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. 2600, which would have required the Secretary of Agriculture to make diversion payments available only to farmers to take 31-million acres of land out of production. To participate in the diversion 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. 2600 had become what MFB President Elton 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 a 31 percent 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 - 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

“It 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 plans 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. Dick Clark of Iowa called it a "cruel hoax on farmers" and said "We can report to farmers that anything anyone could possibly think of." The Senator predicted that it would never become law and added that the authority they already have to utilize diversion payments in previously announced set-aside programs.

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 an 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. 2600. 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 flight to control inflation much more difficult.
The Power of the Pen

While some people wring their hands, make “tech tech” noises and plot schemes to concoct recipes 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 hope people in the industry, and not just those within the industry, will join us within the industry and just recently received a note from a man producing bean fun.

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, that we were 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. Gaynelle Berendes from Byron Center. Our February

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 some excerpts with you. First, she talked about “the man who says he’s a nut” (the man is a nut but I have no argument about the nut). Said our reader-post: “I’m also a nut, for I like to cut, the kernels out of the shell, I am in the grocery business and just love to caper to tell me that most things are swell.”

Then Mrs. Berendes had some nice things 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 ‘Communication’s 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 Farm Bureau” and loved her kind words and humor.

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 speech given to us for the slide tape production, “Tomorrow Belongs to Me.” And I’m sure PFB Young Farmers & Rancher Coordinator, Richard Neubauer, was stirred by his standing ovation. So it 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. No. Ms. Shapiro didn’t get a standing ovation, but I’d be surprised (and disappointed if she didn’t stir up some action on the part of young farmers to correct the image she drew of agriculture MFB. I had a similar experience at SOBEYAN 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 viewpoints on expanded exports and our concerns regarding organized labor’s influence on the agricultural industry. He also made me angry! In giving credit to the AFB for bringing public opinion to American consumers I added: “The only other vehicle that has done that in the last decade is Ed Broadbent.”

The only other vehicle? What about those Farm Bureau members who, every year, went to Washington to voice concerns to 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

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MICHIGAN FARM NEWS April, 1978

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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 sub-committee of the House Committee on Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Speaking on behalf of the 2.6 million family-member APBF, 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. 10977), 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 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.
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

“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 Tuylen
Dowagiac

“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 APBF 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 am anxious for spring to arrive to be able to use the first Safemark steel products I have purchased.”

Richard Nelson
West Branch

“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

“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 treads 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. Bonda’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
"It's the People that Keep Me Going"

-- Don Ruhlig, South Region

An easy smile and friendly greeting warmed the rainy 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. By 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 to hope to find the agent 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 how 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 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 the legislature. Women, too, are needed to represent the agricultural viewpoint at the legislature. He reminds them that legislators do not schedule important hearings at the farmer's convenience. He asks that Farm Bureau's AC-TION WOMEN, they must be involved in determining the course of agricultural legislation.

(Continued on Page 13)
"Farmers of our country do a better job at lower costs when producing at full capacity. We do not fear competition."

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 Trade Mission chairman, was 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 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 competition among farmers of the world that all citizens will benefit."

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Trade Negotiator Assures Farmers

Treaty will be Equitable to 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 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 governmental 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 meeting. The plan was 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 pinto and kidney beans, officials assured Powell that all types of dry beans, including navies, are welcomed.

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.

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.
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 legislative 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.

**MFB Members Communicate with Legislators**

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 irrespective 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.

**“Friends of Agriculture” Will Get F.B. Support**

Political Action Program Underway

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George Robb, Livingston; Al Prillwitz, Berrien; Clay Maxwell, Livingston; Al Prillwitz, Berrien; Clay Maxwell, Gladwin; Robert Lamoreaux, Kent, and Myra Hand, Cheboygan.

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.

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 irrespective of their political affiliation."

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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**

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

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SUPPLY REPORT
By Greg Sheffield

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 is a soil insecticide and is extremely short supply due to a shortage of methyl isocyanate. Union Carbide, the basic manufacturer of this chemical intermediate. The manufacturing plant that produces MDC 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 fees 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.

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 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 cooperative 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.
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 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 encouragement 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.

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

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.

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 ______. (Balance due 45 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

My cruise package should be scheduled from: __________________________

Reservation request and deposit check should be sent to Mr. Kenneth Wiles
Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30660
Lansing, Michigan 48909
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 proponents 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 practices, 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 $4.5 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. budget. Mostly in those areas which the Administration considers "high priority". This includes emphasis on human nutrition research.

600 Attend Live Stock Meeting

"Together we can do anything that agriculture needs at M.S.U.," James Anderson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU, told an appreciative audience of nearly 600 at the Michigan Livestock 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 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 urged 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. "NEW, 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 nitrates as a preservative and sulfite residues in pork. "Neither compound has been proven harmful to people and yet we are being threatened by laws 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.' 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?"
Sanilac County 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 annual partner 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 increase 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 - completely - that’s where most of our rented acreage comes from. We’re really farming with our land this way, since all of us have a stake in the crop.”

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 swath openers, this 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 (.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 cultivatotc 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. The 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 the land 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 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 save fuel, preserving equipment wear and tear, and reduces soil compaction.”

So, when Russ and Dan stop to pick up their preplant herbicides for use this spring, they figure they’ll be getting a better and easier 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 construction is taking hold in Michigan. Interested hogmen can contact their Farm Bureau dealers for information or 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

FARM SUPPLY REPORT

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 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 will be additional and growing markets in several foreign countries for such products as variety meats, livers, trimmings, bacon, kidneys, and tripe. Through the expansion of these markets, all segments of the meat 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 $50,000 for 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.

DONNA

(Continued from Page 2)

those Farm Bureau members who participated in the Speakers' Bureau and mail promotions to share the story of agriculture with the non-farm public? What about those county Farm Bureau presidents who, in meetings with the 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, Sanilac, Tuscola, Arenac, Bay, Genesee, Lapeer, Midland, Iosco, Gladwin and St. Clair Counties.

Spring Ahead with Farmers Petroleum

The Acre-Maker...
Farmers Petroleum Custom Diesel Fuel

Farmers Petroleum developed it . . . power-balanced Custom Diesel Fuel. This premium product will help you work more acres per gallon. Custom Diesel is power balanced with a High Cetane rating, High lubricity to protect the injection system, and less engine deposits for less engine wear.

Clean-burning, power-balanced Custom Diesel fuel is a Farmers Petroleum exclusive. Ask your nearest Farmers Petroleum dealer today about Custom Diesel fuel and his convenient delivery program.

"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.

Under the physical disaster loan program the interest rate on the first $250,000 is 3 percent and 6 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.
MFB Policies Presented to Governor
Request Support of Five-Point Action Plan

Michigan Farm Bureau officials met with Governor Milliken on March 9 for their annual presentation of MFB’s policy book. In presenting the 1976 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 Taxation. “Farmers pay 50 per cent of the property tax on farms.”

**PRODUCT LIABILITY INSURANCE** - Farm Bureau is in full support of H.B. 5689. Farmers are being subjected to increased 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** - Governor’s budget recommended appropriations for X-Disease control, which Farm Bureau strongly supports, and 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 marketings 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. 5864, 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 we are pleased to note that the DNR also feels it has been successful.”

**TRANSPORTATION** - Farm Bureau has been active in an effort to reach an agreement on transportation package, they reported. The complaints 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 the federal and other programs encourage direct sales of agricultural produce to consumers through pick-up programs. “We are concerned that many producers are not protecting themselves with Worker Compensation and are, therefore, vulnerable to serious consequences,” they explained. “Agriculture is dependent upon 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.”

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS** - This is a point of contention between Farm Bureau and the Governor. “From a standpoint 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.

The 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 compete, we can make 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 as much as we are making research one of their number-one priorities by providing adequate funding.”

**FARM INCOME SITUATION** - The Farm Bureau 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 has the authority to expand the set-asides and offer diversion payment,” they explained.

“We recognize that this is an essential national and international problem, but it has a great impact on agriculture in Michigan. We request the support of your office and the Michigan Legislature in urging a quick and effective implementation of this program by the Secretary of Agriculture.” You, as chairman of the National Corn Growers Conference, are 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.

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 Homepage). Five county board members, two county secretaries, two town 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 1960’s with over 1500 groups. Michigan’s Community Group program was often used as a model for other state Farm Bureaus.

Then the agricultural community started changing. Farming became more complicated businesses, requiring more time and attention of farmers to protect their 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 coordinator (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 30060, Lansing 48909.

Community Groups

 Powell Protects “Potlucks”

What’s more American than hot dogs and apple pie? Community potluck dinners. Americans have been gathering their friends and neighbors to build a fire in the barn, toss 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 held here in Michigan last 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 widely enforced the provisions of Public Act 269 of 1968. This act requires licensing and inspection of food service establishments and prohibits cooking in locations to insure standards of sanitation and public health are observed. Through the process of interpretation of P.A. 269, county public health officials have been declared “community style diners” which offer homemade foods to the public.

In the 651-1200 category, the women who organize these events as fundraisers for charitable or civic projects were initially willing to cooperate with the requirements of the health department. But their compliance did not bring relief. After agreeing to send their potential to an inspected church or community kitchen, another barrage of demands was added, including, “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 hot dogs at a fair booth, and in some counties they learned, potluck luncheons prepared by family members and members 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 annul the current Public Health law, P.A. 269, which was the basis for all 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 simply, “This act shall not apply to a charitable, religious, fraternal, service, civic or other non-profit organization operating a food service or vending machine facility. Inspectors even prohibited certain foods from being served.

According to Rep. Powell, the amendment had tremendous bipartisan support in the House. 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 non-community service activities.

Powell does anticipate some resistance from the Michigan Department of Public Health, which has such obviously strong support in the House, their hope is that the legislation is just pie in the sky.

FBBG is Winner

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge has announced that Farm Bureau Insurance Group has been selected as the George Washington Honor Medal Award for its sponsorship of the National "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 role 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 $100.

A panel of Michigan dignitaries determines the final ranking of the top essays.

As sponsor of the "America & Me" contest since 1968, FBBG has now received eight national awards from the Freedoms Foundation.
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 past member of the board of directors of the Kent County ASCS Committee. He and his wife, Janet, 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 Michigan State University. Amman and his wife, Clara, have four children.

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Laverne P. Bivens
LaDine Farms
Bellevue, Michigan

If you are interested in learning more about the Farm Bureau FARM RECORDS PROGRAM, use the coupon below or call (517) 321-5661, Ext. 548.

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Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Address: ____________________________

"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.'
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 gets the chains on the tractor. Notice that one tractor is not enough 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 pull him out yourself no matter how hard he claims he will stay. No farmer remains rational when only the smokestack and seat can be seen above the moundline.

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 as rapidly as I do although he in the planting season has 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 window.

Spring fever is creeping in as the snow melts. It has various ways of showing in our family.

Search for Oldest Co-op

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MABC) annual awards committee will attempt to improve the organization and quality of awards presented at the MABC 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 Leake Cooperative and chairman of the awards committee, requests that each MABC member cooperative consider the possibilities of nominating and/or making suggestions for the committee.

Information for 1978 MABC Awards Committee

Name of Cooperative (co-op)
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

Open Line Meetings Attract Hundreds

On Farm Labor Contractors Act

Michigan Congressman Dave Stockman testified recently before the Subcommittee on Economic Development of the House Committee on Economic Development and Government Operations, urging passage of two bills to amend the Farm Labor Contractors Act of 1963. The bills were introduced to end harassment of farmers and to protect migrant workers and farmers into a weapon to be used against the farmer.

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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 imports, they must 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 fertilizer industry, the machinery 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 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 workers who came to Washington were aware of that. They had been given a 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 where labor's ideal for labor to come in and have an influence and ultimately a take-over," he warned. "I think that's what 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 1975," 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 convert the 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 as crucial as the opportunities for expanded trade. "We are jeopardizing that opportunity by telling the Chinese that 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 soybean germplasm 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.

Darwin Stolte, President U.S. Feed Grains Council, spoke to SOYBEAN DAY VI participants.
As of April 1, 1978, 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.

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TOWN __________ STATE ______ ZIP ______
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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 7773 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Mich. 48909

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.

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.

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
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 may have no one to turn to for help. 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 he is on the sick list? Or how many could continue farming at all if they were injured so seriously that they could no longer perform common farm work?

Accidents are the greatest 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, like other farm workers, need safety precautions.

But on-farm injuries don't have to happen as often as they do. A recent National Safety Council 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 name for a group of wearable safety devices that includes shatter-proof goggles, steel-toe boots, respirators, plus an assembly 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 on the farm. One of the most important dangers in the farm is the risk of death from work-related accidents. These dangers include those caused by machines, gases, noise and other hazards. For this, the farm worker must be protected.

Machinery

Machinery has revolutionized farming. They are the backbone of modern farming. But at the same time, they can be involved in tragic, costly, and possibly fatal 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, feeder, grinder, corn 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 sit, start, stop, adjust, feed, or help run - any of them unless the farm is owned or operated by their father or legal guardian, or if they are 14 or over and have a training certificate. Children under 16 cannot operate machines 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 included, 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, APBF Young Farmer and Ranchers Coordinator, conducted three classes for farmers in Action, stressing the importance of developing leadership abilities in Young Farmers, in addition to addressing 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 agricultural business 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 that 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.

St. Clair Members Visit WJR

Forty-seven members of the St. Clair County Farm Bureau visited the WJR studios 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 personnel.

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.
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 Leadership" 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.

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 Mennis 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.

FBS Employee Honored as “Driver of the Month”

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard (Bud) Ekema of Kalamazoo receive congratulations from Rep. Robert Wolbom (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.

Michigan 4-Her Honored

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard (Bud) Ekema of Kalamazoo receive congratulations from Rep. Robert Wolbom (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.

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-Hers 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
FARM NEWS

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership, additional words 10 cents each. Figures as 12 or $11.50 count as one word NON-MEMBER ad. Word count includes all words. Copy deadline: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 466, Lansing, 48904. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

FARM EQUIPMENT


FOR SALE: 10' x 12' x 8' storage shed. Used for 5 years. $300. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 15' x 20' metal building. Used for 4 years. $1500. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 20' x 30' metal barn. Used for 10 years. $2500. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE: 30 dairy cows. $300 each. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 40 beef cattle. $500 each. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 50 pigs. $100 each. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 60 chickens. $10 each. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: 100 gallons of diesel fuel. $1 per gallon. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 200 gallons of gasoline. $1.25 per gallon. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 300 gallons of water. $1.50 per gallon. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: 400 gallons of milk. $1.75 per gallon. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

NURSERY STOCK

FOR SALE: Blueberry bushes. $10 per bush. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

FOR SALE: Cherry trees. $15 per tree. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.


REAL ESTATE

WANTED TO RENT: 1 bedroom apartment. $500 per month. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

WANTED TO RENT: 2 bedroom house. $800 per month. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

WANTED TO RENT: 3 bedroom house. $1200 per month. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.

WANTED TO RENT: 4 bedroom house. $1500 per month. Call [City, State] 517-123-4567.
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