Farm News

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

VOL. 57, NO. 6 JUNE, 1978



Despite reluctant spring weather, pansies, a hardier variety of bedding plant, can be cultivated out-of-doors and bursts into an array of summery colors.

Look at This, Mother Nature!

Michigan's bedding plant industry upstaged the grand dame of Spring once again. Underneath the protective shelter of greenhouses, geraniums, marigolds, petunias and vegetable seedlings flourish, as does this multi-million dollar enterprise centered at Comstock, Michigan.

Although competition from southern growers is increasing, Michigan's bedding plant producers continue to capture southern markets. Growers like Jim Hetrick, owner of Hetrick's Greenhouse, ship over 80 percent of their brightlycolored crop to retailers south of Nashville, Tennessee.

According to Roger Tuinier, co-owner of Ed Tuinier and Sons Greenhouse, seed or "slip" plantings begin in January and are scheduled to meet the southern market demand for bedding plants, which peaks in April. The

growing season generally closes in late May or early June after deliveries to northern markets have been completed.

What's the reason for the petal power of Michigan bedding plant growers in southern climates? Surprisingly, the cooler Michigan climate allows the northern horticulturist to artificially duplicate optimum growing temperatures in the greenhouse through the use of heating or cooling to promote or retard the growth of the bloom. Insulating glass or plastic protects the young plants from damaging temperatures while giant fans pull warm air over the plants, simultating the summery warmth of a June morning. The traditional covering

The traditional covering material for a greenhouse is glass, but heat loss through glass is higher than the heat loss through any of the other available greenhouse materials. The material being used more and more in commercial greenhouses is air-separated double polyethylene.

According to Roger Tuinier, structural damage from heavy winter snows is also a problem. "We had a few tense weeks this winter when the weight of accumulated snows might have c o l l a p s e d s o m e greenhouses," he says. Cost of replacing a single greenhouse can be as much as \$50,000. PAGE 2

From the Desk of the President



certain to have problems;

most farmers do. . . Perhaps,

as you plowed your fields this

spring, you've been thinking about those problems and

pondering possible solutions. That wouldn't be unusual;

farmers have been doing some of their most creative

thinking on the seat of a

tractor for a long time. In

fact, it's where much of our

Farm Bureau policy is

The solutions to most of the

problems farmers face seem

too complex, too demanding

for a farmer to tackle by himself and the "battle foes"

that must be met in working for the solutions are many

and mighty. So the inclination

is sometimes strong to shrug

our shoulders (what can one

man - or woman - do?) and accept the "inevitable.

Nearly 60 years ago, farm-ers decided they did not

ave to accept the 'inevitable," that they could

change things for the better

by working together through

an organization. That's why Farm Bureau was formed -

to solve problems - and that's still its reason for being today. Very simply, Farm

Bureau is nothing more than

a group of farmers combining

their efforts, their talents,

and their resources to do

accept

'born.

have

RE: IT'S PROBLEM-SOLVING TIME AGAIN

whatever needs to be done. . and which none of them, by themselves, could do.

Farm Bureau can be its whatever farmermembers want it to be; farmers can solve whatever problems need solving through Farm Bureau. To do this most effectively, they must take those problemsolution ideas down off the tractor seat and into the policy development process.

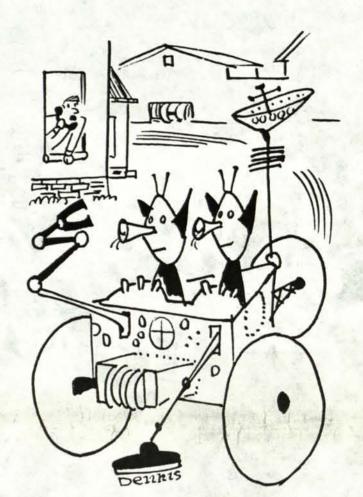
Bureau Farm and agriculture need the creative thinking and input of professional, progressive farmers to formulate the best possible solutions to problems. And the time for that input is NOW. Don't shrug your shoulders and allow your apathy to rob the agricultural community of the good, solid, constructive thinking that will lead to the solution of a problem. Share your concerns and ideas with your county Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee. Get INVOLVED in the problem-solving process by participating in the surveys many of the county P.D. and commodity committees will be conducting, by making your voice heard at county, district and state policy development meetings, by attending your county and state annual meetings.

The policies which are adopted, and which will guide the organization in all its activities for the coming year, will reflect the thinking of those farmer-members who were willing to invest

their time and efforts in the policy development process. We're often guilty of talking about the organization's policies as if Farm Bureau were an "it," when we really should be defining the process more accurately: farmers'

developed and policies, executed by farmers through Farm Bureau.

It is because Farm Bureau is PEOPLE, people working together to solve their problems, that it has remained flexible to meet the



"HEY SAM-WHAT'S FARM BUREAU'S POLICY ON OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON PRI-VATE PROPERTY?"

changing needs of farmers. Our policy on political action is one example. There was a when nearly time all legislators were either farmers or were familiar enough with agriculture to make knowledgeable decisions affecting the industry. Therefore, this was not an issue of concern to farmers. Today, however, that situation has reversed itself and farmers realize that having "friends of having "friends of agriculture" in elected of-fices is vital to their industry. So they developed policy calling for a Political Action Program and are now in the process of executing that policy. Many members have made contributions to MFB's Political Action Committee for disbursement to candidates who best support the philosophy and policies of Farm Bureau members. I urge every member to consider making a voluntary contribution to the MFB Political Action Committee.

I congratulate the Jackson. Calhoun and Macomb County Farm Bureau members who have formed their own Mini-PACs. They recognized the need for local action and are working to meet that need. And it all started because a farmer left his plow in the field, where an idea was born, and took the time to put it in the Farm Bureau policy development hopper.

That's what Farm Bureau is all about -- YOU, in action. Elton R. Smith

We're Gonna Make It After All. .

One-and-a-two-and-a . . . hit it! Happy anniversary to us, happy anniversary to us, happy anniversary, dear editors, happy anniversary to us

While management decides whether to (1) throw a party in our honor, (2) give us a holiday, (3) fly the flag out front at half-mast, or (4) ignore the event - your FARM NEWS editors will celebrate their first an-niversary by baking their own cake ... since no one else is likely to remember this milestone in our lives.

And while we eat our cake and toast each other on making it through a whole year, we'll also meditate on the character-building experiences we've had.

There was a lot of skepthe ticism when announcement was made that three women had been named as editors of our official Farm Bureau publication. We were aware of that skepticism; in fact, it may have been the motivator that spurred us to work extra hard, to tackle the new challenge with GRIT! All the male chauvanists may

rise up and spit in my eye -but there is some truth in the saying: "Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought as good .

But you can hardly blame anyone for being skeptical. Could three women (city 'girls'' at that) really handle a farm publication? We had some reservations ourselves .

. I mean, after all, I could remember (many years ago) the look of horror on the editor's face when I pulled a stock photo of a cow (a closeup head shot) to use with a June Dairy Month story I had written -- and it was a beef cow. A rose may be a rose is a rose is a rose, but a cow is NOT a cow is a cow is a cow. Like I said - the skepticism was not unfounded.

There have been times in the past year when we've questioned our sanity in accepting the responsibility of editing this paper. These times have been limited, mostly, to the three days prior to print date each month when the words just won't come, even though the labor pains are two minutes apart,

and have to be pulled out by the forceps of seconds ticking toward the deadline. That's a formidable word: DEAD-LINE. In our business, it means the line you've been waiting to deliver itself from your weary brain is dead if it isn't born until after the presses are rolling. After the words have been

born, the typesetter digests them and spews them out in nice, long, neat columns which we must now cut and paste into place to form a readable page. And (&+!&) it won't fit! It might if we turn the picture sideways . . . Got any holes on your page?

. How about trading me a 6inch story for a 15-inch story? (Whimper!) Oh! Oh! I just lost three lines. Have you got my three lines? Not in the wastebasket, not on the floor, not on the table ... ah! on the bottom of my shoe, where else? (Scream! Pound head on wall.) Start over again. Clock ticking. Keep calm. Put that there and that just below, the picture over here, and cut the last paragraph -- oh, those beautiful words - goodbye, words. Hallelujah! It fits!

We're unapproachable during this period . . . short-tempered, eyes glazed, brain on single-circuit, hair frazzled, clothes rumpled. The brave ones who dare tread into the inner sanctum during deadline time slink out again, mumbling something about what ever happened to those nice ladies who used to work here.

But like Jekyll and Hyde, the day AFTER we go to press, we're effervescent, constantly grinning or giggling, ready to join the human race once again. Our finished product may not look as dramatic as we had dreamed, it may have some imperfections -- but it's our child. We glow with pride at positive reactions, and suffer as parents do - when someone spots a flaw.

We've tried hard not to allow the content and appearance of this publication shout "I am edited by women." Augers, conveyors, wheat, harvesting, agricultural dignitaries and legislators have graced our front cover. But, it's spring ...



and it's our anniversary . and we ARE women . . . and we like flowers. And we've been good all year, so we thought we deserved this June cover bouquet. We hope you enjoy it, too.

As we review our first year and critically study the pages of back issues, it brings back many fond memories . . of the Farm Bureau experiences we have shared with Farm Bureau people. And our analysis is this: if we keep on listening, really listening, to them - the real experts - and share their concerns and challenges and triumphs, we may "make it" after all. Maybe that's more important than recognizing the make and model of a cow.

PAC Moves Ahead on Member Policy

Farm Bureau members have long realized that political decisions are made daily which affect agriculture. Serving their information needs regarding candidates and issues which play a significant role in those decisions has been the Michigan Farm Bureau Political Education Program. Although that program has proven to be relatively effective, recent state and federal election campaign laws provide authority for Farm Bureau to become more actively involved in the political process through a political action program.

Delegates to the 1977 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting adopted a policy in support of a 6-part program to develop an aggressive and effective political action program which would include the formation of an MFB Political Action Committee (PAC) and assistance to Farm Bureaus county

desiring to form their own Political Action Committees (Mini-PAC). The policydeveloped program also includes analysis of voting records and legislative efforts of elected officials and designation of the "friends of agriculture" for those in-cumbents who have established a satisfactory record of supporting Farm Bureau policy, regardless of party affiliation.

Bi-Partisan Committee Appointed

In April, a bi-partisan Political Action Committee was appointed and duly registered with the State of Michigan in conformance with the campaign reform law. The MFB PAC will soon register with the Federal Election Commission. Committee members in-



Arthur Bailey, (right) District 1 Director, presents his contribution to PAC to the committee's treasurer, Robert E. Braden.

otal

clude: Chairman Larry DeVuyst (Gratiot County), Myra Hand (Cheboygan County), Bob Lamoreaux (Kent County), Clay Maxwell (Gladwin County), Al Prillwitz (Berrien County) and George Robb (Livingston County). Responsibilities of the 1978 PAC are analysis of voting records and bipartisan candidate positions on agricultural issues. In addition to those analyses,

the Committee will offer information assistance to county Farm Bureaus regarding state and federal election laws and will advise county Farm Bureaus wishing to form their own Mini-PAC's.

Voluntary contributions to the Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee are being received from members and may be sent to the MFB PAC, Public Affairs Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909. County Farm Bureau PAC's have been formed in Calhoun, Jackson and Macomb counties and members in those counties may contribute directly to their county Farm Bureau.

Several other counties are also considering formation of a county level Political Action Committee. For further information regarding either the state or county Farm Bureau PAC, please contact the Public Affairs Division of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Will Coordinate PAC



DR. JAMES AHL

Dr. James Ahl has been the PAC program. appointed to the MFB Public A native of Affairs Division as Special Projects Coordinator. Initially, Ahl will be working full time on research and coordination phases of the 1978 MFB Political Action Program (PAC) and research for designating Friends of Agriculture under

A native of Rawlins, Wyoming, he served as Executive Director of the of Land Use Office Administration for the State of Wyoming for the last two years.

His appointment was effective April 24.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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can actually help you make more money. You probably have times when you need a lot of cash ... and times when you have lots of cash coming in. But the two

Cash flow planning

just never seem to come together at the right time! \Box But when you know your farm's *cash flow*. you have a better idea of *when* you'll need a loan and how *much* you'll need to borrow. And you'll get the money in hand when you can do the most with it ... which might even include taking some discounts that'll help cover the interest.
Cash flow planning is important. See us...and we'll help you start.

Typical farm's cash flow

When your cash is short:-When your cash is short: Cash flow planning lets you precisely time your borrowing...not too early and not too late..so you can get volume-purchase prices and take prompt payment discrum's - sometimes more than enough to put the interest on your loan. \$\$\$\$\$

When you have ex'ra cash: 555 Cash flow planning lets you pay up loans at *earliest* possible date to help keep interest to a *minimum*.

MAR MAY JULY SEPT

When you have extra cash: Cash flow planning lets you get the earliest possible start in earning interest from short-term investments such as savings accounts, honds, or commercial paper.

EXPENSES When your cash is short: Cash flow planning lets you accurately predict when and how the situation will change ...so you can confidently negotiate payment terms to fit your anticipated cash flow

Production Gradit Associations of Michigan

Farming is everybody's bread & butter

PAGE 4

Stoney Creek Drain Case in Circuit Court

Once again, the state and farmers have squared off in court, this time involving the Stoney Creek Drain project in rural Clinton County, which could have a statewide impact regarding farm drains.

What began as a project to clean up a creek that was causing flooding of adjacent farmland, has resulted in a circuit court case in which the defendant must prove his innocence under broad provisions of the Rockwell Environmental Protection Act.

The Rockwell Environ-mental Protection Act Protection Act provides that any person can seek an injunction against another person whom he believes is, or is likely, to damage the environment, and the defendant must prove his innocence.

Over the years, Stoney Over the years, blocky Creek has grown over with brush, causing flooding of adjacent farmland. Con-cerned with the flooding, local farmers petitioned the county drain commissioner, through provisions of the drain code, to clean the creek. With subsequent approval, cleaning operations began last fall.

However, stating that it was the responsibility to protect natural resources and that fish and wildlife were being irreparably affected, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs went to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requesting that the project be stopped. After meeting with the farmers, the DNR stated the project could continue with several stipulations, including -- (1) that the natural meanders of the creek be left, (2) that only one side of the creek be cleaned and (3) that rocks and stones removed during cleaning be replaced in several locations.

Agreement was then reached on most of the stipulations during negotiations with the drain commissioner, local farmers and the DNR. However, the negotiations broke off when the DNR would not recognize a contract signed with the contractor which already included several of the stipulations. The DNR in-sisted that a special agreement be signed with them, which the defendants refused.

Consequently, the DNR filed suit in circuit court requesting a temporary restraining order against the project, which was granted. As the case opens, the DNR is asking for a permanent in asking for a permanent in-junction against the project. The case was to be heard in

St. Johns on May 11 and 12, but was halted on May 11 when questions about the when questions about the legality of the case arose. Acting Circuit Court Judge James Banks gave the Department of Natural Resources 10 days to file briefs and show why the hearing should continue. Following that, the defen-dants have 10 days to file an dants have 10 days to file an answer and then the judge will rule.

FARM NEWS

Eaton Farmer Victim of Rural Crime

What would you do if you before he could replace it lost your primary tractor during the most critical period in corn planting season which is already late, wet and cold? Could you find one to replace it at a reasonable cost, keeping lost planting time at a minimum? An Eaton County farmer experienced this problem recently when one of two tractors left in a field unat-tended for less than 24 hours was stolen.

Mark Smuts, Eaton County Farm Bureau president, became a victim of rural crime in early May when one of two tractors left in a 100acre field was stolen during the night. Smuts estimated that he lost a good 31/2 to four days because of the loss of the tractor during planting season, which is already late due to inclement weather, with a new one. Following his loss, Smuts

made this suggestion to other farmers, "Get your equip-ment marked, especially with your driver's license number, like we're promoting now through Farm Bureau, or get it home in a shed at night."

Michigan State Police First District Coordinator Sgt. Lee McDowell reinforced Smuts' suggestion stating, "We farmers in encourage counties that have the Farm Bureau Rural Crime Prevention program to participate in marking their equipment to assist both insurance companies and law enforcement in recovering stolen property."

Atttitudes of citizens have an impact on the effectiveness of law enofficials forcement in preventing rural crime. If a theft is unreported, the police are unaware that a crime has been committed and cannot take any action. If a crime is reported, police will respond to a complaint, possibly recover the stolen property and also develop a preventive program.

JUNE, 1978

Ron Nelson, Local Affairs Specialist and coordinator of the Michigan Farm Bureau Rural Crime Preventiin Program stated, "We would strongly encourage farmers in counties that have the Farm Bureau marking kits to take time and mark their equipment with their Michigan driver's license number so that in the event they are a victim of rural crime, law enforcement officers may be able to recover the stolen property."



Standing by one of two tractors left unattended in a field, Michigan State Police Trooper Mel Zalud, Lansing Post Community Service Officer (right), takes a theft report from Mark Smuts, on the tractor which was stolen.

Stoney Creek--Ducks & Pheasants Vs. Production of Food

By Marcia Ditchie

The implications of the Stoney Creek drainage case, now in St. Johns Circuit Court, could extend far beyond whether or not the county will be allowed to continue cleaning the drain. Two residents of Clinton County, one a local farmer who has experienced flooding from Stoney Creek, and the other, a county commissioner and farmer, shared their views on the potential far-reaching implications on agriculture should the Department of Natural the Resources (DNR) win the

circuit court case. Don Witt, Clinton County Farm Bureau President and one of several local farmers fighting for the cleaning of the creek, explained why farmers are upset about the DNR suit with the drain. "They're shutting us off of digging the creek and won't let us get rid of our water. We tried five years ago to open a ditch above here that empties into the Stoney and they wouldn't let us, and now they've stopped us from opening the Stoney; and that's what's bothering us."



DON WITT

Witt also expressed concerns regarding drainage systems in the state should the DNR win the suit, "If the DNR wins this suit, I don't think we'll be able to open any ditches in Michigan; I think it will affect all of the state. I think they're trying to get ahold of the water rights in Michigan and control them the way they want them controlled."

Witt foresees some possible retaliation by local farmers should the county lose the case. "If the DNR is successful in getting this stopped, farmers are so upset, there will not be any hunters allowed on their land again,' he stated.

"We need the DNR, but there should be a limit to what they can do," concluded Witt.

Bob Zeeb, a Clinton County commissioner and farmer, echoed some of Witt's con-cerns regarding control of agricultural drains, "I think it's more of a basis of not just Stoney Creek, per se, but a struggle between who's going to control agricultural drainage, the Department of Agriculture or the DNR."

Zeeb is also concerned about the implications for



BOB ZEEB

agriculture if the DNR wins this court battle and gains more influence over the control of drains. "Basically, you're going to get to the point that the DNR, and maybe it's their charge, is more interested in ducks and pheasants than they are in the

production of food," he said.

Zeeb expressed concerns that the DNR is over-stepping its boundaries when it comes to private land. "We all like clean water and like to hunt, but somewhere there has to be a happy medium. When you have a wet area on private land that was in fact once farmed, the DNR is way past what they're supposed to be doing when they say you can't drain that again. That's private land, they're (farmers) paying taxes on it, that's agricultural land, and I think it's wrong that the DNR can get involved."

If Clinton County loses the court case, what alternative would the local farmers have? Zeeb sees it this way, "If they lose, they can't dig it themselves. It's a county drain and it can't be dug any other way but by however the judge determines. I would assume that if they're unable to clean the drain, and that's all they want to do, they're just going to have to let the land lie idle."

FARM NEWS

Citizenship Seminar Ethel Fulton is "Mrs. Safety"

Planned for Youth

Accent on **Political** Activities

On Monday, June 19, the opportunity for them to nnual Young People's question, to formulate annual Citizenship Seminar spon-sored by the Michigan Farm Bureau will begin on the campus of Albion College, Albion, Michigan. A record number of 224 Michigan high school juniors and seniors will take part in this year's five-day political forum for youth.

According to Citizenship eminar Committee Seminar Committee Chairperson, Donald Currey, the MFB sponsored event will feature workshop sessions, speakers, political rallies, caucuses and elections in-volving every student. "In this seminar, the young people will take part in small group problem-solving sessions which encourage the application of facts and in-

question, to formulate opinion, to become truly informed citizens!"

The participating students, sponsored by county Farm Bureau organizations, will perform as "political party" delegates, candidates for office and "registered office and "registered voters."

In the past years, the two-party system has provided enthusiastic campaigning among the students. However, the addition of a third political faction designated the Independents will give a new and in-teresting dimension to the vote gathering efforts of the two major parties. The Independents will not be considered as a separate political party, but will make formation provided by guest speakers," said Currey. "Here is an unforgetable Federalists or the Populists.

Years of dedication and hard work toward promotion of safety on the farm were rewarded with statewide recognition for Ethel (Mrs. Robert) Fulton on April 26 when she was crowned "Mrs. Safety of 1978." Mrs. Fulton received the title during ceremonies at the Lansing Civic Center as part of the 48th annual Michigan Safety Conference.

An active member of the An active member of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau, Mrs. Fulton is a partner in the Fulton farm operation in Oakley. She is a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's committee, representing eight counties in the Saginaw Valley area, and serves as chairman of the Safety and Health subcommittee for the Farm Bureau Women.

Under her leadership, several safety and health projects have been adopted and promoted by Farm Bureau Women throughout the state. Two of the most successful projects have been the promotion and sale of smoke detectors and escape ladders in farm homes (to date, the Farm Bureau Women have sold 2000 smoke detectors and 200 escape



A smiling Ethel Fulton accepts congratulations after the crowning ceremony.

ladders), and the development and conducting of tractor safety lessons for farm women. She and her Safety Committee have worked with Dr. Richard Pfister and Howard Doss of Michigan State University in

developing the lessons and also in conducting area training meetings and a state

workshop on both projects. The "Mrs. Safety" contest is sponsored annually by the Women's Division of the Michigan Safety Conference.

Governor Lauds Mrs. Powell

Bill Signed: Potluck Supper Tradition Saved

Gov. William G. Milliken, delegation of homemakers on May 4, signed HB 6090 from Ionia County. Mrs. (I.E.), a bill removing any Powell, the wife of State Rep. doubts about the legality of Stanley Powell, was in-the potluck supper in strumental in focusing public Michigan.

House Chambers in necessary. ceremonies which included "This bill serves as a Mrs. Eleanor Powell and a healthy reminder of the need

The bill was signed in the which made the bill

to maintain some common sense in the writing of laws and in the enforcement of those laws," Milliken said in signing the bill. "It also serves as welcome proof that individual citizens can cause changes when they feel government is becoming overzealous and

unreasonable in its actions." Mrs. Powell was prompted to act after local health of-ficials had ruled the state Food Service Sanitation Act required that any food served at a public gathering had to be prepared in a licensed kitchen. The bill specifically exempts from that law charitable, religious, fraternal, service, civic and other nonprofit organizations who conduct baked good sales or serve home-prepared food in connection with meetings, as part of a public service or

as a fund-raising event. "The potluck supper is an American institution which has endured through the years," the Governor said. "Today we recognize that it is even stronger than governmental bureaucracy.

"We have had some fun with this bill as it progressed through the Legislature. I know that the opportunity to have a piece of Mrs. Powell's

cherry pie makes this one of the most enjoyable bill signings in which I have personally participated. "But it also serves as a

serious reminder of the need for us to be on guard to insure that government remains reasonable and that we do not allow it to become so preoccupied with one goal in this case the regulation of food served to the public that it is taken to totally unreasonable lengths. "I commend Mrs. Powell

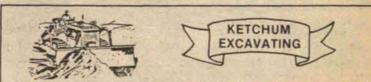
and the homemakers from Ionia County for their willingness to take up their cause. I also thank them for bringing to the Capitol today proof of the value of this bill."

Mrs. Powell baked a cherry pie for the Governor especially for the occasion. The Ionia homemakers brought a total of 25 homemade pies to the Capitol to serve in honor of the occasion.

Insured

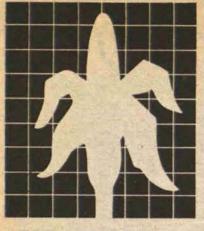


Governor Milliken accepts a cherry pie, baked especially for him by Mrs. Eleanor Powell, to celebrate the signing of HB 6090. Her proud husband, Representative Stanley Powell, vouches for the deliciousness of his wife's homemade pie. The Governor called it "one of the most enjoyable bill signings" in which he had participated.



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FARM NEWS



Marketing Outlook

AFBF OBJECTIVE Beef Research & Promotion

The American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors has directed the Federation to continue work with other organizations to achieve common objectives for strengthening beef research and promotion, including possible amendments to the Beef Research and Information Act passed by Congress in 1976.

Our Farm Bureau policy calls for the following two changes in the Beef Research and Information Act;

1. An amendment to provide that for a beef referendum. To be valid 50 percent of the registered producers must have voted with a majority - rather than two-thirds casting an affirmative vote.

2. An amendment to provide that no producer shall be required to sign his or her ballot in a beef referendum.

AFBF recognizes the immediate need of funding for beef research and information and the time required for consideration and implementation of Beef Research and Information

Act and is encouraging a uniform voluntary beef collection rate at the state level of 25 cents per head with a minimum of 10 cents per head to be contributed to the National Livestock and Meat Board for the national program.

Farm Bureau also will intensify efforts to expand export markets for livestock and livestock products including continued membership in the U.S. Meat Export Federation. RESEARCH RECOMME-

NDED Based on recommendations of its Beef Cattle Advisory Committee, the AFBF Board of Directors supported further research concerning beef production and marketing cycles to determine what Farm Bureau might do to control the cycles or protect members from harmful consequences. This work should include a feasibility study of a computerized reporting system to inform producers of trends and cattle cycles, in an effort to bring stability to the cattle industry.

Promotion Material Available Soon

JUNE 28 Grain Pricing and Exports Focus of Marketing Seminar

All Farm Bureau members are invited to attend the 4th Annual Grain Marketing Seminar sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau. This year's event will be held on June 28, 1978 at Long's Convention Center in Lansing, Michigan. Long's is located near the I-96 and Cedar Street Interchange. Free parking is available at the convention center.

This year's event will focus on international trade and grain pricing. Featured speakers and topics will include:

VERN SORENSON, Professor of Agricultural Policy, M.S.U., "GATT II Negotiations and What They Mean to Michigan Farmers"

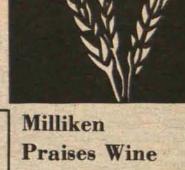
MYRON LASERSON, Senior Vice President Grain Division, Continental Grain Company, "The United States Role in World Grain Markets"

DARREL GOOD, Grain Marketing Specialist, University of Illinois, "Grain Pricing Alternatives"

DONN KUNZ, Manager Grain Department, Michigan Elevator Exchange, "Market Outlook '78"

Activities for the day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with registration and free coffee and rolls. A noon luncheon will be available at a cost of \$5.00 per person. Tickets will be available at the door.

For further information contact Michigan Farm Bureau, Market Development and Research Division, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909 or call (517) 323-7000, Ext. 548.



Industry

Gov. William G. Milliken praised the Michigan wine industry recently for its growing national stature as a producer of fine wines.

Milliken said in connection with a Michigan Wine Institute reception in Lansing:

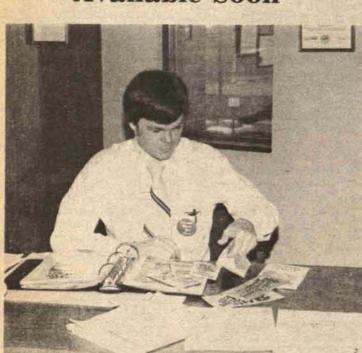
sing: "Michigan's reputation is being enhanced each year as more and more quality wines are produced and more and more people around the country become aware of that quality.

"Many of those who attended the National Governors' Association conference in Detroit last fall were impressed with the fine Michigan wines that were served at the State Dinner."

Michigan, which now ranks fifth among the wine producing states, produced 1,900 tons of wine grapes on 17,000 acres in 1977.

Much of the improvement in Michigan wines in the past few years can be attributed to the increased use of hybrid grapes capable of withstanding the Michigan climate.

"Michigan is comparing favorably with California and New York in national competition," Milliken said, "and one national magazine recently characterized the Michigan wine industry as having the potential of a mini-Napa Valley on the shores of Lake Michigan.



Ken Nye of MFB's Market Development and Research Division, is compiling a listing of commodity promotional materials for use by members at agricultural displays, at malls, schools and fairs. The listing will include places where members may obtain commodity information and other materials the various organizations have available. For further information, contact Ken at 7373 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, phone (517) 323-7000, Ext. 548.

Analysts Foresee Higher Fall Prices

No matter which advisory service or newsletter you subscribe to, nearly all of them are in agreement for once! They are talking about smaller U.S. corn and wheat crops in 1978. The door is left open, however, with a series of unanswered questions such as: How much smaller will corn and wheat crops be? What effect will this have on carryover stocks? What will world supply conditions be like this fall? What will the weather patterns be like this summer? What alternative crops (if any) farmers will turn to? The market will probably be more volatile as a result of these unanswered questions! Final results of the ever changing farm program will not be known for some time to come. This will also serve to keep the experts guessing. Delayed corn plantings and further abnormalities in the weather patterns could also send shock waves through the industry. Reduced soybean exports by Brazil could be partially offset by increased soybean plantings in the Midwest and Michigan. Toss in increasing feeding demands domestically, tighter world feed grain and wheat stocks and the uncertainty builds.

Most analysts, are at the present time, however, placing their bets on the side of stronger demand, reduced carryover supplies (especially corn and wheat) and higher prices by this fall. While a great deal of uncertainty clouds the market at this point, many traders are recommending long positions for corn, wheat and soybeans. This indicates basically a bullish outlook!

FARM NEWS

Transport Shortages Threaten Fertilizer Supplies What Can Farmers Do?

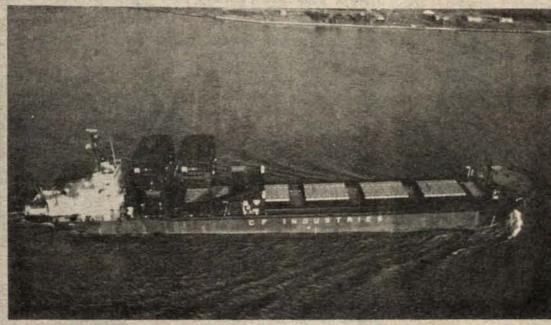
By Greg Sheffield Railcar shortages this spring harassed the entire U.S. agricultural supply business, prompting Secretary of Agriculture Bergland to call this year's railcar shortage the "worst in history." He's authorized the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to use USDA facilities to ease the problem.

Nevertheless, agricultural and suppliers farm customers who have wrestled with stop-gap measures in rail service through recent years are dissatisfied with yet another inadequate solution to their problem. Rather than moving to resolve the total rail transportation shortage, the ICC issued an order which put the movement of hopper cars needed for fertilizer in conflict with rail transportation for grain.

In Michigan, where almost all materials used in manufacturing fertilizer are shipped by railcar, the potential threat of supply shortages is serious. When stockpiled fertilizer ingredients are rapidly depleted during high demand periods, adequate re-supply is needed -- and fast! Realizing there is only so much storage capacity in the state and that replacements must come from as far as northern Canadian provinces, Florida and-or Louisiana, the problem begins to take shape.

The solution is plainly twofold: assuring availability of railroad cars when needed through immediate changes in current ICC regulations and securing additional storage space near or on the farm.

Throughout these difficult months, Farm Bureau Services has taken an aggressive role in successfully getting capacities, and (2) more on-



CF Industries integrated tug-barge was christened recently at Port of Tampa, Florida. This innovation in water transportation comprises independent tug and barge components that are joined during service and may be detached during cargo transfer. Ownership of the "Jamie A. Baxter" includes Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and 18 other North American farm supply cooperatives.

The primary assignment of this new barge-tug combination will be the transportation of phosphate fertilizers from CF Industries phosphate plants in Tampa, Florida to New Orleans for trans-shipment by northbound Mississippi barges.

With its length of 604 feet and a cargo capacity of 22,500 tons, it has a speed of 13 knots. CF Industries, Inc. manufacturers and distributes basic fertilizer materials to its 19 regional farm supply owners.

more fertilizer cars and has joined the political and regulatory fight over ICC regulations which have delayed fertilizer shipments.

Closer to the immediate concerns of local farmer patrons, Farm Bureau Services dealers have met spring fertilizer demands through FB manufacturing plants in Kalamazoo, Ottawa Lake, and Saginaw. In addition, all cooperatively-owned dealer blend plants stayed open as long as necessary for the last minute business. Where farmers have taken early supplies of Farm Bureau fertilizers and stored them on the farm, supply problems have been avoided. This hints that the issue is subject to practical solution. Suggested are: (1) larger dealer storage

site farm storage if required by actual circumstances.

What can farmers do to help? Michigan farmers are known for helping themselves and arriving at solutions through their farmer-owned cooperative, Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Knowledgeable farmers will protect themselves through the following practical measures:

1. Line up co-op fertilizers and agree to an early date of delivery.

2. Encourage dealers to take fertilizer early and build more storage. Arrange for more on-the-farm storage. Discuss these arrangements with dealers to avoid unnecessary duplication.

3. Working with Farm Bureau membership, demand priority for fertilizer shipments during spring and grain harvest.

4. Write Secretary of Agriculture Bergland and Congressional representatives to urge a complete investigation, analysis and recommendations for railcar allocation rather than continued stop-gap measures year after year.

5. Analyze soils and target yields; using as much fer-tilizer as needed to maximize profits, but no more than necessary.

Farmers can't afford to skip their fertilizer ap-plications. Nitrogen alone is not enough. Phosphorous and potassium applied early, along with nitrogen, are vital profits. maximum for Working closely with a Farm Bureau dealer is the best way to reduce problems caused by rail car shortage.



PAGE 7

SUPPLY REPORT

By Greg Sheffield

Agri-Radials

Agri-Radial tires are now available at most dealer locations for replacing worn tractor tires. The new Agri-Radials last longer, save fuel and generally work better in the field. PASSENGER TIRES

There are complete in-ventories of passenger tires at cash and carry prices at most dealer outlets. The top of the line Mark 74 and the new Mark V Twin Steel economy tires have been popular sellers.

CUSTOM DIESEL FUEL Farmers Petroleum's exclusive Custom Diesel Fuel is in good supply and cuts usual engine wear. Custom Diesel is shown to reduce costs by cleaning and lubricating, thus preventing loss of power, and its unique, high lubricity prevents injector wear.

Worker's Compensation **Penalty Set**

Farmers who hire farm help should be aware of a statute recently enacted by the Michigan Legislature that imposes a \$50 daily penalty for late payment of Worker's Compensation benefits. The penalty is imposed when benefits or related medical bills are not paid within 30 days after becoming due.

The law stipulates that the late payment penalty will be payable to the injured worker at the rate of \$50 per day for each day over 30 days in which the compensation benefits are not paid, up to a maximum penalty of \$1,500.

Of special note is the provision that states that an employer who has knowledge of a work related injury, but fails to give notice to the insurance company, will be required to pay the penalty.

"Consequently, employers are advised to report to the insurance company any incident that could be con-sidered a Worker's Compensation claim," said Don Bradshaw, vice president of Farm Bureau Insurance Group's property-casualty companies.

The penalty is not applicable if there is an ongoing dispute of the claim.

Asparagus Growers Urged to Support Research

Most asparagus growers in commercial hybrid Michigan are quite optimistic about the future of our asparagus industry. We have the potential to become short time.

While we have increased our acreage several other areas have reduced theirs . . . notably California, New Jersey and Illinois. Contributing factors to this decline have been disease and insect problems, poor weather and land development pressures.

To improve their situation California released the first

asparagus line in 1975. This hybrid, U.C. 157, developed at the University of California with the cooperation of the the number one processing California asparagus inasparagus state within a dustry, is far superior in growth and yielding capacity to our traditional openpollinated lines.

Recently, New Jersey has also announced a breeding program to revitalize their declining industry. They hope to significantly increase their plantings over the next five years, with an ultimate goal of 15,000 acres of cloned asparagus.

These advancements have been closely watched by our Research Committee. The committee reviews research projects at Michigan State University and funds those which are most vital to the industry. Through this committee and under an between agreement asparagus processors and the Michigan Asparagus Growers Marketing Committee, \$19,000 was granted to the university for research in 1978.

Asparagus breeding and cultivar development was one of several research projects funded. This funding is commendable but considering the advancements

own Michigan Asparagus made in other states we need to do much better in assuring that Michigan will continue to be competitive in both quality of asparagus and price.

> Through an industry financed program where an growers contribute we can upgrade and expand our industry.

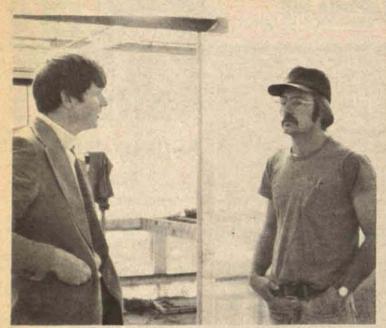
I urge all asparagus growers to vote "YES" for the Michigan Asparagus **Research and Development** Program.

Ken Nye, Horticultural Marketing Specialist Market Development **Research** Division

"I like the job -- no doubt about it."

John VanderMolen, SW Region

A Day in the Life of a Regional Representative



Questioning Roger Tuinier, Comstock area grower, John learns that energy costs are cutting into the profitability of greenhouse operations. Tuinier estimates his energy costs for this year's January-thru-June season will hit the \$20,000 mark.

"I like the job; there's no doubt about it." John VanderMolen's straight-forward statement leaves no room to question his commitment to agriculture and the 5-county section of Southwest Michigan he serves as regional representative for the Michigan Farm Bureau. He firmly believes that Farm Bureau is saving agriculture and is equally convinced that strength the of the organization can continue to grow with more response from the new generation of farmers. "We need more young people in the mem-bership ranks," says John, "but our programs and activities must reflect their different needs, the new direction of their farming operations and the dramatic sociological changes in rural communities."

Those changes affect not only the Farm Bureau organization, but all segments of agriculture. Greenhouses in the Comstock area of Kalamazoo County continue to operate despite the rapid urbanization which encircles these agricultural enterprises. The soil in this area is uniquely suited to the cultivation of vegetable seedlings and greenhouse bedding plants. The market remains relatively constant; but growers are keenly aware that industrial wage competition and the high cost of energy supplies are exerting strong pressures on their industry.

John listens intently as Matt Hetrick, owner of Hetrick Greenhouses, explains the difficulty in keeping reliable workers. "A good worker here can make about \$120 a week," says Hetrick, "but too often we lose them to higher shop wages. Others work for a while, then go back to public

assistance programs. It's a real problem in this area."

For Roger Tuinier, coowner of Ed Tuinier and Sons G r e e n h o u s e s, th e skyrocketing cost of energy supplies required to heat the plastic-domed greenhouses is a serious threat to the profitability of this family run business.

Construction cost for a halfacre greenhouse averages \$50,000, but compare the cost of heating for a single growing season (January-June): That price tag rapidly climbs to a whopping \$20,000. "The diversity of the

"The diversity of the agriculture in this region does not change the fact that pressure on agriculture from labor, energy and legislative issues affects all farmers. But curtailing the economic impact of those forces is something that, as Farm Bureau members, farmers can work to resolve," says John. "Right now the need for individual farmers to work together is greater than ever. We have really dynamic farm people in this area, who have done a lot for agriculture. They are outspoken and active leaders."

Realistically, John sees Farm Bureau's greatest influence in legislation and in community leadership development. He firmly believes that, used properly, the Farm Bureau organization at whatever level is a tool which gives a united farm voice real clout in the public forum. "When the membership of a county or the state Farm Bureau gets behind an issue, it really makes the difference," he observes. "Elected officials still respond to people, not organizations. When a legislator looks at our membership totals, that's impressive, but his vote is determined by the willingness of those members to contact him as individual farmers who support the measure."

Some of those individual members have recognized that they must step forward as leaders in the county organization. For some, like Marty DeJong, past president of the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau, that decision means overcoming a natural tendency to be shy or quiet. Recalls John, "Beginning in the Young Farmer program, Marty gained more and more self-confidence. The most dramatic evidence of his personal growth was accepting an invitation to ad-



Greenhouses primarily employ women to transplant tender seedlings to bedding flats. Their smaller hands allow them to handle the plants more defily with less injury to the young plants. An adept worker can earn as much as \$120 a week, but growers find it increasingly difficult to attract and keep workers.





Len Olsen, owner of the Tabor Hill vineyards and winery, welcomes a mid-afternoon break to talk with John VanderMolen about the 1978 prospects for Michigan's wine industry.

dress a meeting of the Michigan Medical Technicians Association at the height of the PBB controversy. Now, that took real confidence in himself and his farm organization."

John would like to see others become more visible as county leaders. Farm Bureau, he says, offers plentiful opportunities for Farm Bureau members to contribute to the improvement of their communities and Michigan's agricultural business climate. He is also aware that getting away from an overreliance on a few active people takes time "and it's human nature to call upon those who have demonstrated their willingness to participate." In coming months, new committees will be appointed and John is hopeful that those appointments will surface new leaders to share the decision-making responsibilities within the county Farm Bureau.

Involving existing members is a priority for John, but the acquisition of new members in the county organization is also a key responsibility of the regional representative. John is interested in allying the progressive leadership of Len Olsen, prominent Berrien County grape grower and winemaker, to the county Farm Bureau membership. Len has been actively working with other growers and his legislator, Representative Bob Wellborn, to secure research monies for the development of hybrid grape varieties and grower techniques which will assure consistent, quality production of Michigan grapes.

grapes. As he prunes in an experimental section of french hybrid, Pinot Chardonnay, Olsen describes his hopes for the Michigan wine industry. John listens closely to determine the needs of Michigan viticulturists and asks about the future of such hybrids in this state. Olsen is confident that the combination of climate, suitable hybrid varieties and research will bring Michigan renown as a winemaking state, "not only in Southwest Michigan, but also in upper Western Michigan and the Thumb region. Winemaking in Michigan today closely parallels the position of California wines a few years ago. The best is yet to come," he grins.

Social Security Benefit Changes Affect Farmers

benefits has been dramatically changed. The change came about as part of the Social Security Amend-ments of 1977. The Social Security earnings test determines how much a beneficiary can earn and still get some or all of his Social Security benefits.

The general retirement rule is that a beneficiary gives up one dollar of his benefits for every two dollars he earns over the annual exempt amount. The exempt amount this year is \$4000 for persons aged 65-72 (when the retirement test no longer applies), and \$3240 for those under 65. In 1977 the exempt amount was \$3000 for beneficiaries of all ages.

However, there is an im-portant exception to this general rule. The exception states that no matter how much a person's yearly earnings may be, he will still get a benefit check for any month he neither earns wages over 1/12 the yearly exempt amount nor performs substantial services in self-employment. Self-employed farmers are generally not considered to be performing substantial services in any month they work 45 hours or less

The Social Security Amendments passed in December of 1977 have severely limited the use of this exception. Beginning in 1978, the monthly exception can only apply to the first year of eligibility. Once a beneficiary has received a benefit based on the monthly exception, he generally cannot use it again.

This change in the law will have an effect upon many farmers who are currently entitled to benefits. In years past, many farmers of retirement age have received benefits during the winter months when their work demands were greatly reduced. Under the new law, they have already used their one year for which the monthly exception can apply. Accordingly, they will not be eligible for benefits in the winter months of 1978. After the monthly exception is used, the amount of time a farmer puts into his business no longer affects eligibility for benefits. his

Tips for Farmers

A farmer could hold a crop over for sale from one year to the next. By doing that he might keep his net earnings below the yearly exempt amount. On the other hand, he might also go over the yearly limit the next year and have to have his benefits withheld.

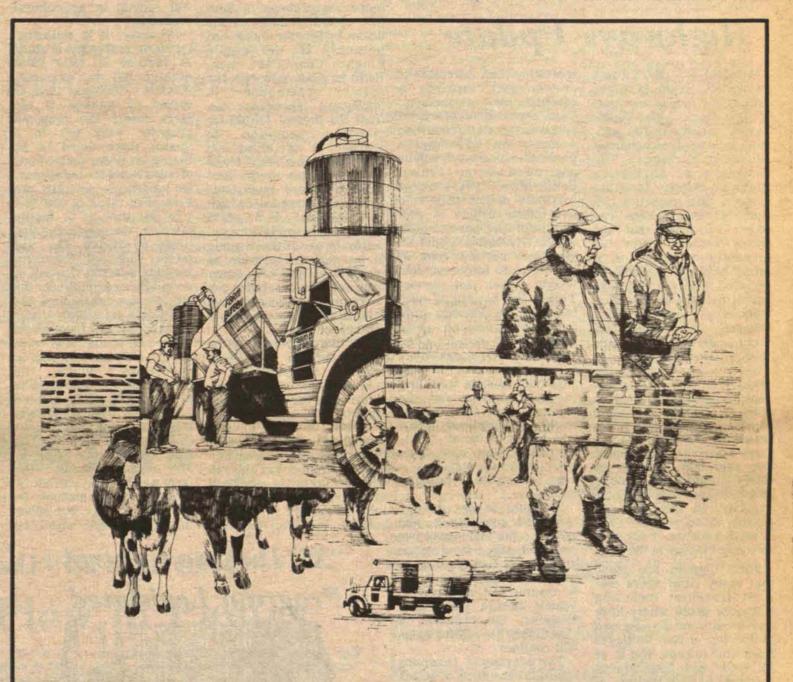
farmers Many who received benefits before 1978 will have their benefits

The way earnings affect withheld, if their '78 earnings eligibility for Social Security exceed the limit (\$4000 for exceed the limit (\$4000 for those over 65 and \$3240 for those under 65). If a farmer thinks his '78 earnings will go over the annual limit, he should notify Social Security as soon as possible so he is not overpaid.

The purpose of this change

in the law is to stop what was considered to be unfair payments to persons who had not actually retired. Certain types of beneficiaries (e.g. teachers, farmers, life insurance salesman, and construction workers) were able to qualify for retirement benefits without any

reduction in their work activity. The monthly exception to the retirement test was intended to be used only as a for method for paying beneficiaries who retired method during the course of a year. This change in the law will put that intention into effect. Any farmer who wants more information about this change in the Social Security law is advised to contact the nearest Social Security office. There are over 45 offices throughout the State of Michigan. They are listed in the telephone directory under Social Security Administration.



Progressive, Profitable Feeding Programs Begin With The Farm Bureau People

The Farm Bureau people are cooperative people - dedicated to helping you make your feed dollar go further. Farm Bureau dealers are backed by years of cooperative research, the most modern feed manufacturing facilities, and an expert staff including a qualified animal nutritionist. These things help your dealer tailor a feeding program to meet your needs.

Modern, progressive Farm Bureau techniques bring Michigan farmers profitable new feeds. Recently introduced Nu Pro™ dairy feed is a new feed concept developed by Farm Bureau Services in Cooperation with Cooperative Research Farms. Farm

Bureau Services dealers also offer liquid feeds Liquid Protein Supplement (LPS) and Liquid Silage Additive (LSA) to increase the profitability of your beef or dairy herd. And now the Farm Bureau people offer a new Farm Bureau mineral program with products designed to meet the special needs of modern livestock. Progressive, profitable



feeding programs are yours for the asking. Ask the Farm Bureau people.

FARM NEWS

JUNE, 1978



CAPITOL REPORT Robert E. Smith

(Ed. Note: Due to mid-month deadlines for publication in the Michigan Farm News, legislative reports reflect the status of legislation at that time. Significant changes which occur after the third week of each month will be reported in the next issue of the FARM NEWS.

Hoffman Introduces New Inheritance Tax Bill INHERITANCE TAX - A new bill (H.B. 6388) has been introduced in the House by Rep. Quincy Hoffman (R-Applegate) and nineteen cosigners. While similar, it is more comprehensive than S.B. 1447, introduced in the Senate by Senator Corbin and presently in the Senate Finance Committee. Rep. sportation fund. Several bills Hoffman's bill increases the are involved, including a regular exemption in Michigan's inheritance tax amendment. Counties will receive 25 from the present \$30,000 for percent more state funds than marital exemption to \$100,000. It increased the present. An additional 4 percent for local roads will be child exemption from \$5,000 to \$15,000. This is the first guaranteed and the "Critical Bridge Fund" will increase from one million dollars to time that these exemptions have been changed since 1925. five million dollars. A constitutional amendment will be on the November ballot to guarantee not less than 90

In addition, H.B. 6388 provides for special exemption for farmland that is going to be kept in agricultural production. Until now, many farm heirs were forced to sell off farmland in order to pay federal estate and state inheritance taxes.

This has contributed to the loss of millions of acres of Michigan farmland and is considered to have been one cause of urban sprawl and leapfrog development. The new bill, if passed, will exempt half of the value of the farm real estate from any state inheritance tax and will defer the tax on the other half up to ten years without interest or penalty. All of this is possible provided the heir signs up and remains in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116, 1974) for the minimum period of ten years. This shows good faith to assure that the land will remain in agricultural production.

Presently, it is estimated that farm real estate is about 74 percent of total farm assets. As an example, assume a Michigan farm is valued at \$180,000. If the farm, under the proposed program, were left to a spouse, there would be an exemption under present law of only \$30,000 for the spouse; but under the new law the exemption would be \$100,000.

In the case of a family member, the new exemption would be \$15,000. The real estate value of the farm would be \$133,200. One-half of it would be exempt. Under the old law the inheritance tax due would be \$5,400. Under the proposed law there would be no tax. If the farm were left to a child and was kept in agriculture, under the present law the tax would be \$6,000; under the proposed law the tax would be \$3,976. H.B. 6388 would even benefit non-family members that may be heirs to the property. For example, assume the farm was left to a partner or other non-family member. In this case the tax due under the present law would be

\$20,000 and under proposed law \$13,728. the The farm partner's benefit from the proposed law would be \$6,872. There are many cases where there are no family heirs and farmers have a partnership arrangement with other young farmers.

Rep. Hoffman's H.B. 6388 and Sen. Corbin's S.B. 1446 and sen, coron's s.b. 1440 are both fully compatable with the new federal estate law passed by Congress a year or so ago which provided some similar tax reductions for farmland that is passed on to heirs and is maintained in agriculture. Farm Bureau was a strong supporter of the federal estate tax changes and has also worked closely in the development of the bills presently before Michigan legislature. the

Rate Increases Probable

ESSENTIAL INSURANCE H.B. 6322 (formerly H.B. 5196) has been reported to the House floor. This bill, if passed, would raise in-surance rates. The main problem being the creation of state "reinsurance facility." In South Carolina, where a similar reinsurance facility exists, Farm Bureau officials tell us that their members pay an additional \$30 per vehicle each year to subsidize other areas. Other insurance companies in that state say that their increased premiums are from \$37 to \$40. There is a problem, however, in some areas of the state where essential insurance is difficult to obtain. Another bill (H.B. 4597) could solve the problem. It would extend the FAIR PLAN coverage for all homeowners. Changes should also be made to the motor vehicle assigned risk program.

Farmer Elected to State House

Everitt F. Lincoln (R-Concord Township, Jackson County) is now a member of the House following his victory in a recent special election. Mr. Lincoln is a dairy and grain farmer and long-time active Farm Bureau member. He has served as a township supervisor in Jackson County. He won the special Republican primary and defeated Mark Stuart (D-Marshall), attorney from Michigan. His election fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Rep. Dan Angel (R-Marshall). Mr. Angel resigned in order to accept a position as a college president on the West Coast.

Highways Update

constitutional

DOUBLE BOTTOM TANKERS - If the Michigan Legislature follows the facts of this issue, the double bottom tanker should continue to be used, especially in out-state Michigan. The University of Michigan's Highway Safety Institute made a final report on its study of these tankers. The report concludes that the double bottom tanker, as presently designed, is a safety hazard and should be removed from the highways unless it is retro-fitted with a modified hitch and leaf spring changes. This would cost about \$3,000 per vehicle. The study showed that to ban the double bottom would require about 80 percent more single vehicles on the highways in order to deliver the same amount of fuel, therefore, increasing the possibility of more accidents. The report also said that there is no safety rationale for limiting single tankers to 9,000 gallon capacity. In fact, this too would increase the road hazards because of the need for more tankers on the road.

Farm Bureau has found that many rural areas that must transport fuel long distances would surely have higher costs and the very real probability of fuel shortages from time to time. The U. of M. study has been proven through actual testing of double bottom tankers as they are presently designed and those that have been modified as recommended.

One new bill, S.B. 1182, that has become law, creates new driver license qualification for drivers of buses and large tankers. Applicants will be required to take both a written and road test in the type of vehicle they intend to drive. This should lead to more safety as in some accidents, truck drivers have not had sufficient experience and training for the type of vehicle they were driving.

TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE - It appears that a transportation agreement has been reached even though all parties are not entirely satisfied. The Forum for Balanced Transportation, of which Farm Bureau is a member, has worked for several months to prevent all motor vehicle revenues from being thrown into one tran-

Twenty five percent of sales tax revenues resulting from automobile related sales taxes will be used for Com-prehensive Transportation. The Highway Commission would be enlarged from four to six members and appointment of the director would be determined by the legislature. Other con-troversial issues that have been resolved, including a very complex Bonding System. Revenues to pay for the increased road funds will require a tax increase of two cents per gallon for gasoline and diesel fuel and a 30 percent to 33 percent increase in commercial and private vehicle license plate fees. However, the principle of "user taxes" to pay for roads will continue.

percent of all future gas and

weight taxes for roads.

The increased revenues total \$168.5 million of which \$34 million goes to state highways; \$47.6 million to counties; \$36.4 million to municipal street systems; and \$59.6 (\$20 million of this is from sales tax) to general or non-road transportation which includes railroads, bus systems, local dial-a-ride programs, air, water, transit systems, and nonmotorized programs.

PBB Testing

PBB - H.C.R. 436 has been finally approved which sets up procedures to exempt areas in the state from further biopsy testing as quickly as they can meet the requirements of the law. The entire Upper Peninsula has been exempted. Ionia, Lapeer, Clinton, Jackson and Hillsdale have met the requirements and resolution have been introduced to exempt them. Other areas are expected to meet the requirement soon.

"X" Disease Control **Program Legislated** 29

The "X-Disease" bill (HB 5402) was signed recently by Governor Milliken. Shown at the bill-signing are (left to right) Representatives Charles Mueller, sponsor; Connie Binsfeld, John Mowat, Robert Welborn, Donald Gilmer, and Robert E. Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau.

Governor William G. Milliken recently signed HB 5402, designed to help control "X" Disease. Caused by a mycoplasma parasitic organism smaller than bacteria, "X" Disease kills cherry and peach trees. The new law will control and destroy chokecherry trees which host the disease that can be transmitted to other trees by leafhoppers.

Governor Milliken's budget includes funds for implementation of the control program by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The legislation is similar to a program in the 1930's when a rust disease ruined much wheat production. It was controlled by barberry eradication, which was a host plant.

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FARM NEWS

NATIONAL NOTES Michigan Farmer Named to Minimum Wage Study Commission

William D. Byrum, Onondaga farmer and executive vice president of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, has been appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to serve on the Minimum Wage Study Commission established by the 95th Congress.

The 1977 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act provide that two members be appointed to the Commission by each of the Secretaries of L a b o r, C o m m e r c e, Agriculture, and Health, Education and Welfare. Bill is the only farmer and the only Michigan appointee on the eight-member Commission. Also appointed to represent agriculture was "My main concern is that the regulations are equitable to agriculture."

Bill Byrum

Study Commission Sandra Willett of Washington, ramifications o D.C., executive vice minimum wage, o

D.C., executive vice president of the National Consumers League. The Commission was created by Congress, in 1977

created by Congress, in 1977 amendments, to "conduct a study of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the social, political and economic ramifications of the minimum wage, overtime, and other requirements of that Act." It has 36 months to complete the study and reports directly to the President and to the

Member, Minimum Wage

Congress. Bill is confident that agricultural representation



Big Government--From Plow to Pantry

Without benefit of nutritional councils or consumer action there are villagers in the foothills of the Russian Caucasus who live to be 100 or more. Their diet seems to include a wide variety of unsupervised food and drink, and their remarkable life span is the subject of a serious study reported in the January, 1973 National Geographic.

If it is true that their longevity may be based on a social culture that places a fine premium on age, wisdom, and usefulness, then it tells us a lot more about the human spirit than it does about nutrition.

That's why we're troubled at clear directions in this country that big government has designs on forcing its own version of our nutritional needs on farmers and consumers -- however these needs are to be determined.

In remarks to a recent consumer conference in Chicago, Carol Tucker Foreman, the USDA's Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services, signals once more for a national food policy to "translate nutritional needs into production terms." Doesn't this tell us that big government now seeks to build-in nutritional requirements as a condition of federal farm programs?

programs? "We should know," says Mrs. Foreman, "just how much wheat and what kinds of wheat should be produced to insure people with adequate levels of B vitamins."

Of course, there is always the question of

requirements? Often highly varied and subjective, are they to be vogue today, and replaced by other concepts tomorrow?

This is not to say that we don't regard proper nutrition as a vital element in our food supply and a prime responsibility of its suppliers. What it is to say is that we can be properly proud of the best -- and highest quanty -- food supply in the world. It seems almost obvious that we have built this supply on the basis of competitive values in the market, and, above all, on the free choice of consumers who shop there.

choice of consumers who shop there. In an appearance before food editors in San Jose, California, Mrs. Foreman announced that, on behalf of youngsters in schools where there are federallysubsidized school lunch programs, a bureaucratic decision has been made on "junk food." The USDA has issued proposed regulations to ban the sale of carbonated beverages, frozen desserts, candy and chewing gum during meal hours.

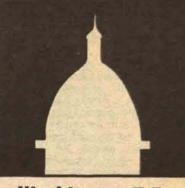
The harm we see here is not the removal of a few sugared calories from the diet of young people, but the terrible example of arbitrary government power over free and personal choices that should remain theirs.

All of this implies that each of us, young or old, is too ignorant to make our own decisions on what we may eat.

decisions on what we may eat. This is big government from plow to pantry. This is pretty nearly the supreme on the Commission will have an impact. "There are two areas where I believe we're going to have to do ample research and make sure our thinking is brought forth in this study - and that is in the areas of overtime and teenage employment. Also, seasonal type employment in agriculture is a unique thing in itself and we'll have to look at it in that vein," he said.

"My main concern is that the regulations that are brought about by legislation are equitable to agriculture as far as administering them in the farming business is concerned."

He believes, too, that Congress will be receptive to "constructive and logical" information for use in the development of comprehensive legislation and regulation. "I think Congress is interested in what kind of impact the law has on the working man and the business climate as a whole, and if there are inequities in the legislation as it presently the legislation as it presently exists, I believe they will be responsive to correcting those," Bill said. "I think we should be appreciative to Congressmen Bob Carr and Bob Traxler for looking out for agriculture and getting an agricultural person appointed to the Commission.



PAGE 11

Washington D.C.

In announcing the appointments, Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall said the work of the Commission is of "extreme importance to the C o n g r e s s , t h e Administration, and the employers and workers of the nation. Some groups have raised questions about the minimum wage law. Now the Congress has established the Commission to try to meet some of the expressed concerns."

The Byrum farm has 1200 acres in crops, mostly corn and soybeans, with about 150 acres of alfalfa. They have a cow-calf herd and run a separate swine operation of purebred Durocs. A new hog facility is currently under construction and plans are to market approximately 4,000 hogs a year. They employ full and part-time help and high school youths for the farm operation.

Bill is a former staff member of the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association. The Byrums are members of the Ingham County Farm Bureau.

Funds Available for Water Pollution Cleanup

Many farmers will be able to get federal cost-sharing assistance to help solve water pollution problems caused by agricultural activities, according to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture. The EPA and the USDA have reached agreement on how to set up the new Rural Clean Water Program, which is authorized by the 1977 Clean Water Act.

The agreement paves the way for detailed regulations on the program to be proposed by USDA for public comment in June. Congress has authorized \$200 million in fiscal year 1979 and \$400 million in 1980 for costsharing funds under this program. It authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into long-term contracts (between 5 and 10 years) with rural landowners and operators for the purpose best management practices to control agricultural "nonpoint" source pollution and to improve water quality.

Such measures as contour plowing, using vegetation to control erosion, pesticide and fertilizer management programs and other practices, as specified in approved state and local water quality management plans prepared under Section 208 of the Act, are eligible.

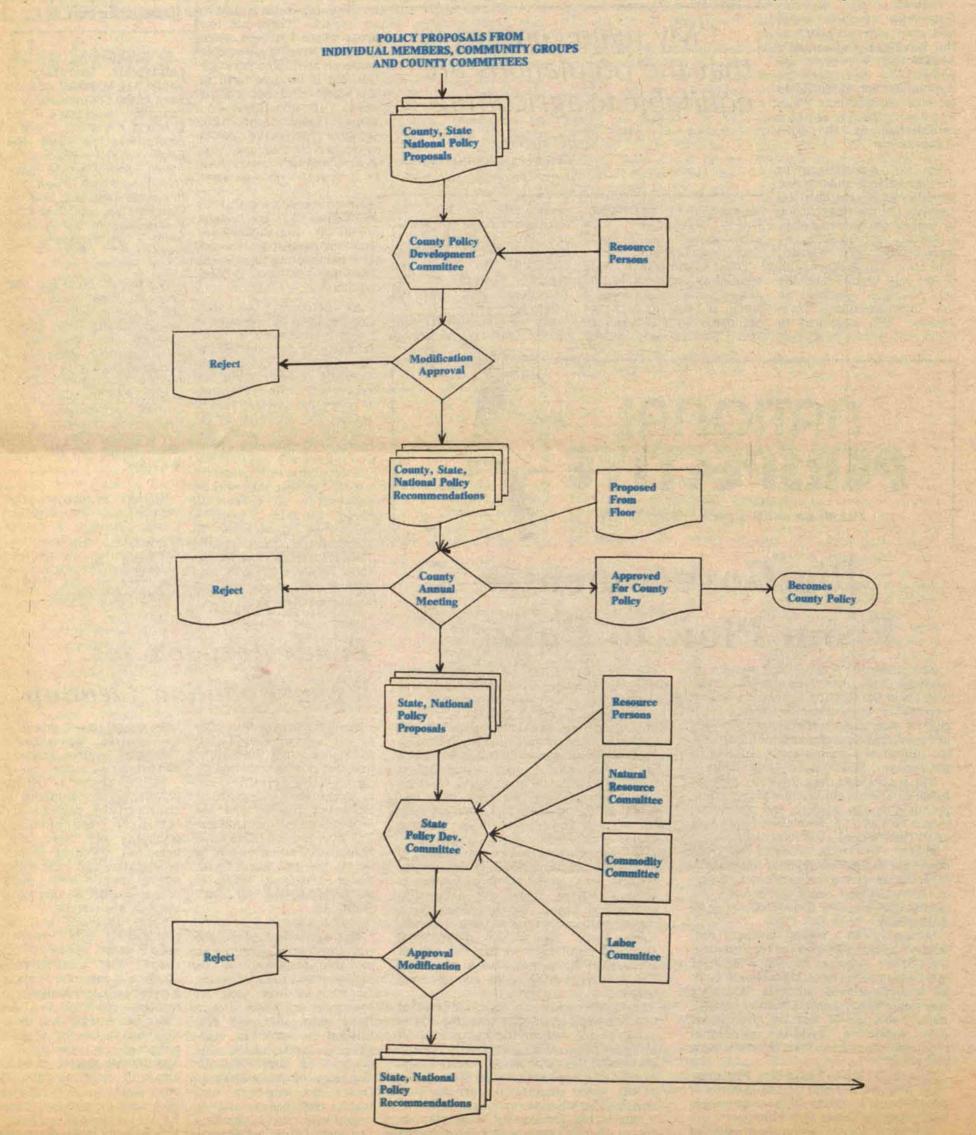
Some farmers will be required to take clean-up action under approved 208 plans. The cost-sharing program is intended to make it easier on the pocketbooks of farmers required to take clean-up action, but par-ticipation in the cost-sharing program is voluntary Specific information on what clean-up requirements, if any, apply to a particular area, can be obtained from EPA's regional offices. However, most 208 plans are



Farm Bureau's annual grass-roots policy development process will begin soon and we believe it is important that members fully understand the unique procedure which allows them to "make their voices heard" on local, state, national and international issues. So we asked Walton Mitchell, Farm Bureau Services' Data Systems director, to "chart the course" from individual member-input to policy that guides the 2.6 million member-family American Farm Bureau Federation in its activities -- and all the steps along the way. Some examples of Farm Bureau policies which began with input from individual members and resulted in enactment of laws benefitting agriculture in recent years include: agricultural marketing and bargaining, special registration for certain farm trucks, exemption from cargo-covering requirements, agricultural exemption from single business tax, Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, new fence law, trespass law providing greater protection for farmlands, and progress in obtaining funds for a new Michigan State University Crop and Soil Science Building -- to name just a few.

Examples of Farm Bureau policies which began with input from members and resulted in defeat of legislation which would have been detrimental to agriculture include: overtime wages for farm employees, indexing of minimum wage, common situs picketing, federal land use, farm drainage permits, and restrictive MI-OSHA standards for agriculture -- again, to name just a few.

This flow chart may, at first glance, look like a



Begins With Individual Member

chemical equation. It is an equation - an equation for ACTION FOR AGRICULTURE. But, in this formula, people are the vital elements, farmer-members who have concerns, opinions and ideas for solving problems which they are willing to share through the policy development structure.

We urge you to:

(1) Study the policy development chart on these pages

so you understand the process. Share your understanding with others.

(2) Read the President's Column on Page 2 of this issue and call it to the attention of other members to stimulate their involvement.

(3) If you need background information to gain a better understanding of a particular issue, write to the Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing 48909. Although every request cannot be filled, when sufficient interest is indicated, material will be developed for use by the county Farm Bureau Policy Development Committees. This background material, on issues which are surfaced as being of major concern to farmer-members, will be discussed at county, district and state policy development meetings.

It is our hope that these two pages will be an investment toward a better understanding of -- and involvement in --Farm Bureau's policy development process. The Editors

Proposed From Floor MFB Approved For State Reject Becomes Annual Meeting Policy **MEB** Policy National Policy Prop ale National Reject Policy Dev. National Proposed Policy From Reco datio Floor AFBF **Policy Proposal** Reject Annual or Reco Meeting dation **Policy Develop**ment Committee Review Approved For AFBF **Resource** Persons Policy and State Advisory Committee Information Input Approval, Modification or Adoption of Policy Recom-Becon mendations **AFBF** Policy Becomes Policy

THROUGH ANNUAL SANILAC COUNTY FARM TOURS **Farm Brought to Schools**

In a continuing effort to bring the farm to the city, the Sanilac County Farm Bureau Women's Committee sponsored their annual farm tours for urban students from the Port Huron School district in late April. Mrs. Gerry Smith, a member of the School Tour Committee, explained the objective of the day-long farm visits, "This is part of our rural-urban program to improve the understanding of urban children as to where food comes from and an overall study of good nutrition, and also, to make the children aware of crops grown in Michigan and Sanilac County, per se.'

Prior to the farm tours by the two fifth grade classes from Sparlingville School, the Sanilac County Speaker's Bureau team of Faye Adam and Diane Wood visited the two classes to prepare the students for their farm visits.

Explained Faye Adam, "We performed our skit of 'Ma and Pa of Yesteryear' to show the transition of agriculture from early days to modern agriculture and how it has changed and how today's farm wife looks much like the city wife.'

The first stop for the students was the Don Anderson dairy farm near Carsonville where they saw the milking parlor, calf and free stall barns and silage.

Asked what she had learned at the dairy farm, one of the youngsters said, "I learned how they milk cows and how the milk goes in the big glass bottle!"

The students had the opportunity to see the equipment necessary for cash crop farming at the John Knoerr farm near Sandusky. The students were shown what sugar beet and various bean seeds look like before they are planted and the equipment used in planting them. Several samples of the seeds were taken by the students to "planted" in their be classrooms.

The final stop on the tour was the Carl Wolf hog farm near Palms. Here, the students learned why hogs also require good nutrition and they had the opportunity to pet a baby pig that had been born the previous day.

The tour proved to be an educational experience for both the students and the owners of the farms they visited. In addition to Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Bea Bissett and Mrs. Katie Frostic also serve on the School Tour Committee.



The fifth grade students participating in the Sanilac County farm tours from Sparlingville School in the Port Huron School District, found the day-old pig held by Mrs. Carl Wolf fascinating to look at and touch while visiting the Wolf's hog operation near Palms



While at the Don Anderson dairy farm outside Carsonville, the fifth-graders were shown the various phases involved in dairy farming. Shown above are two of the students who were quite interested in the texture and order of the silage used in feeding the cows.



One inquisitive student on the tour "checked out" the operation of a sugar beet planter at the John Knoerr farm near Sandusky. The students were shown the various types of equipment necessary for planting cash crops while at the Knoerrs.

1978 Fair Schedule

Michigan fairgoers can look forward to another season of fun-filled events, thrilling attractions and interesting educational and cultural exhibits at the 1978 Michigan fairs.

Date	Place
June 18-25 June 20-26	Ithaca Sparta
June 29-July 4	Lake Odessa
July 4-8	Marion
July 9-15	Vassar Bi- Pasida
July 10-16 July 16-22	Big Rapids Hastings
July 16-22	Marne
July 17-22	Croswell
July 17-22 July 17-22	Fowlerville Greenville
July 22-29	Hartford
July 23-29	Charlotte
July 24-29 July 24-29	Gladwin Holland
July 25-29	Ravenna
July 26-29	Hale
July 29-30 July 30-August 5	Stephenson Caro
July 30-August 5	Harrison
July 31-August 4	Alma
July 31-August 5	Standish
July 31-August 5 July 31-August 5	Bay City Mason
July 31-August 5	Davisburg
Auguts 1-4	Saline
August 3-6 August 4-13	Kalkaska Ionia
August 6-12	Bad Axe
August 6-12	Coldwater
August 6-12	Jackson
August 6-12 August 6-12	Gaylord Corunna
August 7-12	Harrisville
August 7-12	Cassopolis
August 7-12 August 7-12	Monroe Evart
August 7-12	Sandusky
August 7-12	Ludington
August 8-12 August 10, 12	Goodells Chatham
August 10-12 August 10-13	Ironwood
August 11-12	Pelkie
August 11-12	Mio
August 11-12 August 11-19	Manistique Berrien Springs
August 12-19	Cheboygan
August 13-19	Marshall
August 13-19 August 14-16	Midland
August 14-19	St. Johns Fremont
August 14-19	Cadillac
August 14-19	Belleville
August 15-20 UPPER PEN August 15-19	INSULA STATE FAIR, ESCANABA Manchester
August 15-20	Armada
August 15-20	Mt. Morris
August 16-19 August 17-20	Atlanta Iron River
August 18-19	Wayland
August 20-27	Adrian
August 21-26 August 21-26	Alpena
August 21-26	Petoskey Hudsonville
August 21-26	Mt. Pleasant
August 21-26	Lowell
August 21-26 August 22-24	Kalamazoo Falmouth
August 22-26	Chelsea
August 24-26	Newberry
August 24-27 August 25-September 4 M	Greenland AICHIGAN STATE FAIR, DETROIT
August 25-27	Allenville
August 25-27	· Hancock
August 28-September 2 August 28-September 4	Traverse City
August 30-September 5	.Imlay City Onekama
August 31-September 4	Hart
August 31-September 4	Kinross
September 1-4 September 5-9	Norway Saline
September 7-9	Stalwart
September 8-10	Posen
September 8-16 September 9-16	Allegan
September 18-23	Saginaw Centreville
September 21-23	Marquette
September 24-30	Hillsdale

Seven More Counties Get Disaster Status

said recently that seven more Michigan counties have been listed as disaster areas because of crop loss during the 1977 season.

Milliken said farmers and businessmen in Cheboygan, Emmet. Chippewa. Kalkaska, Luce, Mackinac and Presque Isle counties are now eligible for long-term, low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

State officials had estimated that crop damage in three of the counties Emmet, Kalkaska and Mackinac - exceeded a total of \$2 million.

Milliken was advised that,

Gov. William G. Milliken for the first time, the Small Business Administration is authorized to make direct physical disaster loans to farmers in the seven counties who sustained crop loss and damage due to frost, drought excessive rainfall. or Applications must be filed before September 29, 1978. Interest rates on physical disaster loans for crop losses are 3 percent on the first \$250,000 and 65% percent thereafter. Maximum maturity is 30 years.

> Milliken said businesses in the counties that can document economic injury due to the disaster may apply for an economic injury

disaster loan. Funds received from these loans may be used to provide working capital and to meet financial obligations that otherwise would have been met had the disaster not occurred. The deadline for filing for economic injury loans is December 29, 1978. The SBA will establish a

temporary field office at 546 S. Otsego Avenue in Gaylord. (Phone 517-732-9613 or 732-7110.)

Farmers and businessmen are also eligible for Farmers Home Administration loans but may file an application with only one agency at a time.

July 1 Deadline for DNR Hunter Lease Land Program

The Department of Natural Resources reminds landowners in southern Lower Michigan that they have until July 1 to sign up for the state's Public Access Stamp Program.

Under the program, the DNR leases lands for hunter use. The state pays from 50 cents to \$2.50 per acre to landowners, depending on the land available - woodlots, marshland, brushland, idle fields not cropped, grain lands left for wildlife, and so on

During 1977, almost 100,000 acres were leased, says John Urbain, DNR wildlife executive.

Funding for the program comes from hunters themselves, who purchase a \$1 Public Access Stamp if they wish to hunt in southern Lower Michigan (Zone 3), which is approximately that part of the state south of a line extending from Muskegon to

Bay City. Land-leasing applications are available at all DNR field offices and at county Agricultural Stabilization and **Conservation Service (ASCS)** offices.

Leasing contracts cover three years. Public Act 373, the legislation authorizing the leasing, ensures con-tinuation of the program through December 1982.

Urbain says DNR wildlife specialists will inspect each piece of property before it is approved for leasing. He emphasizes that landowners are free from liability under the law for injuries to anyone hunting on their leased lands, unless there was "gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct of the owner.

The DNR will provide landowners with signs which will indicate that hunting is permitted there under the Public Access Stamp Program and that hunters must obtain permission from the landowner to hunt on the land

Urbain adds that a landowner may terminate his lease at any time he wishes. 'We hope to have lists of leased land available for

hunters at DNR district of-fices and ASCS offices before September 15," he says.

Urbain says there should be about 425,000 licensed hunters in southern Lower Michigan this year and expects the public access program to open over 150,000 acres of privately owned land to Michigan hunters.



Applications to sign up for the Stamp Public Access Program are available from your County ASCS office and the following DNR District Offices:

GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE

6th Floor, State Office Building 350 Ottawa Street, N.W

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Phone: 616-456-5071

IMLAY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE 715 S. Cedar Street P.O. Box 218 Imlay City, Michigan 48444 Phone: 313-724-2015

PLAINWELL DISTRICT

OFFICE 621 N. 10th Street P.O. Box 355 Plainwell, Michigan 49080 Phone: 616-685-6851

JACKSON DISTRICT OF-FICE 3335 Lansing Avenue Jackson, Michigan 49202 Phone: 517-784-3188

PONTIAC DISTRICT OF-FICE 2455 N. Williams Lake Rd. Pontiac, Michigan 48054 Phone: 313-666-1500

Attention Landowners JOIN THE PUBLIC ACCESS STAMP PROGRAM

P.A. 373 authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to lease lands for hunter use. The State will pay from 50 cents to \$2.50 per acre to landowners, depending upon the land available. Applications to sign up for the program are available from the County ASCS office or DNR District offices

Deadline: July 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON PROPOSED RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

To All Whom It May Concern:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, (Act 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, as amended) and (Act 154 of the Public Acts of 1974)

> A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD IN: THE BAKER OLIN WEST BUILDING, ROOM 1B MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 3423 North Logan, Lansing, Michigan 9:00 a.m.

June 14, 1978

for the purpose of allowing all persons an opportunity to present data, views and arguments relative to proposed General Industry Rules for Agricultural Operations of the Occupational Safety Standards Commission which will take effect 15 days after filing with the Secretary of State.

> PORTABLE LADDERS, Part 71. Rules 7101 to 7126. Scope; Definitions; Markings; Employee training; Safety feet; Handling and storage; Maintenance; Inspection and repair; Use.

Copies of the proposed rules may be reviewed in advance of the said hearing at the Standards Division, Bureau of Safety and Regulation, Department of Labor, 7150 Harris Dr., Box 30015, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or Director's office, Department of Labor, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226, from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained from the Lansing office as noted above.

Persons attending the hearing are urged to present a written presentation for submission at the hearing. The submission of a written statement will in no way prohibit or limit the right of oral expression at the hearing.

Persons unable to attend the public hearing may present data, views and arguments relative to the above proposed rules by filing the same in writing with the Director of Labor no later than the close of business of the day preceding the date of the hearing.

C. Patrick Babcock, Director MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

F. J. Dery, Chairman OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMISSION

Missaukee Young Farmers Promote Ag Careers

Forty One "Agricultural Careers --Tomorrow Belongs to You" Counties at Goal

Since mid-April, seven additional counties have reported 1978 membership goal, bring the total to 41 counties either at or over their 1978 quota.

Counties and their membership chairmen reporting goal since mid-April are, in the 351-650 membercategory; Gladwin, Paul Pennock, chairman; Ogemaw, Wayne Erickson, chairman; and Presque Isle, Ralph Freel, chairman.

Hillsdale County, Shirley Smith, chairman, and St. Joseph, Tom Beal, Chairman, have reported goal in the 651-1200 category; and in the 1501over category, Tuscola County, Dave Loomis, chairman, and Washtenaw, Harold Haeussler, Chairman, have achieved 1978 goal.

was the theme of the Missaukee County Young Farmers Day held at the McBain Public Schools in April. The purpose of the daylong session was to give high school students an insight into careers in agricultural production.

Various resource persons were on the program to discuss career opportunities in the agricultural industry, which included Dr. James Plog, a farm consultant who discussed careers in dairy production; Douglas Nielson, manager of the Lake City Research Station, who who discussed beef production and Dr. Jake Wamhoff, director of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute, who presented an insight into other agricultural careers.

Robert Naerebout, Missaukee County young farmer, coordinated the program, which was held for the first time, and stated that due to the enthusiastic reaction of the students in attendance, additional schools will be invited next year.



Don Currey, manager of the MFB Young Farmers, spake to the students at the Young Farmers Day, explaining how politics affects agriculture, such as food policy and OSHA Standards, and gave a brief over-view of Farm Bureau and farm organizations since 1870.

Legal Defense Advisory Committee Named

MASA Tackles Regulatory Issues

"Legal and regulatory programs.

On May 9, 1978, Michigan challenges to agricultural Farm Bureau president, producers represent a trend Elton Smith, announced the toward disregard for the Elton Smith, announced the uniqueness of this vital in- appointment of the Legal dustry," warned M.K. (Mike) Defense Fund Advisory Hayenga, manager of the Committee, which will Agricultural operate under the auspices of the Michigan Agricultural Association. "Increased membership in Services Association both the MASA organization (MASA). John Riley, Oceana both the MASA organization and the Legal Defense Fund County fruit grower, was will add the strength of named chairman of the numbers to our con-seven-man advisory group. frontations." Hayenga made Other committee members those remarks when he include: Phillip Falak, reported that the MASA Berrien County (fruit); Board of Directors had David Farley, Calhoun elected to approve a year-County (nursery); Keith round membership sign-up Sackett, Montcalm County for agricultural service (potatoes); Thomas Spike,

Shiawassee County (dairy); Jerry Grobbel, Macomb County (vegetables); and David Morris, Clinton County (beef).

MASA members have been instrumental in reversing MI-OSHA regulatory proposals affecting Michigan agriculture and the farmer group continues to "watch-dog" judicial-governdog judicial-governmental actions which would handicap Michigan farm producers. According to Hayenga, MASA members need more than moral support from other farmers to accomplish the tasks ahead of them.



FB Opposition to Essential Insurance Continues

Michigan

Services

Contact Legislators Now

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since House Bill 6322 (formerly HB 5196), the controversial "Essential In-Reform Bill was surance" reported out of the House Insurance Committee for consideration by the full Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Farm Bureau has been an outspoken opponent of the bill and the coalition supporting it.

In their most recent action, Michigan Farm Bureau released a news story (reproduced below) to statewide media and a letter over President Elton Smith's signature was distributed to our state legislators. Both the press release and letter strongly emphasize the increased insurance costs which Farm Bureau members and the general public will be forced to bear should the legislation be enacted in its present form.

In addition to distributing a MINUTEMAN bulletin detailing the opposition of delegates to essential insurance reform, Farm Bureau Insurance Group officials have provided information to insureds, agents and employees of MFB and its affiliate companies.

or stamp is insignificant when compared to the added insurance premiums HB 6322 may bring," said Don Bradshaw, vice president and general manager of FBIG's property-casualty companies. "If Farm Bureau members haven't contacted their legislator yet, we encourage them to do it now - while there is still an opportunity to affect the future of the essential legislation.

If you'd like additional information, copies of a statement containing general background material are available from the Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Requests for the material should addressed to Corporate be Relations, FBIG, specifying the quantity needed.

Costly Solution to Problem

Calling it "the most expensive means of addressing the insurance redlining problem," Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith has reaffirmed the opposition of the 60,000 to House Bill (HB) 6322, the controversial Essential **Insurance Reform legislation** currently before the Michigan House of Representatives.

While ostensibly ad-dressing the problems of insurance availability and affordability which primarily affect "high risk" drivers and homeowners living in high crime and arson areas, the proposed legislation will create a state-operated reinsurance facility, the Michigan Indemnity Association. These "high risk" drivers and homeowners living in high crime and arson areas would be guaranteed the "essential insurance coverages at rates which many insurance industry officials feel are totally inadequate.

"In effect," said Smith, "the measure penalizes the majority of policyholders with higher rates while benefiting only a few policyholders. The great majority of insureds in the state are going to be forced to subsidize insurance costs of a

In South Carolina, where a similar reinsurance facility exists to service the residual auto market, Smith states that Farm Bureau members are paying an additional \$30 per year per vehicle to subsidize losses in the reinsurance facility. In Michigan, where the cost of living is higher and there is an even greater concentration of insureds in metropolitan areas, Farm Bureau officials believe there is every justification to believe costs will be even higher.

"Officials of the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, one of our affiliate companies," said Smith, "estimate that in-dividual private passenger automobile rates for that company would increase over \$15 annually per vehicle if our assigned risk business were written at regular rates. Added to that figure would also be the cost of ad-ministering the merit rating system provided under HB 6322; all of the extra underwriting and processing expenses required of the primary insurer: and finally

from the creation of the stateoperated reinsurance facility

Adding all these costs together, continued Smith, will increase the cost of auto insurance at least \$30 per vehicle per year in Michigan based on Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company's data.

Objecting to the significant cost pass-throughs which insureds will be forced to absorb, Smith has called upon state legislators to investigate less expensive and more equitable --solutions to the "redlining" problem. Michigan Farm Bureau delegates went on record with a resolution in 1977 urging that appropriate modifications be made to the existing Automobile Michigan Insurance Placement Facility and the Michigan Basic Property Insurance Association. commonly known as the FAIR Plan. House Bill 4597 addresses one of these problems by authorizing the Michigan FAIR Plan to include Homeowners coverage, and Smith urges prompt

FARM NEWS

Women's Role Important to Agricultural Industry

"I would hope that you as Farm Bureau women would look at this organization and be just as wild, just as constructive, just as brainstorming as you can in making this organization stronger and better as far as women and agriculture are concerned," stated Larry Ewing, Director of MFB's Information and Public Relations Division, to the nearly 400 women gathered at the District 6 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally in Romeo in April.

District 6 Rally

In addition to the challenge from Ewing, Farm Wife News editor Ann Kaiser presented some words of encouragement to the women, "I would encourage you, just from my own experiences (from her Editor on the Farm series) to jump at any chance that you have."

Mrs. Kaiser, who has been with Farm Wife News for nearly seven years, was the featured speaker at the rally. From her experiences with the Editor on the Farm series, which is two years old, she shared her feelings about what she sees as the roles of farm women today.

First, she sees farm women in the role of a rural homemaker and how farm women today set the tone in their homes, "You, as the farm wife, are really the inspiration for your family; you remind your family of the many blessings you have living on a farm."

The second role Mrs. Kaiser sees as something really special is that of partner in agriculture, "You are involved in your partnership on an individual basis according to your own strengths and needs."

One of the important roles of farm women today, according to Mrs. Kaiser, is public relations for agriculture. She told the women that they can do so much through Farm Bureau in creating a better image for agriculture and promoting the products they raise. "Public Relations is a subtle art and farm women have a real challenge in this area and part of your job as a partner in agriculture is to meet this challenge."

"My appreciation of your roles and of your opportunities has really grown with each new experience that I have." she concluded.

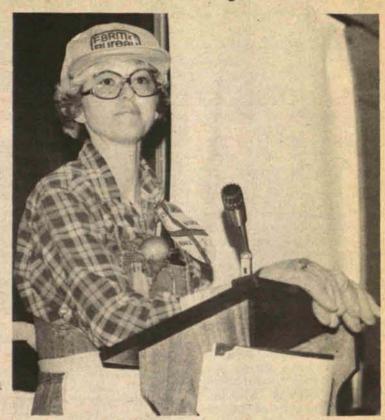
Also sharing a portion of the day-long program was past district women's chairman Martha Thuemmel, who reported on her trip to Nairobi, Africa as one of three delegates from Michigan Farm Bureau Women to the Associated Country Women of the World



ANN KAISER

conference last October, who stated, "Women are pretty much the same around the world; they are concerned about family and health."

A unique presentation on "What Is a Farmer's Wife" was made by Mrs. Betty Laurie, District 2nd Vice-Chairman, in addition to individual county awards from programs carried out during the past year.



"What is a farmer's wife? A farmer's wife has a variety of occupations...", explained Betty Laurie of Tuscola County, 2nd vice chairman of District 6 FB Women, at their rally held in Romeo in late April.

JUNE MEMBER SPECIAL Don't Be Bugged ELIMINATE FLIES AND NIGHT FLYING INSECTS WITH THE FARM BUREAU FLOWTRON® ELECTRIC BUG KILLERS.

A powerful indoor-outdoor

flies and night flying insects

Attracts and electrocutes

By Bonnie Carpenter MFB Outstanding Young Farm Woman

Bulletin from

Bonnie

Is Our Foliage Too Heavy For Our Stem?

Most of us are busy now getting the seeds in the ground in order to produce a harvest in the fall.

At this time of year, too, Farm Bureau Women, Policy Development Committees and others in the Farm Bureau family are busy planting ideas that will be harvested through the year.

As we plant the crop in the fields, we try to use the best tillage methods, hybrid seeds, proper fertilizers and sprays to insure the highest quality in the growing plant. We know a plant that is not well-balanced with a good root system, strong stem and just the right amount of foliage will not harvest good quality grain.

In comparison, these things are true of the Farm Bureau organization and its many parts. As we plan programs and develop policies, we should ask ourselves some questions:

Are we trying to cover so many programs in a year that our foliage has become too heavy for our stem?

Ų

Do our roots have a firm stand and fair representation of the farming community?

Is the harvest from this plant going to be of the highest achievable quality and will it be easy to digest?

If the answer, from the community groups through to our state committees, is "No" to any of these questions, then the Farm Bureau "plant" will suffer in its quality and productivity. In the past, Farm Bureau

In the past, Farm Bureau has always produced a good crop. The more support and care we take now will show in our harvest at county and state annual meetings. Four models to choose from prices start at \$59.95

fly killer.

With Every Farm Bureau Flowtron, You Can Get . . .

. an iGLOO Playmate Cooler for 1/2 off.

Regularly sells for \$2057 now only \$1000

At participating Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Dealers During June, 1978. See Your Dealer Today



40-Hitch Team Helps Ag Hall of Fame

"Reunion" Planned June 10

The Agricultural Hall of Fame, located on a 265-acre plot of rolling prairie land near Bonner Springs, Kansas, is a national museum and shrine to America's farmers and ranchers. It includes several buildings and numerous exhibits of old implements and other items which show the progress of agriculture through the ingenuity of farmers and agri-business.

Several hundred people per day tour the Hall during the summer months and nearly 15,000 school children tour the facility annually, gaining a better understanding of how you get an ear of corn from the stalk to a box of corn flakes

All of the financial support for this national shrine has come from farmers, ranchers and agri-business, with no funding from state or federal governments. Although it is a national monument to agriculture, the bulk of contributions have come from the immediate area, where farmers have been more keenly aware of its existence and goals. However, with a \$500,000 mortgage falling due this summer, Hall officials are looking to farmers and ranchers everywhere for support.

According to William Davis, president of the Hall's board of directors, "The land and the buildings have appreciated to well over \$1,500,000, and the artifacts alone are easily worth over a million. But we need to

generate sufficient cash flow to retire the mortgage without selling any of the land.

"If we could just get every farm family to send in the price of a Big Mac, we'd be able to burn that mortgage," he said. "I guess what we need is a 'Big Mac Attack' on that mortgage.'

To draw national attention to the Ag Hall, a "reunion" of the famous 40-horse hitch of matching Belgians is planned for June 10, with several performances scheduled for that day.

The hitch was first assembled by Iowa farmer Dick Sparrow, who trained them and drove them in parades throughout the parades throughout the United States, and during performances at the Cotton Bowl and Rose Bowl. But after five years of spon-sorship, the team's com-mercial backers dropped their support and Sparrow was forced to sell the Belgians last December. At the sale, FARM & RANCH LIVING magazine bought LIVING magazine bought four of the horses and donated them to the Ag Hall of Fame.

Now, buyers of the original 40 have been asked to bring the horses they purchased to the Ag Hall for the June 10 "reunion." It is hoped that it will become an annual affair.

The "40" are being used as a focal point to attract donations to the Ag Hall. Contributions -- which are tax deductible -- should be sent to Ag Hall of Fame, Bonner Springs, Kansas 66012.



Dick Sparrow, Iowa farmer, trainer and driver of the 40-hitch team, looks forward to the June 10th "reunion" of the Belgians.

June Without Dairy Month? ... LIKE LADY GODIVA WITHOUT HER HORSE

Looks funny either way.

Can you imagine June without Dairy Month? I CAN'T EITHER. It would be like Lady Godiva without her horse. JUNE or JUNE MONTH Looks furny either way cepted as a baby's security

blanket. "June" and "Dairy" go together like cheese and crackers, pork and beans, milk and cookies, ham and eggs, or anything else that really belong together.

June Dairy Month has become the accepted time to salute the nation's dairy industry and remind con-sumers of nutritious dairy foods and the hard working dairy farmers who produce milk, "nature's most nearly perfect food."

Even though the celebration of June Dairy Month may have had a business purpose in the beginning, because grazing cows produced more milk and the kids were out of school for the summer, it's beyond that now

In this era of "natural being better," dairy foods are even more important to consumers. They fit today's lifestyle because they're convenient, nutritious and a good buy when all foods are xpensive

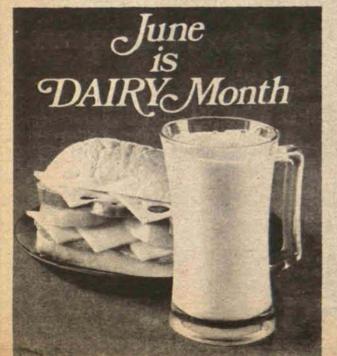
June Dairy Month is important to grocers, too, with dairy products ap-proximating \$25 billion dollars in retail each year. It's also important to agriculture and business because of material, supply and equipment sales; to food editors because It's Dairy Reminder Month; and to city dwellers who welcome June

Dairy Month, like an old friend

After all, urban consumers, who drink 80 percent of the milk produced by U.S. dairy farmers, are important to agriculture, business and food editors alike. Without them, the celebration of June Dairy Month would be muted. So let's hear it for June Dairy Month in 1978.

What?	Hann		-
What's	парр	penin	g.

Contraction of the second	TT	
June 19-23	MFB Young People's Citizenship Seminar	Albion College
June 19-23	College Week for Women	Michigan State University
June 22-24	Agriculture Promotion Display	Rogers Plaza, Grand Rapids
June 28	4th Annual Grain Marketing Seminar	Hilton Inn, Lansing
July 7.9	Sebewaing Sugar Festival	Sebewaing
August 8	Primary Elections	Statewide
August 10-11	Agri-Marketing Seminar	Hilton Inn, Lansing
August 10-11	International Grape Meeting	Kalamazoo



FARM NEWS

AFBF India Trade Mission Stimulates Ag Sales

A 16-day, 16,000 mile market development tour of 16,000 mile India, Indonesia and Hong Kong in March 1978 enabled AFBF President Allan Grant and a group of state Farm Bureau leaders to open doors to the representatives of onefifth of the world's population in AFBF's continuing search for greater agricultural trading opportunities plus the understanding derived from personal, farmer-to-farmer contacts.

According to tour par-ticipants, the trip appears to have accomplished the following market objectives: Stimulated increased sales

of soy flour and wheat to Indonesia . . . encouraged the purchase of purebred dairy cattle breeding stock from the United States . . . accelerated interest in the establishment of an independent, voluntary general farmers organization in India and in sending young farmers to train in the U.S. under Farm Bureau auspices .

opened exploratory discussion joint-venture tropical fruit tropical fruit joint-venture exotic exotic tropical fruit processing with Indian leaders and developing beef cattle herds in available grasslands of Sumatra, Indonesia, and . . . set the stage for an affirmative Farm Bureau relationship with the foremost leaders in indication of the set o agricultural trade activity in both the private and government sectors of India and Indonesia.

The tour had its genesis in the early 1970's when representatives of the Indian Sikh community contacted

the Washington office of AFBF regarding the desire of Sikh farmers to see some of their young men trained in the U.S. Then, in the spring of 1977, Vice Chancellor Dr. A.S. 1977, Vice Chancellor Dr. A.S. Cheema of the Agricultural University of the Punjab invited President Grant to address the faculty and students of that leading research and educational center in the Punjabi city of Ludhiana at his earliest Ludhiana at his earliest convenience.

In conjunction with his address to the University of the Punjab, President Grant encouraged the development of a truly non-government farmers organization. He and Mrs. Grant participated in the opening of the annual farmers' fair at the University where newly developed hybrid seed is dispensed to the best far-

Two days were devoted to a firsthand look at the Anand dairy cooperative and dairy processing complex -- a cooperative effort in which 250 thousand farm families, milking some 300 thousand animals (mostly water buffalo), participate and supply a vast area from Bombay to Delhi with dried milk, baby food, chocolate candy and cheeses. The genuis behind this effort, Dr. Verghese Kurien, has now been charged by the govern-ment with responsibility for setting up cooperatives some 17 throughout India.

In Bombay, just prior to departure for Indonesia, AFBF hosted a reception and



During the annual Mela (farmers' fair) at the Ludhiana campus, AFBF President Alan Grant honors an award-winning Punjabl farmer with the presentation of an advanced strain of wheat seed developed by the Agricultural University of Punjab.

Chamber of Commerce following a special roundtable conference with journalists and economists arranged by the Chamber's executive director, Arun Vakil.

Though the stay in Indonesia was brief and coincided with the with coincided the inauguration of the country's President and Vice President, the Farm Bureau leaders managed important discussion with import-export traders, U.S. embassy of-ficials, a lengthy visit with Major General Bustanil

dinner for the Indo-American Arifin who supervises all imports of wheat, soybeans and sugar for the nation. He expressed great interest in wheat from the U.S. and assured his guests that American agricultural trade with Indonesia has a promising future. A brief tour of a tea plantation and rice research institute preceded the flight to Hong Kong enroute back to the U.S.

An informative session was held by Hammer, Lewis and Zapf with U.S. Agricultural Officer in Hong King, Alva Lewis Erisman, who monitors East Asian monitors East Asian agricultural activity. Though mainland China is the British outpost's prime supplier of food, the United States is number two with 1977 exports to Hong Kong of food products and cotton valued at over \$300 million. Erisman is con-vinced this figure will rise to half a billion dollars in the

next year. Hong Kong buys fruit, wheat, ginseng, animal feed and frozen poultry from the United States. Some items of processed food and textile products are sold to the U.S.

by Hong Kong. Referring primarily to the social impact the dairy cooperative movement in India has had in opposing caste divisions and elevating the role of women in community life, plus the ferment for having farmers speak for farmers in the Punjab, and the growing sophistication of research in both India and Indonesia, Grant summed up views expressed by all participants in the Farm Bureau tour when he commented:

"In the long run, the social changes taking place in this part of the world may be of more lasting significance than the immediately tangible benefits of production and income."

Russians Visit FB Center

By Cary Blake This time they came by air instead of sea, as 29 Russians visited Michigan and other states this spring as part of an international YMCA-Soviet Exchange Program authorized by the U.S. State Department.

The entourage, from Southern Russia, their farm belt, included farmers, engineers, teachers and even a "sports organizer.'

Following tours of several Fowlerville farms, Dr. Viktor Linnik, the group's director, explained that compared to Russian dairy farms, our dairy operations are "more efficient," that more man-power is required on Soviet dairy farms dairy farms. Linnik added that in

Southern Russia, the average collective (state) farm covers 20,000 to 30,000 acres. Flooding is a big problem, he said, in that "climate variations are very, very pronounced."

U.S.-Soviet growing seasons are much the same. In Russia, seeds are sown in late April or early May and harvesting begins in August.



Larry R. Ewing, Director of Information and Public Relations, MFB, presents a bottle of Michigan wine to Konstantin Georgievich Meremianini, a Soviet winemaker, at a banquet and reception held for the visiting Russians at FB Center.

Their major crops are the grains. One problem Linnik pointed out was that the Russian climate is not good for corn, a yield introduced on a large scale 19 years ago by Kruschev.

The Russians spent five days in Michigan, their longest in the U.S., as guest of the Michigan YMCA and Michigan State University. Their stay included a welcome from Governor Milliken at the Capitol, meetings at Michigan State University, a supper and tour of Farm Bureau Center, and then to Detroit for several tours.

Michigan Fruit to Taiwan

Fruits grown in Michigan will soon be tempting the appetites of people in Taiwan, halfway around the world. More than 1,000 cases of Michigan fruit products are new on route to Toinei the now en route to Taipei, the capital of Nationalist China, according to B. Dale Ball, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Shipments of Michigan products resulted from recent international trade contacts by MDA, Ball said. In February, a delegation of top trade officials from Taiwan was treated to a sampling of Michigan products at a luncheon hosted by MDA in East Lansing. In March, MDA's international trade economist, Ming Wu, visited Taiwan importers to pave the

way for the first shipments. According to MDA's Dr. Wu, it is likely that much more product from Michigan farms will find its way to Taiwan. "They have tasted and priced, and they like our products," said Dr. Wu. "The 1,000 cases being shipped by a Michigan fruit canning firm will allow for a lot more tasting and trying and market sampling in Taiwan."

"We're confident that they'll be back for more," Wu concluded. "Taiwan has a growing population, a small and disappearing land base for agriculture, and a need for increased food imports.'

The Taiwan market effort is one of many such contacts being established throughout the world by MDA's Inter-national Trade division.

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FARM NEWS

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 April were:



JOHN KNOERR

Week of April 3 - John Knoerr of Rt. 3, Sandusky, who raises crops and dairy cattle on a 320-acre farm in Sanilac County. Knoerr, 38, milks 30 cows and raises dry beans, corn, beets and hay. He is a director on the Michigan Bean Commission; current member and past treasurer of the Sandusky School Board; director of the Exchange State Bank; president of the Sanilac County Farm Bureau; member of the Farm Bureau State Study Committee; and past member of the Michigan State University Kellogg Study Group. Knoerr and his wife, Cathy, have two children.



WAYNE SCHIPPER

Week of April 10 - Wayne Schipper of Holland, a 49-yearold poultry farmer from Allegan County. Schipper, a lifelong farmer, currently farms 350 acres and runs a large poultry operation with his son, Carl. The operation includes egg grading and storage facilities. Schipper is member of the Hamilton School Board; member of the Hamilton Lions Club; member of the board of the Overisel

Reformed Church; member of the American Poultry Assn.; and member of the Allegan County Farm Bureau and the Hamilton Farm Bureau Co-op Board. He and his wife, Doris, have five children.

ROBERT SCHULTZ

Week of April 17 -- Robert

Schultz of Belleville, who is a

major sweet corn supplier for the Detroit area. Schultz, 35, raises over 1200 acres of cash

grain and sweet corn in Wayne

County. Besides sweet corn, his

major crops include soybeans,

wheat and corn. He is a director on the board of the Ypsilanti

Farm Bureau Elevator; member of the Wayne County Farm

Bureau; and past president and



DONALD G. SEBRIGHT

Week of April 24 -- Donald G. Sebright, dairy farmer from Martin in Allegan County. Sebright, 46, farms about 330 acres and milks 46 cows. He is a district delegate to the Michigan Milk Producers Assn.; member of the local board of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative; member of the board of the Allegan County Holstein Assn.; County Farm Bureau member for over 20 years; past member of the local school board and past Lions Club president. He was named Allegan County Dairyman of the was named Year for 1977 by the Dairy Herd Improvement Assn. Sebright and his wife, Joan, have four children.

Rural Crime Prevention Council Saddened by Death of Officer

The Michigan Rural Crime Prevention Council passed a resolution of "deepest resolution of "deepest regret" at the death of Lt. William J. Nixon of the Jackson Police Department. On April 27, Lt. Nixon was shot and killed in the line of duty while investigating the theft of construction equipment in Jackson County.

Ron Nelson, chairman of the council, said "The death of Lt. Nixon was a tragedy underscores that the seriousness of the con-struction and farm equipment theft problem here in Michigan. His death was a sad reminder for everyone to make a concerted effort to prevent theft of personal property as well as all types of heavy equipment.' The Council

is an association of law en-forcement, insurance and farm groups that are working to prevent the theft of farm and construction equipment. It consists of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, the Michigan State Police, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Association, the Agricultural Engineering Department of Michigan State University, the Michigan Farm & Power Equipment Association, the Farm Bureau Insurance Group and the Michigan Farm Bureau.



An Agricultural Concern Of Interest to Everyone

The value of agricultural imports coming into the U.S. has been increasing at a faster rate than the shipment of farm

exports out of the country. In 1977, exports of U.S. farm products were up about five percent in value from 1976.

But imports of agricultural products into the U.S. showed a hike of 27 percent over 1976.

Expanded foreign markets as an outlet for the efficient production of U.S. farmers is needed not only to help temper domestic food costs, but also to improve the country's trade balances

Presented by this publication and Sperry New Holland to promote a better understanding of the modern farm to family food supply system

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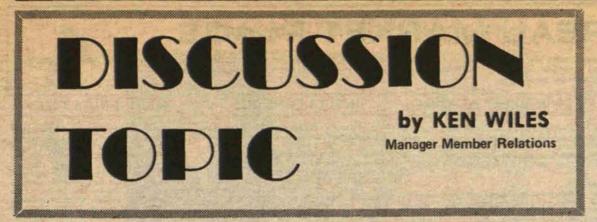
Today's Prices Top Value

15.5-386 ply 189 lbs. \$187.60 18.4-34 6 ply 221 lbs. \$241.32

current treasurer of the Northwest Community Group.

FARM NEWS

PAGE 21



"Tax revolt is spreading," "Taxpayers demand relief," "Millage defeated," "I can no longer afford my home." This tax protest theme is common today, in spite of the fact that a nationwide study shows Michigan ranks high in terms of revenue equity and a balanced tax system.

Property taxes, while a local tax, has experienced considerable growth in both rate and base. While local voters have some control over the millage level through voting on school millage and additional county, township, and city millage, they have no control on the escalating value of the property.

The combination of property tax rates and increases in the assessed valuations have resulted in increases in the total property tax bill. However, all taxes have increased sub-stantially. What makes the large increased sub-property taxes more significant, is that property taxes are not directly related to ability to pay.

One of the biggest criticisms of the property tax is that it is not directly related to family disposable income. For example, a farmer may have considerable property taxes to pay, but have a relatively low disposable income. The property tax takes a much more severe bite into his lifestyle than does the property tax of a suburbanite.

suburbanite. It must be remembered, however, that the state reimburses citizens who pay excessively high property taxes, under its Circuit Breaker program. Persons who pay more than 3.5 per-cent of their household income in property taxes receive rebates of 60 percent of the excess tax, up to a maximum of \$1,200. Senior citizens receive 100 percent of the excess. For low in-come senior citizens, the 3.5 percent of income criterion is lowered according to a sliding scale. In addition, farmers can take advantage of the Farmland Preservation Act. Through a con-tractual arrangement with the state, all their property tax in excess of 7 percent of their household income is refunded. They are also exempt from certain special assessments. exempt from certain special assessments.

Many voters favor retention of the property tax because it affords them the opportunity to vote on tax levies. However, in recent years, voters' reactions against the property taxes have led to a variety of proposals to change the method of financing schools.

REFORM

Most proponents of school finance charge described their proposals as "reform," but it should be noted that the term "school financing reform" means many different things to many different interests.

When school officials speak of reform, they generally visualize a system whereby there would be both more revenue and larger annual increases then presently received, without the labor, expense and uncertainty of repeated millage elections.

Spokesmen for so-called taxpayer revolt groups, on the other hand, look upon reform chiefly as a means of cutting school property taxes, with little or no increase in other types of taxes

When state level school finance experts refer to reform, they think in terms of narrowing the revenue gap among Michigan's K-12 school districts.

No single reform plan can meet all of these varied and contradictory expectations. To achieve board support, a proposal would have to offer less revenue than schools expect, less tax relief than taxpayer groups anticipate, and less of a gain towards greater fiscal equality than state level planners visualize.

The first step in judging various proposals for change is an understanding of what is to be changed and the school financing system which exists today.

SCHOOLS' FUNDS

School costs have more than doubled in the last decade, even though fewer students are now being educated. The reasons most frequently cited are high inflation and the mandating of new school programs and responsibilities, sometimes through legislative action, more frequently by court rulings. Schools must pay employment and Worker's Compensation, provide special education programs for handicapped people, and do numerous other things which were minor or unknown a few years ago.

One other reason is the declining enrollment. Schools have been unable, with the drop in students since the 1971-72 school year, to reduce their staff proportionately. The same space and fixed costs remain, and a teacher must still be retained, with both annual and increment increases generally specified in a contract.

This increase in cost is not unique to education, it has occurred in all levels of public and human services. But unlike social services or welfare, where roughly half the costs are met with federal funds, schools receive very little from Washington.

State school aid makes up about 45 percent of the school's cost. About 5 percent comes from Washington. The other half comes from property taxes levied by local and intermediate school districts.

It is extremely difficult to determine if the people of Michigan actually prefer to eliminate or drastically reduce school property taxes and fund public education through other means. In recent years, the fastest growing source of school support has been, not taxes imposed by the legislature or Congress, but the taxes of property which the majority of citizens volun-tarily voted upon themselves.

EVEN CHANCE

The state strives to equalize the revenueraising ability of the school districts and thus eliminate tax-base wealth as a factor in deter-mining the type of education a child receives. The 1978-79 state aid act is expected to guarantee each school district \$271 per pupil plus \$40 for each mill up to 30. This totals \$1471 per pupil.

Districts vary widely in terms of the revenue-raising ability, which depends on the tax base or SEV behind each child. In district "A," with an SEV per pupil of \$25,000, each mill levied brings in about \$25 per pupil; while in district "B," with an SEV per pupil of \$17,000, each mill will bring in \$17 per pupil.

By leveling 30 mills, district "A" will realize \$750 per pupil in local revenue. By leveling the same 30 mills, district "B" will bring in \$510 per pupil.

Obviously, the \$240 difference in local revenue does not stem from any differences in self-taxing effort. Both districts level exactly the same 30 mills, which means that individual owners of properly-assessed homes of equal value in both districts pay exactly the same amount in school operating taxes. The differential stems solely from the difference in tax-base wealth (SEV)



The guarantee in the expected 1978-79 state aid formula compensates for the difference. All districts which levy 30 mills would be guaran-teed \$1471 per pupil. So district "A" receives \$721 per pupil in membership aid while district "B" receives \$961.

About 10 percent of the pupils in the state live in school districts where the local yield for each mill levied exceeds the state-local guarantee the state can make for other districts. Such out-of-formula districts receive little or no membership aid. They do, however, receive the same categorical aid for transportation, special education, vocational education, etc., as other districts and the same state neurons for social districts, and the same state payments for social security and retirement costs.

State revenues used in support of schools come from a wide variety of sources. Nearly half of the state funding comes from an "earmarked" School Aid Fund, which is made up of 60 percent of the sales tax, 2 cents of the cigarette tax and a 4 percent excise tax on liquor. All the rest comes from the state's General Fund, which is made up of all unrestricted state taxes - the personal income tax, the single business tax, the remainder of the sales tax, and many miscellaneous and minor sources.

A great many people still wonder why a lot of revenues cannot be used as a major source of revenues cannot be used as a major source of support for the schools, thus relieving the demands upon the property tax and other sources. The answer is that, as part of the general fund, lottery revenues are indeed used for the schools, but the lottery has never yet netted more than a small percentage of the hundreds of millions schools need as revenue hundreds of millions schools need as revenue. Also, contrary to what many were led to believe, when the Michigan lottery was approved by the voters no provision was made to use all of its revenue for support of the schools.

SUMMARY

We have what is probably the strongest tradition of local control of financing schools of tradition of local control of financing schools of any state. Under that tradition we have changed major differences in the revenue levels of our school districts. Any plan for shifting a larger share of school support to the state level would have to recognize these differences and phase them out gradually. Otherwise, either chaos would result, or the cost would be prohibited. There are no quick, easy solutions; but the difficulties are not, and should not be, regarded as totally insurmountable. School finance reform still means, and will continue to mean, many

still means, and will continue to mean, many different things to different groups and different interests. But the present concern with this subject is clear evidence that the search for a better way still goes on.

Accordingly, next month's discussion will be about one of the proposals to change the financing of schools - the voucher plan.

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FARM NEWS

MARKET PLACE FARM BUREAU

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

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Puct Aluminum Pipe – Plummer Supply, Bradley & 131 Exit, Bradley 49311. (616) 792-2215. (4-tf-25f)

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(6-11-29p)

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REGISTERED ANGUS Yearling Bulls & Heifers, club calves, Write or call Neona Farm, Neal Feikema, Evart, Michigan 49631, Phone (616) 734-2579. (1-122-191)

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PEARL SNAP FASTENERS - 124 COLORS AND STYLES. Sewing Supplies. Not available in stores. Free Catalog. Bee Lee Company. Box 20558-MF, Dallas, Texas 75220. (5-81-23p) (5-81-230)

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MISCELLANEOUS

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MISCELLANEOUS

FREEI Self-Improvement Book Catalog. SHEA HOUSE, 2847 Webb Avenue, Bronx, New York 10468. (12.91.14p)

FREE MUSIC LESSON, "Learn Chord Playing" Plano, organ, guitar. Simple new system. Davidsons, 6727 MFN Metcalt, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204. (6-11-19p)

DRAIN KING is a super effective drain declogger. By simply connecting this amazing new tool to your garden hose, the unpleasant chore of unclogging kitchen sinks, showers and tubs is made easy. When water is turned on, the device expands the locks itself in a pipe. Pressure forces strong jets of water thru surge valve to dislodge blockage. Easy and fast to use. Can't harm plumbing. Stop pouring money down the drain. Model No: 340 Complete Kit \$10.95, postage paid. Satistaction Gueran-ted. Delverna National Systems, 1132 So. Brinton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, Mt.48858. (4-61-257-68b)

BARN WOOD WANTED: Write to Barns 345 - 8th Street, Ann Arbor 48103, or call (313) 994-0621 or (313) 761-3065. (6-3t-17b)

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FRUIT & NUTS TREES

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40 ACRES, MOSTLY ALL WOODED, Hillsdale County. St. Joseph River crosses property. Only \$562.50 per acre terms. STATE WIDE REAL ESTATE OF ADRIAN. (517) 265-7560, anytime. (6-11-25f)

HAY LISTING

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

LARGE QUANTITIES 1977 HAY all types and prices. N. D. Paterson Ranch, Rt. 1, Melrose, W1 54642. (715) 284-9226 or (715) 284 (431-20b) 9826

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

Hedelfinger, Rainer. (Short Supply). STANDARD & DWARF SOUR CHERRY TREES: Montmorency, Early Richmond, North Star, Meteor. (Short Supply). NUT TREES: English Walnut, Carpathian Walnut, Black Walnut, Hazelnut, Chinese Walnut, Black Walnut, Hazelnut, Chinese Chestnut, American Butternut, Stuart Pecan. MISCELLANEOUS TREES: Hyslop Crab Apple, Foster's Hybrid Mulberry, Brown Turkey Fig. All 2-yr. well-rooted, branched frees. Low quantity rates. Call, write or stop at our Hartford offices for trees while supply lasts (V₂ mile north if 1-94 and Hartford exit). DEAN FOSTER NUR-SERIES, Box FB-34, Hartford, Michigan 49057. Phone: (616) 621-2419. (6-11-277b). 0

Agricultural News Backgrounder

Happy Birthday, Hugo!



Larry McNeil, Channel 9-10, Sault Ste. Marie, listens intently to John Kronemeyer, Chippewa County Farm Bureau president, during an interview at the Mackinaw City News Backgrounder.

FB Women's Subcommittee Meets



U.P. Regional Representative Hugo Kivi was all smiles after Fred Pershinske, President of Mac-Luce Farm Bureau, presented him with a birthday cake on behalf of the county Farm Bureau at the U.P. Institute in Escanaba on April 17.

Essay Winner on the Air



The Farm Bureau Women's Public Relations sub-committee consisting of Vivian Lott, Neva Wood, Barb Woods and Claudine Jackson met recently at Farm Bureau Center to discuss ways Farm Bureau Women can promote Michigan agriculture.



Erskine Stanley (right), statewide winner of Farm Bureau Insurance Group's America and Me essay contest, appeared as a guest on WOTV's Buck Matthews Show in Grand Rapids recently. Erskine, a 13-year-old student from Harrison Park Jr. High in Grand Rapids, talked about the contest with host Buck Matthews (left) and read his winning essay on the show. His essay was selected best out of more than 7,500 entries from 370 Michigan schools in the 1977-78 contest.

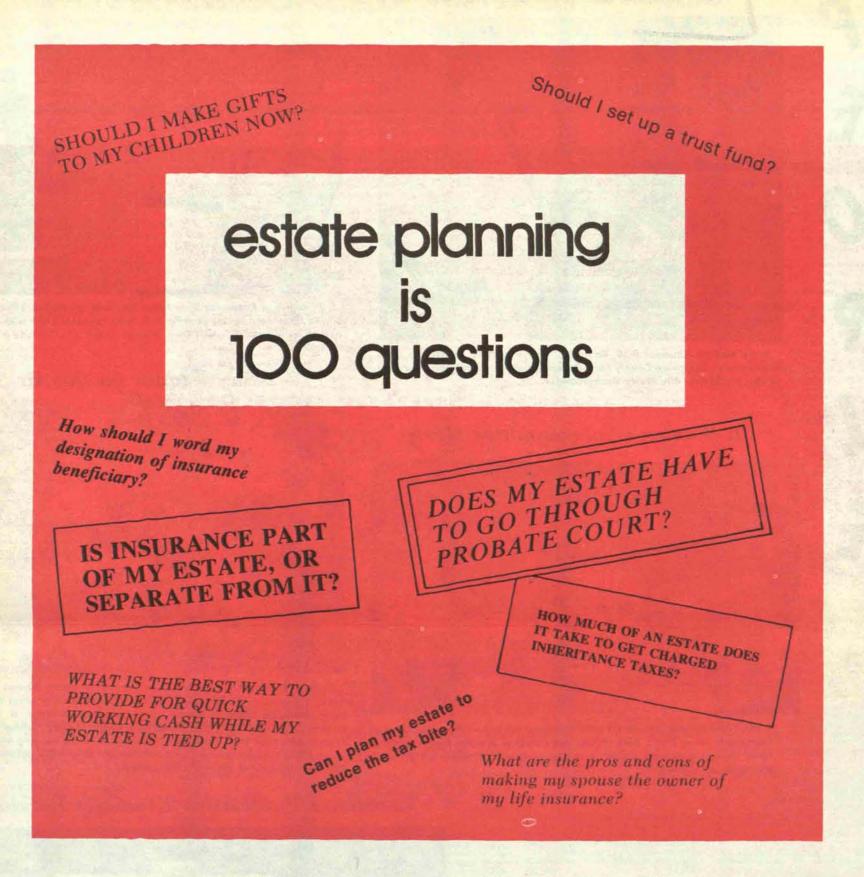
Consumer Publication Promotes Potatoes



Ted Flaugher (right), Transport Fleet manager, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, received the Pullman Trailmobile Safety Award this May. The award was presented to Ted by Ron Sprinkel, vice president, Farm Supply Division, at the Michigan Trucking Association Council of Safety Super-



A new publication that helps potato growers by telling consumers the low fat content of foods such as potatoes was unveiled by the Potato Board in Denver recently. Board member John Crawford of Lakeview, Michigan, Montcalm County Farm Bureau member, receives a copy of The Fat Counter Guide from Pam Moore, the Board's home economist. Crawford was recently appointed to the Board by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland. Another Michigan potato grower and Farm Bureau member, Joa Penzien of Mt. Clemens, also serves on the Board and is on the administrative committee.



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