the National Grange and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives have existing policies in support of national farm bargaining legislation.

Budget Cuts Hurt Research, Experiment Station Programs

The Carter Administration's 1979 proposed budget is \$38 billion larger than the one for 1978. It proposes to spend \$500.2 billion, an increase for every department except Commerce and Agriculture.

U.S.D.A. is slated for a \$4.9 billion cut. A reduction from \$22.6 billion this year to \$17.7 billion. Much of the proposed cut is in commodity programs. Some \$3.7 billion to be exact. Of similar concern are the deep cuts in agricultural research budgets, including funds for state experiment stations.

The president has proposed for instance, that \$9 million be taken out of research into processing, storage and distribution of farm products. There is also an \$11 million

cut in state experiment station funds. This will have the greatest impact on experiment stations who have not kept pace with inflation. Instead these monies will now be placed on a competitive grants basis.

Other cuts include \$9 million less for extension and animal disease programs will be reduced by half-million. Farmers Home Administration would be budgeted at the same level as present. And no small watershed projects would be started in 1979.

There would be small increases in certain areas of the U.S.D.A.'s budget. Mostly in those areas which the Administration considers "high priority". This includes more emphasis on human nutrition research.

600 Attend Live Stock Meeting

"Together we can do anything that agriculture needs at Michigan State University," James Anderson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU, told an appreciative audience of nearly 600 at the Michigan Live Stock Exchange annual meeting at Long's Convention Center in Lansing March 11.

Dean Anderson credited acting president Edgar Hardin for "legitimizing agriculture" at MSU and for understanding the "mission" of the University. He also credited a united agricultural community and a spirit of togetherness for such achievements as the Soil Sciences Building, the plans for which are now in the architect's hands. "It got there because agricultural people communicated their needs. You are united and talking about the needs of agriculture. You are willing to go to bat for us because you believe in us," Dean Anderson told the crowd.

He reported on meetings held with farmers throughout the state to discuss "where we are, where we want to be and how are we going to get there." The common theme of these meetings, Dean Anderson said, was a concern for more research in marketing and for consumer education.

Expressing concern regarding the Michigan Department of Agriculture

"Together we can do anything that agriculture needs at M.S.U."

Dean James Anderson
College of Agricultural &
Natural Resources, MSU
Michigan Livestock Exchange
Annual Meeting

survey results and the "misinformation and emotionalism" of the PBB incident, Anderson said MSU will put special emphasis on restoring consumer confidence in Michigan agricultural products.

In the area of research, Dean Anderson reported that agriculture has been "treading water" for many years because of budget cuts. We must intensify our efforts in this area, he said.

A key follow-up to MSU's appeal before the Legislature is farmers contacting their legislators about the needs of agriculture, the Dean said. He pledged the University's responsiveness to agriculture's needs, but reminded the farmers that MSU needs them to "tell it like it is."

In his address to delegates, MLE President David Morris, who was later re-elected, said regulation was one of the major problems facing food producers. "For

those of us involved in the production of food, government influence and involvement seems to be heavier on us each year," Morris said. "HEW, EPA, FDA, OSHA, the Department of State, and even our Department of Agriculture seem to be set on spinning a web of regulation that is becoming so tangled it will soon be impossible for producers to continue to

produce the food and fiber U.S. consumers need."

He discussed the efforts of government agencies to discredit the pork industry because of the use of nitrate as a preservative and sulfa residues in pork. "Neither compound has been proven harmful to people and yet we are being threatened by law suits, fines, quarantines, and being put out of business if this product is found in a

producer's hog," he said.

"The problem is obvious," Morris said. "Regulation is becoming a political tool of both 'bureau ladder climbers' and 'agency headhunters.' And as political players position themselves, both farmers and consumers lose. The question before us today is, 'Will those people in leadership positions in our government and society wake up before it is too late?'"



MSU Dean of Agriculture & Natural Resources, James Anderson (left), talks with Michigan Live Stock Exchange members following his remarks at the noon luncheon.

Some New Concepts in Farming

Sanilac Farmers Find Renting Cropland More Practical

A farm operation consisting of 1,200 acres of crops and 50 head of milk cows doesn't leave Sanilac County Farm Bureau member Russ Strickler and son Dan a lot of free time, particularly during the busy spring season. With 460 acres in corn, 340 in navy beans, about 100 in soybeans and the rest in alfalfa and small grains, it's easy to imagine how the days might run a little long around their home near Peck, Michigan.

But Russ and Dan have developed a couple of innovations over the years that have helped out considerably. For one thing, renting instead of buying cropland has permitted them to expand their acreage base and invest in bigger equipment, with a resulting increase in productivity and a streamlining effect on field operations. At present, they own only 260 of the 1,200 acres they produce, the remainder rented on a 1/3 - 2/3 share arrangement with 10 different landowners in the vicinity.

"We've found it's more practical for us these days to rent extra cropland, rather than investing so much capital in owning and having to pay taxes and interest," explains Russ. "This way, we can afford to work more land, gradually building up our machinery to handle all the work as a family operation, and without such prohibitive capital costs.

"A lot of times, an older farmer wants to retire, but he doesn't want to sell out completely — that's where most of our rented acreage comes from. We're really farming with a third partner this way, since all of us have a stake in the crop."



Sanilac County Farm Bureau member Russ Strickler and son, Dan, have found that renting land, instead of buying, enables them to expand their farming operation without prohibitive capital costs.

The Stricklers also have found that it makes good sense to stay on top of weed problems. They have taken much of the guesswork out of weed control by utilizing a spring herbicide program that doesn't depend on the weather to work. The first step actually begins in the fall, when they plow under corn stalks; after that, the land lies idle until the following spring when Dan sets out to apply preplant weed control chemicals and prepare the ground for planting.

"I go over everything with our larger (33-foot) field cultivator first," Dan says. "That breaks up the clods and levels the ground pretty well."

Fitted with four-inch sweeps on the teeth, the field cultivator is set to work 5-6 inches deep and Dan keeps it rolling about six mph. A second pass over the field with a smaller field cultivator follows, this one set to cut a little shallower (3/4 inches). The herbicide solution is sprayed right in front of the field cultivator on this trip.

A pass over the ground with a springtooth harrow and cultipacker then completes the job of soil mixing and leveling. That's all the field work needed to apply and incorporate the herbicides and prepare the seedbed for planting.

"Our soil is mostly a Brookston clay loam, so in most cases we won't have to

do anything else to it," Dan continues. "We can follow up right away with the planter."

They have come to rely upon a variety of preplant incorporated herbicides for weed control. That includes a combination of Sutan + atrazine on their corn acreage, Eptam-Treflan on the navy beans and Treflan-Sencor on soybeans. Normal rates are usually sufficient for their Sanilac County weed problems, which include foxtails, fall panicum and redroot pigweed.

Quackgrass, on the other hand, has proved to be a tougher pest to deal with. For that tenacious perennial, they've upped the rate of Eptam from one to two quarts

per acre on those navy bean fields that showed patches of quack the previous fall. According to Russ and Dan, that'll do the job, but it's important to get the herbicide incorporated properly.

They report best results in applying the Eptam-Treflan solution to a warm, dry soil surface immediately ahead of the field cultivator. The herbicides are mixed to a depth of 2-3 inches and distributed throughout the zone of weed seed germination by keeping the field cultivator working at about 3-4 inches deep and moving six mph. This key to thorough incorporation is recommended for the other combinations, also.

Aside from the obvious benefits in achieving effective weed control, incorporated herbicides pay them back in still another area — cultivation. With weeds held pretty much in check for the whole season, they've cut back to one-time cultivation on both navy beans and soybeans. They've eliminated cultivation completely on their corn acreage, except for some narrow slices made in side-dressing anhydrous ammonia.

"Of course, cutting down on cultivation means we're making fewer trips across the field," says Dan. "That helps out in fuel saving, equipment wear and tear, and reduces soil compaction."

So, when Russ and Dan stop by the farm supply store to pick up their preplant herbicides for use this spring, they figure they'll be getting more than just good weed control — they'll also be buying a little time.

FARM SUPPLY REPORT

(Continued from Page 8)

Building supply demand and orders for Farm Bureau built buildings are gaining momentum. Farmers who need supplies, or want Farm Bureau to build for them, should contact their Farm Bureau dealers now to assure prompt service due to increased demand.

The Universal Co-Op Swine Lodge concept has been taking hold in Michigan. Interested hogmen can contact their Farm Bureau dealer concerning trips contemplated to Goshen, Indiana where the Lodges are made.

You can have your water evaluated free at several Water Testing Clinics held by CO-OP Water Softener dealers around the state. These are the most economical and highest quality water softeners available.

Hardware Training

meetings were held this winter for dealer personnel. These resulted in improved product knowledge making Farm Bureau stores the ideal place to trade.

BATTERIES

A large demand and short supplies have made the supply situation for some suppliers rough, but it looks as though conditions will improve. Our dealers remain in a position to handle a variety farmer patron needs with quality CO-OP batteries for which Farmers Petroleum is famous.

TIRES

The supply of all kinds of tires for Spring is excellent. In fact, Farmers Petroleum now has access to more of the quality tires it demands than ever before. Prices, too, are low. There was a slight increase at the first of the year, but another increase is not expected until next year.

Farm Bureau Joins Meat Export Federation to Promote Sales

The American Farm Bureau has joined the United States Meat Export Federation, Inc., and Farm Bureau President, Allan Grant, is a member of its Board of Directors. The new organization is organized to promote the sale of American beef, pork, lamb and their by-products in other countries in cooperation with the U.S.D.A. Foreign Agricultural Service.

Membership in the Meat Export Federation currently numbers 24 organizations and represents all phases of red meat production and marketing. Included are such organizations as the American Meat Institute, American National Cattlemen's Association, National Pork Producers Counsel, National Livestock

and Meat Board, and numerous packers and meat marketing companies and trade associations. It is anticipated that several other organizations will be joining in the near future.

The Export Federation will initially open offices in Tokyo, Japan and in Frankfurt, Germany in addition to its Denver home office. These overseas offices will be used to intensively promote the sale of all American red meat products in the European and Japanese markets. Its efforts will be directed to assisting the meat industry and existing organizations to move products which are in excess on the American market.

In addition to expanding

markets for red meats there exists potential and growing markets in several foreign countries for such products as variety meats, livers, tongues, sweet breads, kidneys, and tripe. Through the expansion of these markets, all segments of the animal agriculture industry should profit. For each dollar generated by the livestock and meat industry the Foreign Agricultural Service will provide two dollars for market development overseas. An initial commitment of \$500,000 in these matching funds has been made by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Jack H. Anderson
Marketing Specialist
Market Development and
Research Division

Embargo Imposed on Canadian Seed Beans by MDA

An embargo on entry of all Canadian seed beans into Michigan was imposed March 15 by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, due to an outbreak of delta anthracnose, which was discovered in the Ontario bean crop last year. B. Dale Ball, director of the Commission, and Dean Lovett, chief of the Plant Industry Division, indicated that implementation of the embargo would be carried out as rapidly as possible.

The embargo was requested by the Michigan Bean Commission, at a meeting held the previous day.

Anthracnose is a seed-transmitted disease capable of wiping out large stands of beans, and is especially active under cool and moist conditions. Dr. Wayne Adams of Michigan State University and Dr. Alfred Saettler of USDA at MSU, supported the plea to prevent introduction of Canadian seed beans into Michigan. They said white and all colored beans are susceptible to the anthracnose.

Appearing for the Bean Commission was Maynard D. Brownlee, secretary-manager, who testified that beans are a major cash crop for 7,500 to 8,000 producers and that the income at grower level is about \$150 million each year. He warned that introduction of anthracnose into Michigan fields and facilities could cut the crop value severely and jeopardize the bean industry. Elevator industry facilities are valued at about \$100 million, and are geared toward handling beans, Brownlee said.

It's not known if any seed beans from Canada have been imported into Michigan, but Brownlee urged that if such seed has been brought in prior to the embargo, it should be sold into commercial channels. The an-

thrachnose infection poses no danger for food, as cooking or canning operations destroy the strain. The danger comes from using such beans for seed and placing the infection into the soils of Michigan

farms. Doctor Adams, a well-known bean breeder in Michigan for many years, said that earliest symptoms of anthracnose infection are brown to black discolorations

in the veins on the underside of bean leaves. He called it a "vascular invasion", which damages and blocks the veins in leaves, so they cannot suck up water or transport sugars, to support growth of the

plant. It's "drying up the pipelines" of the veins, Adams said, and the foliage wilts and dies. Damage from anthracnose can be extremely heavy, he pointed out.

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DONNA

(Continued from Page 2)

those Farm Bureau members who participated in the Speakers' Bureau and mall promotions to share the story of agriculture with the non-farm public? What about those county Farm Bureau presidents who, in meetings with the news media, fielded the toughest questions like the professionals they are?

And, last but not least, what about me?

No... I didn't like what he said, but it motivated me -- and I hope some others in the audience. Perhaps we've been a little too quietly constructive. Maybe we ought to be a little "noisier" about our accomplishments. That might be O.K. if we always remembered to put the accent on the "constructive" rather than on the "noise."

Small Business Disaster Loans Deadline Extended

Gov. William G. Milliken recently announced that the Small Business Administration has extended to May 25, 1978, the deadline

for farmers who suffered crop losses due to excessive rainfall and flooding that occurred August 1, 1977 through October 7, 1977.

Milliken requested the extension February 3. Farmers eligible for disaster loan assistance are those in Huron, Saginaw,

Sanilac, Tuscola, Arenac, Bay, Genesee, Lapeer, Midland, Ogemaw, Iosco, Gladwin and St. Clair Counties.

"Although this area suffered over \$50 million in crop losses, the Small Business Administration feels many farmers are still not aware of the availability of these low-interest loans," Milliken said.

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Under the physical disaster loan program the interest rate on the first \$250,000 is 3 percent and 6½ percent on the amount of the loan over \$250,000. Disaster loans are to be repaid by the earliest date possible without causing undue hardship. Maximum maturity permitted is 30 years. Applicants need not pass a credit test or have been previously turned down by a commercial lending institution.

Temporary field offices will be located in Caro (Tuscola County) and Standish (Arenac County) two days each week to provide information and loan applications to persons desiring assistance.

The Caro office is in the basement of the Civil Defense Building and will be open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone number is (517) 673-8493. The Standish office is located in the Arenac County Building, Room 204, and will be open between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Phone number is (517) 846-2711.

Applications will not be accepted after May 25.

A Day With

Regional

Representative

(Continued from Page 5)

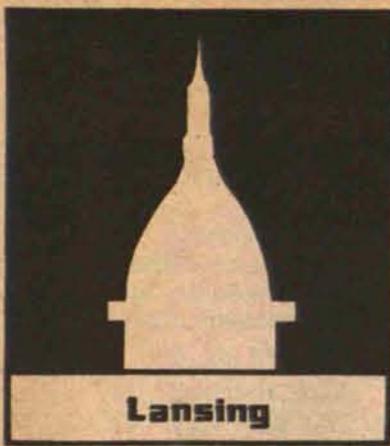
Leaving the Hillsdale County office, Don promises to introduce us to two long-standing members in the county who have been actively involved in Farm Bureau over the years. He discusses the need for surfacing new leadership on a continuing basis within the county and emphasizes the importance of the individual's personal growth in accepting leadership roles. Not all promising leaders stay in agriculture, he notes. Some go into politics or into other occupations, he says mentioning the names of two young men, but they will always be leaders and they take with them an understanding of agriculture and Farm Bureau - that's useful, too, he concludes.

Don understands the differences in people and admires those who follow their dreams. This attitude tells much about the man and the job. There's a little homespun philosophy, a little psychology and a lot of love for the Farm Bureau members - for his friends.

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

MFB Policies Presented to Governor Request Support of Five-Point Action Plan



Lansing

Michigan Farm Bureau officials met with Governor Milliken on March 9 for their annual presentation of MFB's policy book. In presenting the 1978 policies to the Governor, Elton R. Smith, President, Michigan Farm Bureau, said: "This was developed through our grass roots system, beginning with the county Farm Bureau, which includes an extensive committee system. The state Policy Development Committee studies and reviews resolutions submitted, but the final decision is determined at our state annual meeting by our more than 500 voting delegates."

The Farm Bureau leaders discussed several of the '78 policies with the Governor:

TAXATION -- They expressed appreciation to the Governor for his support of the Single Business Tax exemption for agriculture and also for his support of other tax issues.

They told the Governor that with the PA 116 legislation, it is now possible to begin to solve another problem -- that of inheritance taxes on farms. Farm Bureau is working with Senator Corbin on a bill that will be based on the Federal Estate legislation, requiring those who wish to keep their farms in the family to put it into PA 116, thereby qualifying for large reductions in the inheritance tax.

Another bill that is presently before the Senate Finance Committee is S.B. 783, introduced by Senator Young, that would allow self-employed people to deduct from the state income tax their total premiums on health insurance such as Blue Cross, dental care, and optometric costs. "We believe this legislation is needed in the name of equity, as self-employed people, such as farmers, must pay the entire cost as contrasted with those who receive such services as fringe benefits, which are nontaxable," they told the Governor.

COURT REFORM -- Farm Bureau is part of the coalition that is promoting the Court Reform petitions. The FB officials reported to the governor that petitions have been sent to all members, who are making an effort to accumulate as many signatures as possible in order to place the issue on the ballot.



MFB President Elton R. Smith (right) presents the 1978 policy booklet to Governor William Milliken. With Smith to discuss key policies with the Governor were (from left) Larry DeVuyst, third member of the executive committee; Robert E. Smith, Senior Legislative Counsel, and Jack Laurie, vice-president.

PRODUCT LIABILITY INSURANCE -- Farm Bureau is in full support of H.B. 5689. Farmers are being subjected to increasing insurance cost and understand that the accumulative effect of such insurance cost on the manufacturers and his suppliers means that farm machinery is costing at least 10 percent more and perhaps as high as 18 percent more.

APPROPRIATIONS -- The Governor's budget recommended appropriations for X-Disease control, which Farm Bureau strongly supports, and also included recommendations for a Toxic Substance Laboratory. "However, we believe that the amount in the budget for the laboratory is inadequate and that it should receive further consideration," the farm leaders told Governor Milliken. "The need for services which will benefit both consumers and farmers needs to be recognized," they said.

They also stated their belief that the Crop Reporting Service should be more adequately funded, as a service important to producers and also essential in the efforts to seek additional markets between the states and overseas.

They expressed concern to the Governor regarding the \$107,250 cut in fruit and vegetable inspection, thereby increasing the burden on producers from one-third to one-half of the cost. "We

believe this is an essential service to producers and to buyers and even more important, it serves to assure consumers, through third-party inspection, that their food meets all quality standards," they said.

NATURAL RESOURCES -- Farm Bureau policy supports new sources of energy, including drilling and exploration operations and nuclear power, the Farm Bureau officials said, but told the Governor they were not convinced that a new Department of Energy is needed.

"We also oppose legislation, such as H.B. 5854, which would repeal the written permission requirements in the new Recreational Trespass Act," they reported. "Landowners believe this requirement provides effective protection against trespass and were pleased to note that the DNR also feels it has been successful."

LAND USE -- The MFB leaders told the Governor that the organization continues to support such legislation as the Monsma Bill (H.B. 4189) and that the Allen Bill (S.B. 692) is also in line with Farm Bureau policy.

LABOR -- The farmers told the Governor that programs such as Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance have

proved to be most costly to producers, especially at a time of economic recession. "We are concerned that many producers are not protecting themselves with Worker Compensation and are, therefore, vulnerable to serious consequences," they explained. "Agriculture is depended upon to hire the 'residual' work force, and oftentimes this includes those who, because of pre-existing physical conditions, are not hired in other industries. We believe the Workers Compensation Act must recognize these problems."

TRANSPORTATION -- Farm Bureau has been active in an effort to reach sportation package, they reported. "We are totally opposed to the single fund concept and insist that user taxes should be used for roads, recognizing that present revenues are already inadequate and that greater funding must be made available for county and local roads and bridge construction," they told the Governor.

They also explained that highway advertising is becoming a problem for agriculture inasmuch as federal and other programs encourage direct sales of agricultural produce to consumers through pick-your-own programs and farm markets -- but farmers are restricted to their efforts to effectively utilize roadside signs to direct consumers to their farms.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS -- This is a point of contention between Farm Bureau and the Governor. "From a standard of good government philosophy, we strongly oppose going back to what we consider a 'spoils system' of direct appointment of the Director of Agriculture and other department heads," the Farm Bureau leaders told him.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY -- The farmers expressed their appreciation of the Governor's support of the MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building. "It has been far too long since agriculture has been recognized in capital outlay projects at the University," they said.

They expressed concern that Michigan has not provided necessary funding of the Experimental Station and also of the experimental farms around the state. "Michigan agriculture cannot survive unless we do a more adequate job of research on the numerous crop, soil, and livestock problems we have in the state," they told the Governor. "We are concerned to know that we are losing the race with other states inasmuch as they are making research one of their number-one priorities by providing adequate funding."

FARM INCOME SITUATION -- The farm leaders explained Michigan Farm Bureau's five-point action program to remedy the current farm income situation and asked for the Governor's support. "If it is to be effective in 1978, we must have quick action by the Secretary of Agriculture who does have the authority to expand the set-aside and offer diversion payment," they explained.

"We recognize that this is essentially a national and international problem, but it has a great effect on agriculture in Michigan. We request the support of your office and the Michigan Legislature in urging a quick implementation of this program by the Secretary of Agriculture. You, as chairman of the National Governors' Conference, can be most influential in convincing the President that this is the best solution to our current farm income problem," they said.

Community Groups are "Backbone" of Farm Bureau

Throughout Michigan each month, over 900 Farm Bureau Community Groups meet - to discuss and debate and decide their views on topics of special interest to their members, to share common concerns, to have fellowship and fun with "their kind of people."

Community Groups have often been called the "backbone" of the Michigan Farm Bureau, an appropriate description when you consider that the "seed" for state and even national legislation affecting agriculture has often started with discussion and a resulting idea formulated by farmers sitting around the table in one of their member's farm homes.

They are a vital part of Farm Bureau's unique grassroots structure, giving members the opportunity to make their voices heard. They play a key role in developing Farm Bureau policy and in executing the policies once they are developed. They are the vehicles through which county, state and national programs are carried out. And often they take leadership in action to solve local problems affecting those in their own communities.



Numbers Are Growing Again

Community Groups also form the nucleus of leaders, not only for the Farm Bureau organization, but for local government, civic, church, and commodity groups. One Huron County Community Group recently reviewed their leadership development record (see Homefront). Five county board members, two county secretaries, two women's chairmen, one district women's chairman, plus several members serving on county and state committees, were leaders who emerged from the Pioneer Community Group.

The Community Group program started in Michigan with a handful of groups in 1936. It grew to 750 groups in the next 10 years and reached its peak in the 50's and early 60's with over 1500 groups. Michigan's Community Group program was often used as a pattern for other state Farm Bureaus.

Then the agricultural community started changing. Farming itself had become complicated businesses, requiring more time and attention of farmers to protect their increasing investments. Other social activities began to compete with Community Group meetings and other civic interests demanded the time and leadership of farmers. Many groups were "aging"

and did not regenerate themselves as young farm men and women sought employment off the farm.

Community Groups diminished in number, but not in importance to the organization. The most recent State Study Committee, in 1975, listed the Community Group program as a top priority. This emphasis, plus the recognition of members that no other organization can offer such opportunities for leadership development and involvement in solving problems that affect them, has resulted in the beginning of a "turn-around" for the Community Group program.

The three newest Community Groups to join the growing list are the POTATO SOUP VALLEY Community Group of Emmet County, the STRAW HATS of Sanilac County, and the MEAT MAKERS group of Lapeer County.

If you are not now associated with a Community Group, check with your county Community Group Committee (your County Farm Bureau Secretary can tell you who they are), or if you'd like to form a new group, contact Ken Wiles, Manager, Member Relations, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing 48909.

Powell Protects "Potlucks"

What's more American than hot dogs and apple pie? - Community potluck dinners. Americans have been gathering their friends and neighbors together to build a barn, thresh a field or give thanks for their bountiful harvest since the first colonial settlement was established. As a matter of fact, probably the most famous potluck dinner in history was the first Thanksgiving. Now that's American!

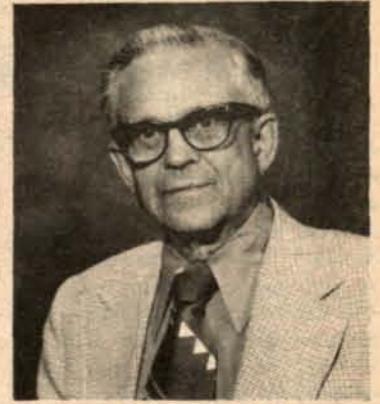
But in recent years, this American tradition of fellowship and community spirit has been restricted by the Michigan Department of Public Health and county health department personnel who have broadly enforced the provisions of Public Act 269 of 1968. This act requires licensing and inspection of food service establishments and vending machine locations to insure standards of sanitation and public health are observed. Through the Department's interpretation of P.A. 269, county public health officials have been cracking down on community style dinners which offer homemade foods to the public.

The men and women who organize these events as fundraisers for charitable or civic projects were initially willing to cooperate with the requests of the health department. But their compliance did not bring relief. After agreeing to bring their ingredients to an inspected church or com-

munity kitchen, another barrage of citations demanded additional, and often expensive, "public health" improvements to the facility. Inspectors even prohibited certain foods from being served.

The problem became intolerable to some Ionia County residents when the health department barred area women from serving homemade pies at a county fair booth, and in some counties, they learned, potluck luncheons prepared by family friends and neighbors following funeral services were restricted. It appeared that the simple pleasure of helping friends and supporting civic projects in this traditional way had been infringed upon by the over-extended authority of the Department of Public Health.

Responding to the concern of his constituents, Representative Stanley Powell (R-Ionia) introduced legislation to amend the current Public Health law, P.A. 269, which was the basis of the rules and regulations. While maintaining requirements for licensing of food service and vending machine locations, the amendment excludes non-profit or charitable groups from the provisions of the law. The amendment states simply, "This act shall not apply to a charitable, religious, fraternal, service, civic or other non-profit organization operating a



REP. POWELL

home-prepared baked goods sale or serving home prepared food in connection with one of its meetings or as part of a community service or fund-raising event".

According to Representative Powell, the amendment had tremendous bipartisan support in the House. The "potluck bill" passed easily in the House of Representatives. When introduced, H.B. 6090 listed 99 sponsors including all eleven members of the House Committee on Health. Powell attributes this overwhelming support to the fact that the Legislature never intended the 1968 law to be extended to these non-profit organizations or community service activities. Powell does anticipate some resistance from the Michigan Department of Public Health, but with such obviously strong support in the House, their hopes of swaying the Legislature is just pie in the eye . . . er . . . sky.

FBIG is Winner

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge has announced that Farm Bureau Insurance Group has been selected to receive the George Washington Honor Medal Award for its sponsorship of the 1977 "America & Me" essay contest.

Presentation of the award is being arranged by local representatives of the Freedoms Foundation and will take place at a later date.

Open to any eighth grade student in the state, the annual contest encourages Michigan's young people to seriously consider their roles in America's future through "America & Me" essays.

On the local level, winners are selected from each school with the help of Home Office judges, and the school's best entry is advanced to the statewide competition. Prizes for the top ten in the state include savings bonds ranging in value from \$500 to \$50. A panel of Michigan dignitaries determines the final ranking of the top essays.

As sponsor of the American & Me contest since 1968, FBIG has now received eight national awards from the Freedoms Foundation.

31 Counties Reach Goal

With the 1978 membership campaign three-fourths over, 31 county Farm Bureaus and one region have reported 1978 quota. An all-out effort throughout the state is necessary in the remaining months if Michigan Farm Bureau is to achieve its eleventh consecutive year of membership growth.

Since the last issue of Michigan Farm News, eleven counties and the Saginaw Valley Region have reported goal. Counties and their membership chairmen reporting goal since February 15 are:

In the 1-350 member category: Chippewa County - Frank Schwiderson, chairman; Iosco - Betty Cross, chairman; Menominee - Gunter Kusig, chairman; Montmorency - Duane Stevens, chairman and Wexford County - Shirley Guernsey, chairman.

In the 651-1200 category, North West Michigan, with chairman Deni Hooper, has reported goal. Three counties in the 1201-1500 category have reported goal and include Ingham County - Betty Traver, chairman; Lapeer - Duane Wagner, chairman

and Monroe County - Alvin Gaertner, chairman; and two counties have achieved 1978 quota in the largest membership category, 1501 and over, Clinton County - Robert Kissane, chairman, and Gratiot County - David and Dawn Loganbach, co-chairmen.

FBIG REPORT AVAILABLE

Copies of Farm Bureau Insurance Group's 1977 annual report have been distributed to selected members of the Farm Bureau community.

Additional copies are available to any Farm Bureau member. To receive a copy, contact Corporate Relations, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, 7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

In addition to reviewing the financial operations of the companies that make up Farm Bureau Insurance Group, the annual report emphasizes how Farm Bureau members benefited from FBIG's insurance programs in 1977.

Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Radio Network

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

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for February were:



FRANK VANDERHYDE, JR.

Week of February 6 - Frank VanderHyde, Jr., who farms 800 acres and raises 200 Holstein cows in Kent County with the help of his two sons, Michael and Mark. VanderHyde's dairy operation is located near Sparta. VanderHyde, 45, serves as Algoma Twp. supervisor, chairman of the Kent County Soil Conservation Service Committee, member of the Kent County Farm Bureau, and FB membership chairman for Algoma Twp. He is a former member of the Algoma Twp. Planning Commission and the Kent County ASCS Committee. He and his wife, Janet, have three children.



HAROLD THOME

Week of February 13 - Harold Thome, a fruit and beef farmer from Comstock Park. He farms 320 acres in partnership with his brother, Mark, and raises primarily apples, pears and plums and some beef cattle. His involvement in community and agricultural affairs includes: Director on the Kent County Soil Conservation Service since 1970; township committeeman on the County ASCS; has been an Alpine Twp. volunteer fireman since the department was organized in 1950; member of the Kent County Farm Bureau and served four years as a County Board member; member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church where he serves as an usher; past member of the Parish Council; and grower member of the research committee of the

International Dwarf Tree Assn. He and his wife, JoAnn, have four children.



GERALD BROWN

Week of February 20 - Gerald Brown, 34, who operates a poultry farm near Indian River in Cheboygan County. Brown, who has been farming all his life, currently farms 160 acres and raises Christmas trees in addition to managing his poultry operation. Brown is a county commissioner for Cheboygan County, a director on the Cheboygan County Airport Board, chairman of the Cheboygan County Ambulance Service, vice president of the Northern Michigan Fair, member of the Rotary Club, member of the Cheboygan County Farm Bureau and past president of that organization. He also served as a township supervisor. Brown and his wife, Patricia, have three children.



WILLIAM AMMAN

Week of February 27 - William Amman, 55, a dairy farmer from Chesaning in Saginaw County. A lifelong farmer, Amman farms 200 acres and milks 40 cows. He serves as a director of the Artificial Breeders Assn., director of the Chesaning Farmers Co-op, member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Assn., member of the Saginaw County Soil Conservation Service, and member of the board of the directors of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau. He also received the 1969 Farm Manager of the Year Award from Michigan State University. Amman and his wife, Clara, have four children.

INTERVIEW:

League of Women Voters Take Stand on Energy

"It may come as something of a surprise to many people that the League of Women Voters is supporting gradual deregulation of the petroleum and natural gas industry," Ruth Clusen, National President of the League of Women Voters said during Farmers Week at Michigan State University. Mrs. Clusen addressed an evening reception for the MSU Friends of Natural Resources on March 21.

Basing her remarks upon the League's recently announced energy policy, Mrs. Clusen added that support of deregulation is only a facet of a total energy policy which has been developed through research and evaluation by the League itself. "Our continuing emphasis will be heavily on energy conservation practices reinforced by tax incentives or possibly through penalties for businesses which do not practice conservation", she said. In addition, the League is a strong supporter of research and development of alternate energy sources, specifically solar and geothermal energy to relieve our dependence upon fossil fuels in the United States. Although the League is not opposed to the further

development of nuclear energy, Mrs. Clusen stressed that it would be premature to turn to nuclear energy until a method for safely disposing of radioactive waste materials has been found.

Mrs. Clusen, who has served as president of the politically influential women's organization for four years, will be actively involved in support of the League's energy policy through Congressional testimony and lobbying efforts. According to Mrs. Clusen, higher visibility and willingness to take controversial stands on bipartisan issues has changed the image of the League of Women Voters in recent years.

"I am aware that in the past the League was viewed by the public as a voter service, but we've gone beyond just studying the issues," she said. "If organizations such as the League of Women Voters or the Michigan Farm Bureau Women hope to take effective action on contemporary issues, they must stop viewing themselves as a 'women's auxiliary' and be willing to take a firm stand and follow through with effective action".

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Laverne P. Bivens
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Farm Bureau

"The Labor Department twisted legislation originally intended to protect migrant workers and farmers into a weapon to be used against the farmer."

*Michigan Congressman Dave Stockman
Subcommittee on Economic
Development Hearings
Washington, D.C.*

On Farm Labor Contractors Act

Michigan Congressman Dave Stockman testified recently before the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity hearings on amendments to the Farm Labor Contractors Act of 1963, urging passage of two bills he introduced to "end Labor Department harrassment of farmers."

Stockman requested the hearings last spring when he learned that farmers in his district were becoming victims of the Labor Department's "gross misinterpretation" of the '63 Farm Labor Contractors Act. He said that the Labor Department twisted legislation that was originally intended to protect migrant workers and farmers into a weapon to be used against the farmer.

"Farmers who were engaging in casual exchanges of labor services with their neighbors, a practice as old as farming itself, were suddenly told by the Department of Labor that they were legally considered farm labor contractors and thereby subject to \$1,000 fines," Stockman explained.

"Fortunately, the Labor Department finally agreed to back off, but it was only a temporary reprieve," he said. "There is no guarantee that similar situations won't reoccur in the future. It is for this reason that I have introduced a bill that makes the intent of the '63 Farm Labor Contractor Act very clear. It limits the discretion of the Department of Labor to harrass farmers by clarifying the farmers' exemption in the original Act. Those individuals who were truly in the business of being farm contractors would remain covered by the Act but farmers who were originally intended to be exempt would be freed from the clutches of DOL's bureaucracy."

The Congressman said the '63 Act is too restricting concerning the definition of "crew leaders."

"In my district, more than 5,000 high school students and other young people are employed each year to detassel corn," Stockman testified. "These young workers are picked up and driven each day to corn fields

in their area. Under the '63 Act, because the distances involved are often more than 25 miles and, in the case of my district, often involve crossing state borders, the organizers of these young workers (often teachers or students themselves) are classified as 'contractors' and thereby subject to lengthy registration periods and fines."

Stockman's second bill would extend the original 25 mile radius limit to 75 miles and would eliminate the

prohibition on crossing state lines.

"The impetus for these bills came from situations in my district but I believe that those situations reflect similar problems in farm areas all over the country," Stockman concluded. "I introduced the bills to change those problem situations, to relieve farmers of unwanted government interference and to make sure that thousands of young people don't go without work because of an outdated and misinterpreted statute."

Open Line Meetings Attract Hundreds



Elton R. Smith speaks to farmers who attended "Open Line" meetings, sponsored by Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

Several hundred farm leaders participated in three "OPEN LINE" meetings held recently at Ludington, Battle Creek, and Frankenmuth. The all-day "OPEN LINE" sessions were sponsored by Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.

The cooperative leaders listened to reports on what facilities and services the two state-wide farm supply, grain and bean marketing cooperatives had to offer from Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President, and his staff. In turn, farm co-op leaders responded with their concerns as to their cooperative organizations and individual needs. In addition the spring and summer agricultural economic outlook was

presented by Dr. Harlan Hughes of Michigan State University and Dr. Paul Kindinger of Michigan Farm Bureau. Also on the program was Dr. Robert Ruppel of Michigan State University's Entomology Department who reported on the current position of many agricultural chemicals and expressed concern about the future of several chemicals.

"These 'OPEN LINE' meetings were open communications between these two Farm Bureau farm supply and marketing affiliates and their interested owners," reported Elton R. Smith, President of the two cooperatives. It was the ninth consecutive year for such meetings, Mr. Smith reported.

Bulletin from Bonnie

By Bonnie Carpenter
MFB Outstanding Young
Farm Woman



Whoops! Tractor GONE!

If your family is like ours, spring fever is creeping in as the snow melts. It has various ways of showing in our family.

Usually it starts with the boys anxious to ride their bicycles. But the surest signal is when my husband starts his annual spring ritual. All farm wives will recognize the procedure.

First he walks out in the field stomping his feet, then stooping he runs the soil through his hands. (At least later he will claim that it ran through his hands even though it looks like mud to you. Daydreaming is a common side effect of spring fever). Next, you will see the barn door fly open, tractor and plow speeding to the field. At this point, if he asks you to take your tractor and plow along, get out of it any way that you can.

Now I am sure you can forecast the next step in this spring ritual. In about fifteen minutes, you will catch a glimpse of your husband WALKING to the house. This is a crucial moment, wives. Carefully note the expression on his face and his gait. Here is a good guide I have found to assess the situation:

1. Smiling sheepishly
Tractor in 6 to 8 inches
2. Not smiling; walking calmly
Tractor in 12 to 15 inches
3. Very angry look; walking briskly
Tractor to axle or beyond

4. Running; possibly jumping up and down on hat
Tractor GONE

How do you handle this situation? In the case of No. 1 or 2, you get ready for the field while he gets the chain. Notice that one tractor is not stuck because the wife was foresighted enough not to take it into the field. However, do not verbally express this to him at any point.

In the case of No. 3 or 4, immediately call the neighbor with the largest tractor. By all means, do not try to pull him out yourself no matter how calm he claims he will stay. No farmer remains rational when only the smokestack and seat can be seen above the mudline.

Hopefully after this, the fever will have run its course and will subside for at least a week. If it doesn't, let the air out of his tires!

Now, I did not mean to single out the men. My husband rarely progresses past number one, although late in the planting season, I have been known to progress rapidly to number three.

Spring fever seems to strike women, too. In my case, it often involves such things as washing windows and putting away all the heavy winter clothing the day before the last snow storm, or replacing a frosted garden... and Mother Nature just can't get it across to us that she's still boss.

Search for Oldest Co-op

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MAFC) annual awards committee will attempt to improve the type and quality of awards presented at the MAFC annual meeting to be held on December 8, 1978.

Categories of awards may be: oldest operating farm cooperative in the state,

cooperative manager of the year, director of the year, and employee of the year.

Mark Carpenter, manager of the Leslie Cooperative and chairman of the awards committee, requests that each MAFC member complete the form below with suggestions for the committee.

Information for 1978 MAFC Awards Committee

Name of Cooperative _____

Date Organized _____

Manager of the year _____ (name) (co-op)

Director of the year _____ (name) (co-op)

Employee of the year _____ (name) (co-op)

Other awards: _____

Return to: Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives
P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909

SOYBEAN DAY VI

"Be careful we don't create a situation that's ideal for labor to come in and have an influence and ultimately a take-over."



Darwin Stolte, President of the U.S. Feed Grains Council, spoke to SOYBEAN DAY VI participants.

The President of the U.S. Feed Grains Council, Darwin Stolte, told the nearly 100 soybean producers who attended SOYBEAN DAY VI in Jackson March 7 that, as a vital part of a total global network of food supply and demand, they must think and operate today on the basis of a national and international policy framework. It's the competition of a host of countries that want your product and are willing to compete against each other for it that dictates soybean prices, not the domestic market, he told the farmers.

Stolte reported that soybeans contributed 5.8 billion dollars in the country's balance of trade last year, or nearly 25 percent of the total net trade of 24 billion dollars. "That balance of trade is becoming extremely important in this country as a partial offset to the tremendous increase in our petroleum imports," he said. "Up until three years ago, agricultural exports out of this country were enabling us the balance of trade to pay for all our imports. Industry wasn't paying for one bit of it. In fact, they were adding a deficit for a very simple reason - because the cost of labor in this country had priced us out of the world marketplace."

This increasingly important role agriculture plays today, Stolte said, has caused a power struggle between agencies in Washington who want to grab the ball on food policy - and dictate how that policy will be used both nationally and internationally.

"We have traditionally focused on the USDA as your voice, your vehicle for agricultural policy, for

agricultural administration, within the U.S. government," he said. "That is no longer true and it's a mistake to even think that way. Agriculture is bigger than one agency. But our concern had better be that we maintain the posture of the representation of agriculture."

Stolte said those in agriculture should not think of themselves as a small 3.6 percent of the voting population. "As farmers, you represent 3.6 percent, but with the whole service industry that caters to your survival - whether it be the transportation industry, the chemical industry, the farm machinery industry, the fertilizer industry, the processing industry - you're talking about 35 percent of the employment in this country as agricultural employment.

"Few people realize that and even less talk about it," Stolte said. "We've got a job to do. You can't talk just Michigan; you can't talk just Farm Bureau; you can't talk just soybeans. You've got to talk agriculture in TOTAL today and what you really represent."

He had words of praise for the American Agriculture Movement for bringing public opinion to American agriculture. But he also had some concerns regarding the Movement and some words of warning.

"What concerned me as I listened to these groups in Washington was an underlying message that was coming through that was, believe me, right out of the handbooks of organized labor," he said. "I don't mean to infer that the farm producers who came to Washington were aware of that. They had been given a

Darwin Stolte, President U.S. Feed Grains Council Soybean Day VI, Jackson

position and rightly so, they talked it.

"Labor would love to get its hand on food policy. . . Be careful; be careful we don't create a situation that's ideal for labor to come in and have an influence and ultimately a take-over," he warned. "I think some of that was happening. Some of it was happening through the truckers, but I think some of it was also happening at higher levels of the labor echelon."

He also warned about the dangers of reflecting to overseas customers an uncertainty about where production is going to be from year to year. "They will do the same thing they did during the soybean embargo of 1973," he said. "They will invest their money to help build another source of supply somewhere else like they did in Brazil. That's exactly what the Japanese did. They took 25 billion dollars to help the Brazilian government expand soybean production to where it's the second largest world supplier today - and takes 30 percent of your market."

Stolte said it was unfortunate that the human rights issue should be tied to something so crucial as the opportunity for expanded trade. "We are jeopardizing that opportunity by telling the Chinese, when they need wheat, that we're sorry, but we can't extend credit to you. So where do they go for 8 million tons of wheat? They went to Canada, to Australia and Argentina. We lost every bit of the business."

There should be a separate policy position for human rights, Stolte said, and should not be used as a vehicle to restrict trade.

Also appearing on Michigan Farm Bureau's sixth annual Soybean Day program were: Dr. Dale Harpstead, chairman of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State University, who discussed harvesting and plant research in Michigan; Paul Neihaus, plant manager of the A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company, Fostoria, Ohio, who looked at the soybean industry from a processor's point of view, and James Gill, director of market analysis for the Illinois Agricultural Association, who gave pointers on how to market the 1978 soybean crop.

What's Happening . . .

Women's Spring Rallies

- April 11 Albion, Holiday Inn
District 2 "How to Make the Most of Our Lives", Morley Fraser, Albion College
Style Show by Jacobsons
"Women's Role Today", Kitty Padgett
- April 17 Lansing, Hilton Inn
District 5 Entertainment - Song and Dance Group - Shirls' Girls
"Energy" - James B. Falahee, Senior Vice President, Consumers Power Co.
Election of District Officers
- April 19 Cunningham Acres Restaurant, on M-50,
District 4 west of Lake Odessa
Microwave Oven Demonstration
"Associated Country Women of the World" - Claudine Jackson, Chairman, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee
- April 20 Clarkston Methodist Church
District 3 "Associated Country Women of the World," - Claudine Jackson, Chairman, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee
Crafts Workshops
Election of District Officers
- April 20 Orchard Place, Romeo, 12350 31st Rd.
District 6 "Associated Country Women of the World" - Martha Thuemmel, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee Delegate
"District 6 Women in Action" - Betty Laurie, 2nd Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau Women
"Women from My Point of View" - Larry Ewing, Director, Information & Public Relations Div., Michigan Farm Bureau
"Today's Farm Women - Partners in Agriculture" - Ann Kaiser, Editor, "Farm Wife News"
- April 25 Gaylord, Congregational Church
District 10 "Please Pass the Sodium Chloride" - Doris Wieland, Joni Wieland, Farm Bureau Women's Speakers' Bureau
"Associated Country Women of the World" - Claudine Jackson Chairman, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee
Demonstration of Crafts
- April 26 Ravenna United Methodist Church
District 7 "Associated Country Women of the World" - Jan Stoner, Jones, Member, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee
Style Show
"Consumerism" - Lucille Carlson, Muskegon
Election of District Officers
- April 27 Centreville Methodist Church, Main Street
District 1 "Political Action Program" - Al Almy, Director, Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau
Special Entertainment
Election of District Officers
- April 27 Edenville, St. Ann's Catholic Church
District 8 "Associated Country Women of the World" - Claudine Jackson Chairman, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee
Style Show
- April 21 Twin Lakes 4-H Center, Traverse City - "International Women's Year" - Helen Milliken, wife of Governor Milliken, and Delegate to IWY Convention
Voting Machine Demonstration
Election of District Officers
- June 7 Details have not yet been finalized.
District 11

Reservations for lunch should be made for each District Rally through your Country Women's Committee Chairman.

Program Benefits Increased

Farm Bureau members who renew their Member Life insurance policies will receive a 40 percent increase in policy schedule benefits at no additional cost, effective for the period April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979.

This is the fourth and largest benefit increase since the low-cost Member Life Program -- available only to Farm Bureau members -- was introduced four years ago.

Please send me more information on the Member Life program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ COUNTY _____

Do you currently have any insurance with Farm Bureau Insurance Group? Yes No If yes, please write the name of your agent on the line below.

Return this coupon to:
Corporate Relations, Farm Bureau Insurance Group
7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Mich. 48909



Homefront

Notes from Community Groups

Mrs. Margaret O'Connor, County Commissioner, was a guest at a recent meeting of the Happy Go Lucky Community Group, Washtenaw County. She gave an interesting and revealing report of the workings of the county administration. After

a lively question and answer session, members of the Group felt good at having someone in there pitching for them.

Kathy Gallagher was a guest at the monthly meeting of the Southern Dairymen Community Group, Oceana County. She presented an interesting program on energy conservation in the home using slides from the Extension Office. Following a question and answer period, most members felt they should attend the annual meeting of the Oceana Electric Cooperative.

Members of the Butcher Community Group, Cass County, were fortunate to have as their guests Larry Fosdick, the new manager of the Marcellus Farm Bureau Services, and Douglas Dorman, representing FBIG. Dorman fully explained no-fault insurance and clarified many questions and problems pertaining to it.

Mr. Robert Soule from the Ottawa County Road Commission was guest speaker at the evening meeting of the Deer Creek Community Group, Ottawa County. He talked to them concerning the duties of the road commission. In addition to road construction and maintenance, they are responsible for the construction and maintenance of bridges, county parks, water and sewer systems and solid waste facilities.

East Ida Country Cousins Community Group, Monroe County, had a discussion on what they did during the blizzard of 78 and how they should prepare for the next one. Barb Dick reported that juice from their generator provided hot water in minutes and black toast in seconds until it was regulated.

Better Farming Community Group, Berrien County, attended the Buchanan Co-op Open House.

The Kirk's Community Group, Livingston County, celebrated its 32nd anniversary at its February meeting. Nine of the original members are still active in the group. They are: George and Irala Kirkland, Clair and Helen Miller, Hollis and Alice Miller, Merrell and Katherine Buckley and Evelyn Cameron.

Swine Feed With Big Extras

For your entire breeding herd — farrow to finish — Farm Bureau offers you more than just top quality swine feeds.

You'll get the advantages of an informed field staff, extensive cooperative feed research, and strong dealer services organization.

Research, at our Cooperative Research Farms, helps your dealer design a feeding program tailored to increasing the total performance of your swine herd.

Farm Bureau swine feeds are top quality feeds — with a lot of built in extras for a more profitable herd. Ask the Farm Bureau people.



Swine Feed



Bill Pridgeon, along with his dad Dean and brother Mike, market 6,000 hogs per year farrow-to-finish on their farm in Montgomery. They use Farm Bureau 40 percent Hog Supplement.

FARM SAFETY

The main reason for promoting farm safety is a human one, of course - to prevent death and suffering. But aside from this there is also a dollars and cents reason which should be considered.

When a farmer is injured, he is often left alone and must hire someone to take his place. Trained farm workers are scarce and receive high wages. How many farmers do you know who could afford to hire a man for several months while a broken leg mended? Or how many could continue farming at all if they were injured so seriously that they could no longer perform common farm work?

Accidents often beget accidents in this respect. Injured farmers try to get along with inexperienced help, or with wives or children, rather than hire a good man. As might be expected, the accident rate of this temporary labor is high.

Accidents will happen regardless of all the safety precautions and rules to help prevent them. They are a phenomenon of human failure. And farmers, their wives and children, get far more than their share of injuries from accidents, due largely to the dangerous nature of their work.

But on-farm injuries don't have to happen as often as they do. A recent National Safety Counsel survey found nearly 40 percent of all reported farm accidents involved the head, eyes, hands, or feet - parts of the body that can be protected with easily worn Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

PPE is the term for a group of wearable safety devices that includes shatter-proof goggles, steel toe boots, respirators, plus an assemblage of other common-sense gadgets designed to protect the user in case of accidents or environmental hazard. For what PPE is designed to do, it works if used.

PPE is not intended to be an aid in preventing accidents. Its purpose is to prevent or minimize injury to the wearer if he or she is involved in an accident or is exposed to poisonous substances in the air or other environmental dangers. Those who work on farms are subject to plenty of these hazards in the normal course of their work and are often unaware of them until injuries occur.

Volumes have been written about farm safety, yet few parents take time to stress safety to their children. Also, few set a good example by actually using Personal Protective Equipment. Specific body parts and protective equipment that may keep farm workers from harm are:

BODY - Common-sense applies in handling heavy or rough objects. Protect shoulders and back with pads. Aprons of padded leather, metal or hard fiber can protect bodies from blows. Leather clothing offers protection from sparks and hot metal splashes.

LUNGS - There are three basic types of lung protection for farmers. Mechanical filter respirators for the simplest. Made with a fibrous filter, they are useful in haying, harvesting and other dusty activities. They should never be used to protect against chemicals or airborne toxins or in places that lack oxygen.

Chemical cartridge respirators and gas masks are used in chemical applications. A mask covers nose and mouth - and sometimes face and eyes. Activated charcoal or other absorbant materials are used with aid of filters. Cartridge respirators work well in limited exposures and are effective in heavy dust and moldy hay. A gas mask, with a cannister, has far more capacity to absorb and filter than a cartridge respirator. Cartridges are designed for a specific problem. Therefore, be sure to select the one which fits the situation.

Self-contained units are useful in some silos, minorchids and other places where air is poison or oxygen-deficient. As the name implies, they carry their own air supply.

HEAD - Two major types of protective devices are the hard hat, which has an outer shell plus an inner suspension, and the bump cap, which is a shell without suspension. A hard hat should be worn when there is danger of heavy impact or falling objects. It offers more protection than a bump cap.

EARS - Inserts and muffs are the two basic types of hearing protection. Inserts are made of rubber, plastic, wax or cotton-like fibers which must be shaped or fitted to the individual's ear canal. Muffs cover the external ear. They often cost less than custom fitted plugs and provide more dependable protection.

HANDS - Sound gloves which fit correctly should be worn. Tight ones interfere with hand work and are uncomfortable. Gloves, particularly those that are too large are dangerous around moving parts of machinery. Common-sense should be applied in the use of gloves.

FEET - A simple safeguard against foot injury is to wear steel-toe boots or shoes. An added feature in some footwear is a puncture-resistant sole. For wet weather wear, rubber boots which have a metal toe box.

The starting point in farm machinery is to locate the "danger spots". The next step in accident prevention is to eliminate causes. One good way is to make a list of these danger spots on your farm and in your home. This makes for profitable farm machinery.

Machinery

Machines have revolutionized farming. They are the backbone of modern farming. But at the same time, they can be involved in tragic, costly farm death and injuries. And, in many cases, the accident could have been prevented.

By federal law, certain farm machines are considered hazardous. These are: corn picker, combine, hay mower, forage harvester, forage blower, baler, potato digger, feed grinder, crop dryer, power post driver, auger-type elevator or conveyer, power post hole digger, manure spreader or mechanical self-unloading wagons or trailers, rotary tiller (non-walking type).

Children under 16 cannot operate - or even start, stop, adjust, feed, or help run - any of them unless they are working on a farm owned or operated by their father or legal guardian, or if they are 14 or over and having a training certificate that permits them to operate tractors and other hazardous farm machinery away from home.

A person in a hurry might not take the time to stop the engine before servicing his machine. In trying to save a few seconds, he could end up crippled for life. Young drivers like to take chances for excitement. Older drivers take chances too - because they become overconfident; and this, too, may lead to accidents.

Unfamiliarity with a farm machine is a cause of many accidents. A machine is often used only a few days out of the year. Sometimes farmers do not operate them as expertly as if they used the machine everyday.

Chemicals

We use chemicals everyday. We take them for granted. They help us to live better and stay healthy. Yet, used carelessly, these trusted, familiar chemicals can be very dangerous.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**
Manager Member Relations

Some of the most helpful chemicals are also the most harmful. On the farm, pesticides help make large yields possible. But keep in mind that any product powerful enough to kill weeds, insects, or other pests is powerful enough to kill a person - if used improperly. It is important to know when, where, and how to use these chemicals.

The most important rule involved when using pesticides and other dangerous chemicals is to read the label. Read it before you buy the product, before you open the container, before you mix it, before you apply it, and before you get rid of any unused portions or the empty container. Know and follow all of the instructions and precautions.

By law, everything you need to know about a pesticide (and certain other hazardous products) is on the label. Besides giving instructions and precautions, the label has one of three "signal words" to show how dangerous or toxic the contents are to man.

A. DANGER AND POISON. Printed in red with skull and crossbones. These chemicals are so poisonous that just a taste could kill a man or make him seriously ill.

B. WARNING. Products with this label are moderately hazardous. Still, a teaspoonful could kill a child.

C. CAUTION. These products are slightly less hazardous, but they need to be handled properly to avoid illness or injury.

Often spray cans of pesticides and other chemicals will be labeled with both CAUTION and WARNING. CAUTION may refer to the hazard of the chemicals in the products while WARNING alerts you to the danger of a punctured or overheated can.

Livestock

Working with animals can be very rewarding. Livestock or pets respond to kindness and good care. By respecting them, caring for them properly, and using a little common-sense, you can enjoy your livestock safety.

However, not all animals should be considered pets. There are times when any animals - including pets - may turn on us.

A federal farm safety law also affects children under 16 so far as animals are concerned. They cannot work in a yard, pen, or stall occupied by a bull, boar, or stallion kept for breeding purposes; and they are also prohibited from working with cows or sows with newborn young, unless the farm is owned or operated by their father or legal guardian.

They are allowed (as an employee) to ride horses, milk cows, feed chickens and hogs (but not with any auger conveyer) and work with animals in many other ways.

Summary

The limited space for this article does not permit a complete portrayal of the overall farm safety picture. What has been presented, however, does project the brief review of the accidents situations which exist.

America's incredibly productive agriculture, and particularly its farm families, are indispensable to the national welfare. In protecting this invaluable combination of assets, there's no substitute for maximum farm safety.

YOUNG FARMERS: "Tomorrow Belongs to Me"

One hundred and sixty-five young farmers from throughout Michigan attended the Young Farmer Leaders' Conference in Midland, March 7-9. Sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, the theme for the three-day conference was "Tomorrow Belongs to Me."

The main emphasis of the conference was on farm management, and participants were offered classes in time management, commodity futures marketing, business analysis, agricultural legislation and personal leadership development. Conference participants were provided the opportunity to attend the various leadership classes during the three days, ranging from "Farm Bureau and You" to "Business Analysis Through Money Management and Record Keeping."

Richard Neubauer, AFBF Young Farmer and Ranchers Coordinator, conducted three classes on Young Farmers In Action, stressing the importance of developing leadership abilities in Young Farmers, in addition to ad-

ressing all participants of the conference on the second night. He received a standing ovation from the young farmers following his address.

The most controversial speaker at the conference was Esther Shapiro, Director of the Consumer Affairs Department for the City of Detroit. Addressing "The Gap Between Myth and Reality," Mrs. Shapiro stated, "Urban consumers and workers have certain myths, certain concepts about farmers, and vice versa, and some of them are true and some of them myths, and it's the myths that get in our way." She stated that when mutual problems between farmers and consumers are solved, a better level of understanding will result between the two.

However, a degree of misunderstanding of agribusiness on Mrs. Shapiro's part was evident when she said, "The tomato is a perfect example of what has happened to food in the interest of the farmer and the disinterest of the consumer. Tomatoes are grown and developed so they can be

picked by pickers, mechanical pickers, which of course, is in the interest of the farmer and of the huge agricultural businesses that make this a business rather than an art. And so, the tomatoes we get are very hard and firm and taste like cardboard."

Referring to the conference, Jerry Heck, a member of the state Young Farmer Committee from Monroe County, stated: "One of the biggest benefits, especially to the new Farm Bureau members, is they're getting exposure to Farm Bureau and they get to meet other farmers in other types of farming, and by getting together and talking to each other, they realize that a lot of their problems are the same, no matter what type of farming operation they have, and the solutions are pretty much the same. And also, that they have fun and enjoy themselves and it's a good learning experience."

The conference proved to be truly an inspiration not only for the young farm couples, but for everyone who attended and proved that tomorrow is in good hands.



Several impromptu conversations were held during the three-day conference between speakers and participants. Above foreground, Dave Peckens, chairman of the state Young Farmer Committee, chats with Richard Neubauer, AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Coordinator, while in the background, are Jack Laurie, MFB vice-president and Joe Malburg of Macomb County.



Esther Shapiro, Director of the Consumer Affairs Department of the City of Detroit, spoke on the "Gap Between Myth and Reality" concerning consumers and farmers.



In deep concentration, one of the young farmer participants listens to Mrs. Shapiro.



One of the younger participants at the Leaders' Conference was Katie Gregory, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Gregory of Leelanau County, who was impressed by the Safemark tire display.

Barn Owl Census Needs Help

The Department of Natural Resources is conducting a census of the state's barn owls - and it needs your help.

The barn owl was fairly common in the state during the 1930s and 40s, but declined drastically since then, and now is listed as a threatened species in the state. Small towns and family farms years ago provided barn owls with their favorite nesting places in church towers, silos and barns. The birds are vanishing now, as the Michigan countryside changes.

The barn owl, sometimes called a monkey-faced owl, stands approximately 16 inches tall, has a creamy white, heart-shaped face patch, long legs, and black eyes. This owl should not be confused with the smaller screech owl. The screech owl is gray or reddish-brown, stands about 8 inches tall, has yellow eyes, short legs, and ear tufts.

In order to make plans to help the species, the DNR needs to have observations of barn owls so they can find out how many owls are in Michigan, whether they are nesting, and their location. Report observations of barn owls to the DNR's Wildlife Division, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Exact location of the owls is not needed, but include your name and address so the DNR can contact you later for more information.

St. Clair Members Visit WJR

Forty-seven members of the St. Clair County Farm Bureau visited the WJR studios in the Fisher Building in Detroit on March 15, at the invitation of Oscar Furnett, director of Public Affairs. The tour of the studios was in exchange for a tour of St. Clair County farms last summer by WJR personalities.

One of the highlights of the tour for the group was observing the live broadcast of the "Focus" program with J.P. McCarthy. The St. Clair members were hosted at lunch by WJR personnel.

During the visit, the Farm Bureau group was told that news and service to the community was a goal of WJR. The group also was pleased to meet Scott Kilgore, who recently joined WJR, with major responsibilities of increasing the station's coverage of agriculture.



Dick and Carol Lauwers, St. Clair County Farm Bureau members, are welcomed to WJR studios by Oscar Furnett, Public Affairs Director of WJR.

PEOPLE

Recognized for 4-H Leadership



MFB President Elton Smith and his wife Lindy received a citation for outstanding service to 4-H and the "4-H Leadermete" on March 4. Norm Brown (right), Assistant Director of Extension for 4-H Youth Programs, presented them with the award. (Photo Courtesy of FARMERS ADVANCE)

Celebrate Potato Chip Birthday



The 125th birthday of the potato chip was celebrated recently in Florida at the Potato Chip-Snack Food Association convention. A \$200,000 public relations and education campaign, financed by The Potato Board and the Association, will highlight the chip's birthday. It will include consumer publicity and will deal with long-range nutrition and government regulations facing food processors, and will respond to current efforts to ban potato chips from school lunch programs. Approximately 14 percent of the U.S. potato crop is used for chips. Shown cutting the cake are Vernon James, last year's Potato Board president; Robert Mercer, Board executive vice president; Ludwig Gross, pastry chef, and Tiffany Austin, Miss Chipper-Snacker.

FBS Employee Honored as "Driver of the Month"



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard (Bud) Ekema of Kalamazoo receive congratulations from Rep. Robert Welborn (left) and Senator John Welborn (right) during the Michigan Trucking Association's annual "Driver of the Year" banquet held recently in Lansing. Ekema, a driver for Farm Bureau Services, Inc., was named "Driver of the Month" for completing two million miles of accident-free driving in the past 32 years.

This Little Pig Came to the Mall



A miniature farm and real, live pigs captured the attention of preschoolers at the Meridian Mall agricultural display on March 10, 11 and 12. Co-chairpersons for the event were Caroline Minnis and Polly Diehl.

Commodity Promotion Educates Consumers

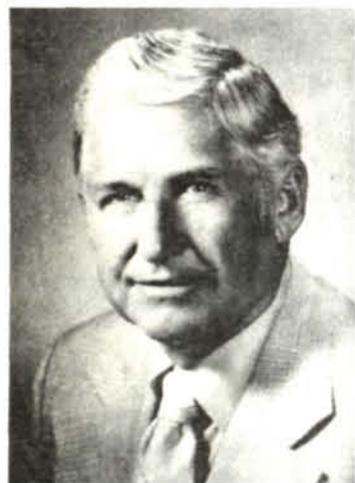


Above is one of the many displays at the Fashion Square Mall during the four-day agriculture days exhibit sponsored by Saginaw, Bay, Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties.

Michigan 4-Her Honored



CHICAGO - Ronald F. Young, chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, third from left, congratulates Racine, Ohio, 4-H member Paul Cross, one of 27 4-H'ers from 24 states who were delegates to the 27th 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium here Feb. 26-March 1. Others from left are chaperon Mrs. Joann Darling and delegate Pam Darling, Willis, Mich., and John Rice, county extension agent, agriculture, Pomeroy, Ohio. The three-day educational program was hosted by the Board of Trade in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service and National 4-H Council. MI-OH-378



McDonald President Elected

Garfield Wagner, president of McDonald Dairy Company, has been elected president of the Quality Chekd Dairy Products Association. Quality Chekd is an association of 48 independent dairies throughout the United States and Canada, providing packaging, marketing and other services to its members. McDonald Dairy Company has been a member of the association since it was formed in 1946.

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.

FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: Used lifter carrier with 60' of track, 3 point hitch for international M230-300 (Mounts on drawbar). Tool holder fast hitch for international tractor. Wilkop Farm, M-72 West, Traverse City, Michigan. (616) 946-9437. (4-11-25fhp)

WANTED: New Idea 10A Manure Spreader any condition. Stu Zandstra, R. No. 2, Bryon Center, MI 49315. Phone (616) 896-9860. (4-11-27f)

FOR SALE REASONABLE: 12 row 30" Cyclo Corn and Bean I.H. Planter, Semi-Mounted for Liquid Fertilizer, Transport Wheels Included. Phone Ann Arbor, (313) 971-3554. (4-11-24f)

NEW FORD TRACTOR MOTOR, 5000 series, complete with generator and starter - ready to run, can be converted to diesel. Reasonable. Phone (313) 229-2277, Brighton. (4-11-23f)

"Calf Buggy" Something new. Individual pens for newborn calves. Write for pamphlet. Alvin Frahm, 10320 Holland Road (M-46) Frankenmuth 48734. Phone 517-652-6692. (12-11-23p)

FOR SALE: Bulk Milk Cooler - 180 gal., Creamery Package - Milkkeeper. Excellent condition. New fans on condensing unit. \$200.00. Phone: Montrose (313) 639-7869. (4-11-21f)

FARROWING STALLS - Complete \$95.50. 1" tubular steel construction. Dealerships available. Free literature. STARR NATIONAL, 219 Main, Colchester, IL 62326. (4-11-19p)

FOR SALE: Schuster tri axle 5th wheel gooseneck 16 foot grain trailer and 1 1/2 foot Wolverine pickup camper. Phone (517) 681-3945. Max Netzel, St. Louis, Michigan. (4-31-24f)

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FOR SALE: 2 Giehl self unloading wagons and chopper. Also 300 gal. Milk Cooler. Henry Carpenter, 6545 Cogswell, Romulus, MI. 48174. Phone (313) 721-0240. (9-11-23f)

FOR SALE: 1970 Chism-Rider Grape Harvester is good condition. Write or call Roy Forraht R1 Berrien Springs, Mich. 49103. (616) 473-3730. (9-11-21p)

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GRAIN DRYING AND STORAGE EQUIPMENT. Farm Fans Dryers, Brock Bins, Bucket Elevators, Sales, Installation, service, Keith Otto, G.E. Knerim Sales, Inc.) Blissfield 49228. Phone (517) 443-5471. (4-11-25p)

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