**Friends of Agriculture** to Receive Support

For the first time in its 39-year history, the Michigan Farm Bureau has a political action arm, authorized by member-delegates at the last annual meeting. Known as AgriPac, the political action arm will give active support to candidates seeking public office. AgriPac recently sent letters to all members offering the opportunity to make voluntary political contributions to "Friends of Agriculture." These contributions will be disbursed by AgriPac, based on need and effectiveness for agriculture, to candidates who have been designated as "Friends of Agriculture."

These designated "Friends of Agriculture" -- 61 candidates for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, state Senate and state House of Representatives -- were announced at a press conference held at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing on June 21.

The criteria used by the MFB AgriPac in selection of the "Friends of Agriculture" included: (1) voting records on major issues affecting agriculture; (2) degree of special effort to introduce, support, or oppose legislation in accordance with the position of agriculture; (3) overall support of Farm Bureau policy; and (4) special factors such as attendance at Farm Bureau meetings, communication on legislative issues and liaison with Farm Bureau personnel on legislative development.

Selection of the "Friends of Agriculture" was part of a six point political action program unanimously approved by voting delegates at the last MFB annual meeting. The six point program included: (1) naming an annual meeting; (2) assistance to County Farm Bureaus in forming mini-PACs; (3) analysis of voting records and designation of "Friends of Agriculture;" (4) solicitation of voluntary contributions from members to be used in supporting the election campaigns of "Friends of Agriculture;" (5) publication of their voting records (contained in this issue) and (6) encouragement for every member to register and vote in both the 1978 primary and general elections.

Designated "Friends of Agriculture" in the 1978 campaigns include:

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
- Carl Pursell (R-Ann Arbor)
- Garry Brown (R-Kalamazoo)
- David Stockman (R-St. Joseph)
- Harold Sawyer (R-Rockford)
- Guy Vander Jagi (R-Luther)
- Al Cederberg (R-Midland)
- William Broomfield (R-Birmingham)

**STATE SENATE**
- Richard Allen (R-Alma)
- Donald Bishop (R-Rochester)
- Gary Corbin (D-Clio)
- Alvin DeGraw (R-Pigeon)
- Harry DeMaso (R-Battle Creek)
- James DeSuna (D-Wyandotte)
- Jerome Hart (D-Saginaw)
- John Hertel (R-Harper Woods)
- Kerry Kammer (R-Pontiac)
- Art Miller, Jr. (D-Warren)
- Robert VanderLaan (R-Kentwood)
- John Welborn (R-Kalamazoo)
- Robert Young (R-Saginaw)
- Robert Griffin (R-Traverse City)
- U.S. SENATE
- George Montgomery (D-Detroit)
- Charles Mueller (R-Linden)
- Ernest Nash (R-Dimondale)
- Jason Gill (R-Riverview)
- Paul Porter (D-Quincy)
- Mark Silljander (R-Three Rivers)
- Roy Smith (R-Saline)
- Claude Trim (R-Davison)
- Don VanSingel (R-Grand Rapids)
- Charles Varnum (R-Manistin)
- Robert Welborn (R-Kalamazoo)

**SPECIAL CATEGORY**

The following Legislators are also designated as "Friends of Agriculture" but due to special circumstances as explained below have been placed in this category by the MFB AgriPac.

- Senator Toepf and Representative Engler are "Friends of Agriculture" and both are seeking the 36th Senate seat. Neither candidate endorsed the other in the primary, but the winner will be endorsed for election in the November 7 general election.
- Representatives DeStigler and Fredricks are also "Friends of Agriculture" and both are running for the 23rd Senate seat. Neither candidate is endorsed over the other in the primary, but the winner will be endorsed for election in the November 7 general election.
- Representative Gast is seeking the 22nd Senate seat. Based on his strong record in the House, he is designated a "Friend of Agriculture" and endorsed as the preferred candidate for the 22nd Senate seat.
- Representative Mowat is seeking the 19th Senate seat. He is designated a "Friend of Agriculture" and endorsed as the preferred candidate for the 19th Senate seat.
- Senator Davis is seeking the 11th Congressional seat. Based on his strong record in the Michigan Senate, he is designated a "Friend of Agriculture" and endorsed as the preferred candidate for the 11th Congressional seat.
- Senator Davis is seeking the 11th Congressional seat. Based on his record in the Michigan Senate, he is designated a "Friend of Agriculture" and endorsed as the preferred candidate for the 11th Congressional seat.
Somebody Out There IS Listening

There was joy in the hearts of FARM NEWS editors this past month as we received evidence that we had four readers! There was a humorous card from our good friend that secretary of the Ingham County Farm Bureau, Jean Scott; some words of praise from Paradise (Dan Reed, who gets an extra 10 points for sending those words to our box); a great letter from Dean Causey of the MONROE EVENING NEWS who thinks we deserve another one-year contract, and a postcard from Mrs. Gerrie Berends, Kent County Farm Bureau member who enjoyed our front-page bouquet.

Now, you may wonder — what’s such a big deal? Four readers out of over 62,000 families is cause for jubilation? Well... our "research" is not exactly scientific and we have high hopes and secretaries of evidence that are higher than our evidence indicates. There are times, however, when we really do wonder. Our research suggests we explain the policy development process to members... and we already did.

But, it’s not only writing for the member-publication that makes one want to hollow occasionally: "Hey! Out there! Is anybody listening?"

We sometimes reach back to our files for information to newspapers, radio and television stations that have requested agricultural material from us. It’s a deadline that comes around so fast our heads spin and, with mounting postage rates, we sometimes ask if it’s really worth the effort and cost. Then, along comes some proof that, indeed, somebody has received the message and is passing it on to others. Such was the case recently when we used a tongue-in-cheek editorial on carrots. It’s printed here on this page, just in case you didn’t read or hear it.

"We were pleased to learn that it was used by many of the media, including a couple of the 'biggies'... WGN, Chicago, and WJR, Detroit."

The North Dakota Farm Bureau also used it in their weekly newsletter as a tongue-in-cheek reaction, which NDFB Information Director Earl Forkner shared with us. One editor was so pleased he had found a source. He found a source and wrote a story about the story he had written. He had received a call from a local doctor two days after the carrot editorial was run. The doctor reported he had about six people come in for a check-up because they enjoyed their daily quota of carrots and began to worry about whether they were candidates for cancer.

Another editor noted that a local nursing home served glazed carrots every Thursday for lunch. Because it was a favorite of the residents, an extra-large quantity was cooked each week. However, the week the editorial appeared, the nursing home dietician called the newspaper and threatened — good naturedly, of course — to dump the entire batch on the front steps of the paper because a resident would not touch their glazed carrots that week.

"I guess if the readers believed the tongue-in-cheek editorial, hopefully they believe the others, too," writes Earl. "Perhaps we can assuage their fears by getting the message across."

It’s words of wisdom like (Earl’s pearls) — and your letters... that keep us pouncing away, sending messages and hoping someone is receiving them.

Beware of the Carrot!

More and more individuals and organizations are publicly revealing the ridiculous methodology in research and statistics used by food faddists to support their suggested bans. The Northern California Section of the Institute of Food Technologists came up with its own tongue-in-cheek analysis of that methodology:

"Carrots will kill you! Every carrot you eat brings you nearer to death. Although leading horticulturists have long known that Daucus Carota is a delicious vegetable, the thinking man has failed to grasp the terrifying significance in the phrase: Sure it helps your night vision, but what does it do to your liver?"

"Carrots are associated with all the major diseases of the body. Eating them breeds wars and communism. They are related to most airline tragedies. Auto accidents are caused by carrots. There exists a positive relationship between crime waves and consumption of this vegetable. For example:

- "Nearly all sick people have eaten carrots. The effects are obviously cumulative."
- "99.9 percent of all people who die from cancer have eaten carrots."
- "99.9 percent of all American soldiers have eaten carrots.
- "98.9 percent of all baby doctors have eaten carrots."
- "99.9 percent of the people who drive through auto accidents ate carrots within 60 days preceding the accident."
- "93.1 percent of juvenile delinquents come from homes where carrots are served frequently."

"Evidence points to the long-term effects of carrot-eating:"
- "Of the people born in 1839 who later dined on carrots, their life expectancy was 100 percent mortality."
- "All carrots eaten before 1849 and 1859 have wrinkled skin, have lost most of their teeth, have brittle bones and failing eyesight, if the ills of eating carrots have not already caused death."
- "Even more convincing is the report of a noted team of medical specialists: rats forced-feed with 20 pounds of carrots per day for 30 days developed bulging abdomens. Their appetites for wholesome food were destroyed."
- "The only way to avoid the deleterious effects of carrot-eating is to change the eating habits. Eat orchid petal soup."

"But there is no one has any problems from eating orchid petal soup."

Where the members live. A strong, aggressive county unit can accomplish literally anything its members need. That’s what its goal should be — to serve its members. And to reach that goal, it must have effective county committees. That’s what Farm Bureau is doing — people working together to help themselves.

There is no room in Farm Bureau for ‘paper committees.” We need county committees made up of farmers who are committed to building a better organization, able to meet any challenges that lie ahead for its members.

If you are in a leadership position now and will be involved in the committee selection process, I strongly urge you to try to surface the people who are not, but know of a member who has a special concern or interest and the potential for contributing to the effectiveness of a particular committee, take a moment to call your county president and suggest that person. It could even be YOU.

Elton R. Smith
Carter's Beef Import Action Irks Farmers

"Grandstand Play" for Consumers

The beef industry, just beginning to recover after four years in a loss position, was recently dealt a blow by the Carter administration's move to allow increased meat imports into the U.S. Despite strong opposition by Farm Bureau and other farm organizations to attempts by the federal government to control beef prices, President Carter announced on June 8 that the government will renegotiate the voluntary restraint agreements with 13 nations that export beef to the U.S. The net effect will be to allow an additional 200 million pounds of beef to be imported into the country this year.

His action provoked the anger of farmers throughout the nation. American Farm Bureau President Allan Grant, a beef producer himself, said, "It is unfair to a struggling American industry to force a recovery that has taken so long to achieve," and warned that the government's move would drive the beef industry from a struggling American industry to interference with a future type of government intervention that would drive consumer prices higher in the long run.

At a news conference on June 9 at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing, three Michigan farmers blasted Carter's decision to allow additional beef imports into the country.

Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau; David Morris, Grand Ledge beef producer and president of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange, and Dick Knirk, Branch county beef producer, all told reporters that consumers will suffer, along with the beef industry, from Carter's action.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture had admitted that the government will only shave a few cents a pound off the retail price of beef," Smith said. "What the President's action really does is send a signal to beef producers not to expand their herds, and that is bad news for the consumers of the future. In the long run, it is better for consumers and producers if the market system and the free market are allowed to work. This government action shows that the Carter administration has little faith in the market system - which has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to provide ample, reasonably-priced food supplies for this country."

Morris questioned why the administration had singled out the beef industry, while all other costs, such as automobiles, were also increasing. "How long can this kind of interference with the beef industry be tolerated by our industry?" he asked.

"Consumers have experienced no shortage of our product in the supermarket or in the restaurants, and if they hope to continue to have an ample supply in the future, they should keep consuming our beef. The American farmer has not forsaken the consumer. We're doing our part as a responsible industry to promote cooperation with producers, retailers, and consumer understanding as a means of cutting back."

Knirk explained the frustration of farmers who cannot afford to compete with the beef industry in wages paid to employees. "There's no way I can pay my employees a comparable wage because there just isn't the profit in the food industry whether it's in the retail end of it, the wholesale, or in farming. We operate strictly on a supply and demand basis. We're not asked for government support in the past, and we don't want to keep it that way," he said.

The farmers stressed that beef producers are not the culprits of the inflation problem faced by both farmers and consumers. The root of the inflation problem, they said, was runaway government spending and that the administration's attack on beef prices was merely a grandstand play for consumers.

Calling President Carter's decision a "beef industry's last gasp for restrictions on beef products "counterproductive" and "another affront to the American farmer." State Representative Paul Porter (D-Quincy) has introduced a legislative resolution urging the President to rescind his action.

Porter, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, warned that the import decision will result in a staggering loss in the U.S. beef export industry in terms of labor, which will be reflected in every stage of beef production - from breeding to raising the grain and corn to the processing of the product in the supermarket "another affront to the consumer."

"The increase to increase imports by 15 percent is of questionable economic soundness," Porter said. "Porter allowing some 200 million pounds of beef, equivalent to 140,000 head of cattle, to enter the market will again in all probability go below the point where it is feasible for American producers to keep cattle."

"When we reach that point, cattlemen must reduce herds, which in the long range drives prices up and creates beef shortages."

"In light of the fact that prices have only approached the level which induces farmers to increase their herds, the President's action defeats economic logic. In addition, increasing America's demand on the international beef market can only drive prices up worldwide."

Porter added, "the planned increase in the importation of beef is a short-sighted, stop-gap move and an impediment to American agriculture which ought not to be implemented. It would be yet another affront to the American farmer, making it even more difficult for him to make a living."

BEEF INDUSTRY AIMS FOR CONSUMER SUPPORT

FARM BUREAU, in cooperation with producers, packers and retailers, is increasing its efforts to gain consumer understanding as the nation faces an era of higher meat prices.

This action, approved by the APBF Board of Directors at an early June meeting, is one of the many recommendations that came from a recent meeting of the APBF Beef Cattle Advisory Committee and a special livestock and meat situation conference.

Another approved recommendation calls for a "positive, honest approach to assure consumers that the meat industry is consonant of their needs and that it can produce all the meat they desire.

FARM BUREAU is urging individual states to hold livestock and meat situation conferences to encourage meat packers, retailers and the news media to tell the story across to consumers that "beef is a good buy," noting that the beef industry is responding to higher prices and beginning to rebuild cattle herds after four years of cutting back.

The board also approved a recommendation that Farm Bureau not oppose simultaneous registration and voting if a referendum is held again on approval and funding of a producers' promotion program under the Beef Research and Information Act. Attached to the Senate version of the Farm Credit Bill (H.R. 11504), which is now before a House-Senate conference committee, are amendments to the act that would provide that a referendum conducted among beef producers may be approved by a majority of those voting; but it would not change the requirements in the present law that (1) in order to be eligible to vote in a referendum, a producer must first register and (2) in order for a referendum to be valid, at least 50 percent of the registered producers must have voted.

The level which induces farmers to increase their herds, the President's action defeats economic logic. In addition, increasing America's demand on the international beef market can only drive prices up worldwide.

Worker's Comp Changes

In response to a resolution passed at Michigan Farm Bureau's 1977 annual meeting, Farm Bureau Insurance Group has changed the policy period for Safety Group Worker's Compensation policies for agricultural workers.

The new policy period will be the calendar year (January 1 to December 31), instead of July 1 to June 30, as was previously the case.

The change which was requested by delegates at MFB's annual meeting last December, was made to provide renewal dates which are more compatible with the fiscal year of the Safety Group policyholders.

The Safety Group Worker's Compensation Program is available exclusively to Farm Bureau members who employ agricultural workers. If the Safety Group experience a relatively safe year without excessive losses, the participating Farm Bureau members can receive dividends ranging from five percent to 45 percent.
At Saginaw FBS-MEE Facility in Zilwaukee

"Supply Center" Welcomes Visitors at Open House July 15

YOU'RE INVITED
to Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

SUPPLY CENTER
4330 Seaway Drive
Zilwaukee, Michigan

APPRECIATION DAY
AND OPEN HOUSE
July 15, 1978
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TOURS - SALE SPECIALS
Don't Miss the Free
Michigan Lunch
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

BRING THE FAMILY
An all-Michigan products luncheon and tours of the complete Saginaw Farm Bureau Services - Michigan Elevator Exchange facility at Zilwaukee will be featured at an Appreciation Day and Open House on July 15, 1978.

To area patrons, the combined services of the grain terminal, farm supply warehouse and retail center are commonly known as the "Supply Center." Managers at this FBS-MEE farmer service complex are proud of their broad service capability and the fact that the remodeled terminal will increase the efficient handling of Michigan grown grain and beans.

Visitors to the "Supply Center" will be welcomed by the manager of the MEE grain terminal, Dale Ackley; farm supply warehouse manager, Maury Tase; and retail center manager, Tom Armstrong.

At the MEE grain terminal, farmers will view new high-speed shipping and receiving equipment. Four unloading pits can handle 37,000 bushels per hour and its dryer has the capacity of 8000 bushels per hour resulting in faster turnaround time for patrons. Three thousand items are offered through the retail center for patrons and all 3000 are inventoried and readily available in the farm supply warehouse. The farm supply warehouse also serves other FBS cooperative locations in Michigan.

Legislators Served Bean Treats

**Capitol Bean Day, 1978**

Bean Soup at Capital Bean Day, 1978, was so good that Governor William C. Milliken ended up with 2 cups, ladled out by Jack McAlpine, second from right, and Howard Russell, right, both of Fairgrove in Tuscola County.

Fairgrove is the home of the Michigan Bean Festival, held each Labor Day weekend.

The bean pot, which holds about 200 gallons, is taken to festivals and events throughout the state by members of the Bean Festival committee. At left on the photo is Rep. Quincy Hoffman of Applegate.

Another part of the traditional bean-boasting day is a spread of beanbase cakes, cookies, doughnuts, rolls and breads prepared by Gratiot County Farm Bureau Women, who bring several thousand treats to the Capitol, where they are served to Legislators, administrative officers, staff and other Capitol personnel and visitors, to acquaint them with the nutrition, variety and versatility of Michigan beans. With the Gratiot County group was Queen Tammy Jean Reeves of Ithaca, daughter of Gratiot County Farm Bureau member Robert Reeves, and the first county bean queen chosen in 1978. She'll represent her county at the Michigan Bean Festival in Fairgrove.

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**Members Appointed to Cherry Committee**

Four Farm Bureau members have been appointed or reappointed to the Michigan Cherry Committee by Governor William Milliken.

George Kelly of Traverse City, member of the Northwest Michigan County Farm Bureau, was appointed to succeed Fred H. Dohm of Traverse City, who did not seek reappointment. A fruit farmer and farm manager-partner owner of Seaberg Farms, Kelly is a former member of the Michigan Association of Cherry Producers board. He will represent sweet cherry growers on the committee.

Donald Kroupa of Traverse City, NWM Farm Bureau member; Harry D. Overhiser, South Haven, Allegan County Farm Bureau member, and Elmer Peterson, Ludington, Mason County Farm Bureau member, were all reappointed to the Cherry Committee.

**Committee for Jobs and Energy Created**

The Michigan Committee for Jobs and Energy (MCJE), which Michigan Farm Bureau helped to develop, is a newly-formed coalition representing labor, business, industry, agriculture, education, energy producers and others in the state actively interested in the growth of energy supplies.

MCJE supports responsible energy conservation; encouragement of exploration and development of domestic oil and natural gas; reliance upon abundant domestic fuels; coal and uranium of generation of most electric power. It also supports conversion of industry from indiscriminate use of oil and gas to coal when economically and environmentally feasible; production of more synthetic oil and gas substitutes from coal and other sources; accelerated research and development of alternate energy sources including biomass, wind, geothermal and nuclear fusion. The organization urges consideration by local and state governments of economic...
Farmer Input Needed on Proposed Antibiotics Ban

By Greg Sheffield

For the past 25 years, livestock feeders have been aware of the benefits of antibiotics added to livestock feeds. Not only have the antibiotics controlled diseases in their livestock, it has also helped producers keep themselves and their herds healthy. Through high intensity production units and being competitive with foreign shipments of meat, consumers have also benefited from the resulting yield increases, with millions of tons of extra meat produced.

This value has continued to increase over the past eight years. Figures in FARM SUPPLIER showed antibiotics saved approximately 200,000 metric tons of red and poultry meat. Dr. J. Stevens, chairman of the board, said that there's no evidence to support the FDA in a 1970 Task Force report, estimated the value of antibiotics in livestock feeds, not only on growth promotion, feed efficiency, and disease prevention, but also in producing economical livestock and poultry products.

Figure submitted to the Farm Bureau President Barbara Keating said that the same research the Farm Bureau has been conducting also shows that antibiotics are not responsible for the proliferation of antibiotic-resistant organisms. The Farm Bureau believes that there is no evidence to support the FDA's preferred not to hold hearings. However, hearings have not been held. The record is still open. Persons interested in this issue should write FDA to let them know how they feel. Also, a contact person is available to answer questions.

Consumer Input Vital

With our new, intensive agricultural, there is no way farmers can continue to produce meat without antibiotics. Indeed, without antibiotics, sick animals are likely to reach the market and real human diseases will result.

Livestock farmers need antibiotics in feed to maximize weight gains and prevent constant, huge losses from diseases. Consequently, Farm Bureau stands firmly behind the beneficial use of antibiotics in feeds and is opposed to FDA's proposed unfounded opposition to them since there is no evidence of harmful effects to humans.

“Member to Member” Sales Coming

The Direct Marketing “Member to Member” program will once again be featuring the annual “frozen fruit” sale. Because negotiations between growers and processors are still in progress, prices have not yet been established. However, when prices are finalized, a price list will be made available.

The products offered this year will be similar to last year—frozen fruit, frozen vegetables, orange juice, apple cider, and in addition, ham and bacon. Also a five-pound box of hot dogs will be introduced at this time.

“Member to Member” sales will actually harm the nation’s health and nutrition and cause huge economic distress if the proposed ban goes into effect.
In a flurry of activity prior to the expected July 1 deadline for the state's regulatory agencies, numerous tax bills have emerged. These bills have been reported out of the committee in both houses. At this writing it does not appear that House Bill 5533 will receive further action until the legislature returns in September. Farm Bureau has received a copy of the tax bills that are now on the Senate floor, They are:

(1) New Taxation Classification - H.B. 4570 (Reps. Gast, Trim, Van Singel, et al) creates a new "developmental" classification for real estate for assessment purposes. Other classifications are agricultural, commercial, industrial, residential, and timber-cutter. The new "developmental" classification would be assessed on that value and is expected to be determined by anti-biologic residue in the meat inspection program. Another $438,100 would expand the laboratory and fund $80,000 for anti-biotic residue in the meat inspection program. Another $998,000 would extend the food composition and research program.

MSU BUDGET
Final approval is expected for the construction of the Michigan State University Soil Sciences Building. The legislation has also recognized the need for additional funding of the Agricultural Experiment Station. As this is written, the budget for the fiscal year would be $2 million higher than the governor recommended. It seems that others are doing everything they can to maintain this increase in as much as Agriculture Research and Extension have not been properly funded for future research.

K-12 SCHOOL AID
The K-12 School Aid Budget presently is about $1.94 billion. Approximately $1 billion comes from the general fund and $940 million comes from the School Aid fund which includes such sales as sales failures, certain liquor taxes, etc. Only about $10 million is in Federal funds. Over the past several years the state's per pupil income has increased by about $180. This is $1484 per student.

The act contains a provision to require local districts to hold a public meeting at least once a year to determine the adequacy of the district's program and to consult with citizens and parents. The Secretary of State is authorized to set a uniform amount for a district in a fiscal year which is $319,500.

The proposed presently on the House floor are as follows:

(1) House Joint Resolution C (Reps. Sillander, et al) would increase the current state equalized valuation by $2 million higher than the current fiscal year. In order to receive the increased state equalized valuation and the public must be notified.

(2) House Joint Resolution II (Reps. SiUander, et al) would reduce the assessment law to require that "true cash value of agricultural property shall be made upon the computation of the present economic income of the land and the earning capacity of the land being farmed as indicated by the capitalization of net income or productivity rating of the property. The capitalization rate...shall be the rate of 12 percent for farm loans...as of January 31 of each year." Many of this language on property to be equalized separate from the other.

(3) Millage Limitations Because of Equalized Assessment (Senators McCollough, Faust, Hertel, Wellborn and DeMaso) tightens the present law considerably and would do away with the increased state equalized valuation by the same rate that the increased millage to the increased state equalized valuation and the public must be notified.

Property tax is a local tax for local purposes, and governed by the various county, township, and school districts. The authority to cut the millage rate is limited to the increased state equalized valuation increases. Under this legislation they must be voted to bring the tax down, but the province does not have to vote to whether to increase the millage. The local unit of government needs the additional revenue.
Farmers Not Exempt from Hazardous Materials Transportation Act

Farmers who assume they are exempt from the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act could learn, through costly penalties, that their assumptions were in error. It had been assumed, up to now, that the Department of Transportation (DOT) would interpret the law in such a way as to exempt farmers who haul hazardous material in their own not-for-hire trucks. Not so, says DOT, and farmers could face $25,000 in criminal penalties, $10,000 in civil penalties, and imprisonment up to five years or both - if found in violation of the federal regulations. According to Mike Hayenga, operations manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, these regulations include requirements (1) that all vehicles hauling hazardous materials must be in full conformity with safety regulations; (2) that the carrier of such material have in his possession properly drawn shipping papers that give the required information; (3) that truck drivers be educated in hazardous materials transportation regulations, and (4) that approved placards be placed on the front, rear, and sides of vehicles used to haul such materials.

"The Department's interpretation of the law brings about a million people in the agricultural industry under the regulations," said Hayenga. "Farmers haul a lot of insecticides and most of these are designated as hazardous."

FB Leaders on Trade Mission

A special Trade Mission of 18 Farm Bureau executives left Washington, D.C. June 22 for a full week of negotiations with European trade and agricultural officials. The mission, headed by Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, was in Geneva where they were briefed by Ernest Koenig, attaché at the U.S. Embassy, and conferred with Alanzo McDonald, U.S. deputy ambassador to the multilateral trade negotiations. While in Geneva, the group met with Oliver Long, director general, Gardner Patterson, deputy director general, of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), with members of the U.S. negotiating team and with officials of foreign delegations. Later in the week, the mission flew to Brussels where the group met with U.S. and European Economic Community officials concerned with trade and agriculture.

Purpose of the mission was to brief the U.S. and European Economic Community agricultural officials on reports that all exports of U.S. farm commodities have been made to-date in the multilateral negotiations and to urge that final agreements be signed.

Subcommittee Approves Expanded Exports

Legislation sought by Farm Bureau to promote expanded exports of U.S. farm products has won approval by a House Agriculture Subcommittee. It will now go to the full committee for consideration. Known as the Poage-Mathis Bill, it proposes to:

- Broaden an existing USDA program of commercial credit to border buyers of U.S. farm commodities by authorizing three-year renewable credits.
- Establish six to 25 U.S. agricultural trade offices abroad.
- The appointment of an Under Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs.

Under Secretary of Agriculture at International Affairs.

An upgrading of the role of U.S. agricultural attaches.

In addition, the Subcommittee approved an amendment which proposes to strengthen current federal regulations on reporting export sales to USDA. In approving it, the Subcommittee members emphasized that it is to subject producers to a public hearing.

Fatal Blow Dealt to Labor Reform Bill

Defeat of a motion to call off a three-week filibuster against a labor-sponsored measure to rewrite the National Labor Relations Act was called "a tremendous victory for the American public" by American Farm Bureau President Allan Grant.

On June 22, supporters of the labor reform bill, which had been the subject of a Senate talkathon, attempted for a sixth and final time to invoke cloture to end debate and force a vote on the big labor "reform" proposal. The motion failed and the bill was returned to the Human Resources Committee for reworking.

Key to the defeat of the cloture motion was an unexpected announcement by Senate Democratic Majority Leader, Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), that he would vote against cloture. Seeing they would be unable to obtain the needed 60 votes for cloture, Byrd urged his colleagues to vote against the motion to close debate.

Immediately after the unsuccessful cloture vote, Byrd moved to send the bill back to the committee, a move which usually spells death for legislation. Hoping to keep the issue alive, Byrd's motion included the provision that if the Human Resources Committee sends the measure back to the Senate after July 15, it will receive priority consideration on the floor.

But opponents of the bill consider it unlikely that the bill will reach the Senate floor again. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who has led the filibuster, has announced a second talkathon if the measure re-emerges from Committee along its current lines.

Reacting to the June 22 "victory," Grant praised what he called, "the farm convictions and determination" of the "farm minority" within the Senate. "Farm leaders have helped us once again," he said. "This is the kind of leadership farmers can count on during this period of change in Congress."

FB Involved in World Trade

Most of us accept the idea that how we perceive ourselves in relation to our country affects how we act. We need to carry this a step further. Farm and ranch people need to understand more about how other people think, and what it causes them to do, both as individuals and as nations.

For example, California Senator S. I. Hayakawa says that Japan's self-image is very different from the way most of the world views Japan, and that this has a profound impact on that country's policies. Most of us think of Japan as a big, powerful, industrial nation, Hayakawa says, whereas the Japanese see themselves as a tiny island nation with few resources that they cannot even feed their own people.

This national nervousness about being so dependent upon food imports makes them highly protective of their farms, which result in at least in part in a protectionist attitude and the tremendous imbalance of trade between this country and Japan.

Perceptions of national self-interest are part of the apparent rising mood of national protectionism now plaguing negotiations in Geneva, at sessions of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

GATT Director General Oliver Long warns of an alarming increase in world trade restrictions. This is especially unfortunate now when U.S. farmers must desperately need the income stimulation of improved world markets.

The growth in foreign demand for agricultural products has been a major influence in boosting U.S. net farm income, even though perhaps two-thirds of our farm exports are subject to a variety of foreign market restrictions.

Besides traditional tariff barriers, a partial listing of trade obstacles would include quotas, export subsidies, product standards, licensing arrangements, "nuisance" health regulations and customs valuation practices. The United States trade record is not without blemish in this regard... There have been unwise trade actions on both sides.

The need to minimize or entirely remove such obstacles has been much a part of Farm Bureau's active involvement in all phases of the GATT negotiations in Geneva, and our close monitoring of - and (continued on page 15)
Woodlots Become Way of Life to Allegan Farmer

For Adrian Hendriksma, an Allegan County Farm Bureau member and owner of a 500-acre dairy farm near Wayland, woodlots are becoming a way of life.

Hendriksma has been beating his home with wood for 55 years, or as he puts it, "for as long as I've lived -- and before that, my father did the same."

So it was natural for him to take an interest back in 1968 when Paul Schroeder, a Department of Natural Resources area forester, offered to help him improve his woodlots.

Schroeder knew, of course, that good woodlot management not only improves the value of the woodlot, but also improves the habitat for wildlife.

Hendriksma now owns eight woodlots near his farm and recently dedicated an 80-acre woodlot to the memory of Paul Schroeder, who died in 1978, a year after retiring from the DNR.

The dedication took place May 20 at the woodlot, some six miles north of Allegan in Allegan County. Among those on hand for the ceremony were Hendriksma and his wife Hilda; Don Hennig, the present DNR area forester for the area; Henry Webster, Chief of the DNR's Forest Management Division; and Paul Flinn, DNR Regional Forestry Supervisor.

Hendriksma, with the help of his wife, the Allegan County Farm Bureau's Nature Trail Committee, and the DNR, has converted an area of extreme waste to a nature trail through the woodlot, which is now open to the public. He is also encouraging local schools to schedule field trips to the woodlot.

"Most farmers around here manage their own trees," he points out, "but I didn't have that many trees on my farm so I bought some woodlots.

Paul Schroeder was the area forester at the time, and he began helping me develop them."

Purchased in 1968, the 80-acre woodlot Hendriksma dedicated to Schroeder is the largest of eight woodlots he owns, which together total 327 acres.

"In 1969, I planted 22 acres of trees on this woodlot," he explains, "11 acres of tulip, five acres of red and white oak, and his acres of black walnut. Then in 1971, I harvested 16,000 board feet of poor quality wood that had already been cut on the land, for woodlot improvement."

The woodlot now has an extensive variety on its 80 acres.

"The trees consist of oaks, maples, tulip poplar, black cherries, hickories, and others, both of natural origin and from planted seedlings," says Hennig, DNR area forester stationed in Plainwell. "This area is helping Hendriksma develop his woodlots since Schroeder retired.

In one area of the woodlot, what used to be a barren hillside is now filled with pine planted by Hendriksma. The area has a white pine planted on a badly eroded hillside.

In 1970, about 52 acres of timber stand improvement had been completed, Hendriksma notes. "That improvement included hardwood thinning, release, and removal along with pruning. My kids helped with the work. They have family deals as far as planting and pruning."

"Those kids," he adds, "are Fred, Nick, and "Little Ad.""

Hennig points out that pruning is important to improvement of a woodlot.

A tree's limbs fall off as it grows in the shade," he says, "but when you have a tree out in the open, you have to prune it or else it becomes a stubbed, undersized tree with limbs close to the ground. The limbs stay at the same level. They don't move up as the tree grows."

Of the many kinds of trees in the woodlot, the walnuts are the most valuable. Most walnut trees are exported out of the country to be made into high-quality veneer for furniture, Hennig says.

Tulip poplars are also used for furniture manufacturing, mostly for interior parts.

"This woodlot is really a long-term investment," Hendriksma says. "There is a compound interest rate type of formula used to measure your investment. The little tree is your principle investment. The bigger tree is your capital gain."

In addition to the value investment of the woodlot, wildlife benefits accrue. Pines make good cover for rabbits and winter shelter for deer, Hendriksma says. "The big trees are your principle investment. The bigger tree is your capital gain."

"The wind and the weather and the wildlife also benefits. Pines make good cover for rabbits and winter shelter for deer, Hendriksma says. "The little tree is your principle investment. The bigger tree is your capital gain."

Don Hennig, (left) DNR area forester, and Adrian Hendriksma, woodlot owner, look up one of the larger trees on the woodlot, a 40 to 50-year-old walnut.

By Greg Sheffield

SUPPLY REPORT

**HARDWARE -- EARLY FALL**

**PURCHASES SUGGESTED**

Buying in August will eliminate disappointments over selections and can get you better prices, too. Some of the items available now for later use this year are good supplies of Farm Bureau WB White heat exchangers, Universal Cooperatives make fertilizer storage ideas into a profit-making program, Farmers Petroleum dealers are in great demand this fall. Getting yours now in just a few weeks will ensure a better supply.

**FERTILIZERS**

Stocks of the right pasture fertilizers are ample at most Farm Bureau dealers. It's a good plan to take advantage of the extra money to be made by fertilizing pasture and hayland. Increased yields and cuttings make this type of fertilizer application a wise investment.

**BUILDINGS**

Orders for all types of farm, commercial, horse barns and garage buildings are being filled. Farm Bureau builders are keeping pace with a large backlog of building requests. The engineering in Farm Bureau buildings has a fine reputation throughout the state. Get your machinery storage, feed storage, and fertilizer storage ideas into a state of reality this summer and start benefiting. Livestock Lodge, confinement buildings from Universal Cooperatives make the raising of calves and swine a system that's easy and profitable to follow. Talk over the Lodge approach with your Farm Bureau dealer. You'll save your young calves and increase your swine weights faster from farrowing to finish.

**CO-OP FILTERS**

A promotion is taking place at Farmers Petroleum dealers on the CO-OP all-filter line. CO-OP filters are made by the same manufacturer that produces these filters for original equipment. The filters are of solidly built construction and have superior working qualities. Not changing oil filters frequently enough is a major cause of excessive engine wear. Dealers can fit your equipment with the right filters.

**CO-OP MAINTENANCE-FREE BATTERIES**

Now that CO-OP Maintenance-Free Batteries have been used for thousands of miles on patrons cars, trucks, and tractors, the benefits are showing up. There's no need to add water to CO-OP Maintenance-Free Batteries. They are outlasting the vehicles in some cases. Even if lights are left on, the batteries are simply charged up by the same manufacturer that produces these filters for original equipment. The filters are of solidly built construction and have superior working qualities. Not changing oil filters frequently enough is a major cause of excessive engine wear. Dealers can fit your equipment with the right filters.

**CASH-AND-CARRY TIRE SAVINGS**

At Farmers Petroleum outlets seem even more popular than usual this year. Tire sales are spurting with the CO-OP Radial Tractor Tires proving to be everything said about them. The CO-OP Radial Tractor Tires grip better than ordinary tires in slippery situations, as an added plus to their increased wearability.

Labor Reform Bill

(Continued from Page 7)

Bureau is keenly aware of the tremendous pressures brought to bear on members of the Senate by big labor and the administration," Grant said. "Resistance to that pressure by a steadfast minority within the Senate makes this victory all the more meaningful."

"The vote is a clear signal to union leaders that they can no longer run roughshod over others. They must now re-earn the confidence of their members and of the American people," Grant said.
House Debates Taxation Amendments

(continued from page 6)

when added to the 13 million limit would total the minimum limit allowed. All funds for schools would come from the state, and legislation would be required to establish a taxation system.

Legislative Notes

(continued from page 6)

line on additional local taxes. DOUBLE BOTTOM TANKERS - This continues to be a major issue, even though the original proposals have been. Subsequent bills would require a complete "phase out" of "double-bottoms" over a three year period and would limit the hauling of more than 9000 gallons of fuel. During that time, all double-bottoms would be "retrofitted" as recommended by the University of Michigan study. The present ban would continue in the Detroit area.

The present ban would require a complete "phase out" of "double-bottoms" over a three year period and would limit the hauling of more than 9000 gallons of fuel. During that time, all double-bottoms would be "retrofitted" as recommended by the University of Michigan study. The present ban would continue in the Detroit area.

This is a major issue to outstate areas because such limitations would increase costs and increase fuel prices. Plus the belief that more trucks would have to be put on the road which, according to the U of M study, would also add to the safety hazard.

PRODUCT LIABILITY - The legislation to begin reform on this important area has been agreed to in the House. One bill, HB 589, revises the time and conditions for bringing suit due to defective goods, etc. and allows injured parties to collect damages even if they are partly to blame. This is the "comparative" fault system.

Another bill will require insurance companies to report information on products, liabilities, claims and premiums. Product liability costs are estimated, in the case of farm machinery, to add anywhere from 10 percent - 15 percent to the price.

COURT REFORM - The petition drive which was supported by Farm Bureau along with several other organizations to remove partisan politics from the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals has been cancelled. It is now obvious that sufficient signatures cannot be gathered in time to place the issue on the ballot. In the long run, this is one of the most important issues to face Michigan citizens. However, it does not seem to attract enough interest in view of the fact that so many other petitions are being circulared. About twenty-eight states have voted in a similar system and it has proved to be superior to Michigan's so called non-partisan election method.

and method of distribution. It would also allow legislation to provide tax credits for personal and other private schools.

In order to replace the lost revenue, the Single Business Tax would have to be increased at least 2 percent and the personal income tax at least 2 1/2 percent. This proposal is expected to receive serious consideration.

When considering these taxation measures, it should be noted that none of them are new ideas. They have been tried many times in the past. Because of their complexity and the controversial problems, Michigan presently has a tax system that is based on household income. Presently 60 percent of the difference between 3 1/2 percent of the household income and the property tax on residents and farmers are refunded by the state up to $1,200. Farmers can also take advantage of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (PA 116) whereby 100 percent of the property tax over 7 percent of the household income is refunded.

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The Rev. P. Mick, Harvey, Illinois

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Tests by a leading U.S. Government approved testing laboratory proved less emissions and significant fuel savings after the RAM-JET Supercharger was installed.

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Account # __________ Interbank # __________

Expiration date of card. __________

Truck or Car (year & model) ____________________

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Address __________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip __________

D Information about Ram-Jet Dealership Program

__ Illinois Residents Add 5% Sales Tax
Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Radio Network for Contributions to Agriculture

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 May were:

ROY SCHWARK
Week of May 15 -- Roy Schwark, 39, a dairy farmer and artificial breeder from Mt. Clemens, Schwark, a farmer all his life, currently farms over 200 acres, most of it in cash crops. He has over 40 head of dairy cattle. Schwark is secretary of the board of education of St. Peter's Lutheran Church Men's Club, member of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Men's Club, and serves on the board of the Wolverine Electric Co-op and the Tri-County Electric Co-op, and he is active as a 4-H leader and member of the Masonic Lodge. He and his wife, Joyce, have two children.

THOMAS MIDDLETON
Week of May 1 -- Thomas Middleton, 32, who farms 1400 acres and milks 200 cows on his dairy operation near Ortonville in Oakland County, Middleton, a lifelong farmer, is vice-president of the Oakland County Farm Bureau Board. He is state president of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, president of the local Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative, secretary of the Michigan State University Dairy Advisory Committee, and member of the Better Education Committee of Oxford Area Schools. Middleton and his wife, Kathryn, have three children.

WILLIAM CHAPIN
Week of May 22 -- William Chapin, 56, who operates a 420-acre dairy farm near Blanchard with his wife, Jean, and his son, Charles. He is a member of the church board of Hall Corner United Methodist Church, president of the Mecosta County Soil Conservation District, president of the Alma local of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn., member of the board of the Central Michigan Holstein Assn., and a member of the Mecosta County Fair Board. Chapin is also a member of the Mecosta County Farm Bureau, he serves on the boards of the Wolverine Electric Co-op and the Tri-County Electric Co-op, and he is active as a 4-H leader and member of the Masonic Lodge. He and his wife have five children.

EUGENE WEISENBERGER
Week of May 29 -- Eugene Weisenberger, 42, who farms 300 acres and milks 80 cows near New Lothrop in Saginaw County. He is a member of the state board of the Dairy Herd Improvement Assn., serves on the board of directors of the Cheesecake Farmers Co-op, president of the Cheesecake local of the Michigan Animal Breeders and serves on the Young Sire Evaluation Committee. He is also a member of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn., member and former officer of the Holstein Assn., member of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau and serves as the local Dairy Committee chairman. Weisenberger and his wife, Marlene, have eight children.

Farm Bureau 1979 PRE-AFBF Convention Cruise

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

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

M/S CARIBE
Saturday, January 6: 4:00 PM - Leave Miami
Monday, January 8: 1:00 AM - Arrive Montego Bay, Jamaica
Tuesday, January 9: 1:00 AM - Leave Montego Bay
8:00 AM - Arrive Port Antonio, Jamaica
5:00 PM - Leave Port Antonio
Wednesday, January 10: 5:00 PM - Arrive Port Au Prince, Haiti

Cost:

Cost will be determined by selection of ship rooms.

M/S BOHEME: Inside Stateroom, - Detroit $650.00 - Miami $507.00
M/S BOHEME: Inside Antilles decks, boarding - Detroit $705.00 - Miami $507.00
M/S CARIBE: Inside Restaurant or outside B Decks, boarding - Detroit $685.00 - Miami $487.00
M/S CARIBE: Inside A Deck, - Detroit $735.00 - Miami $537.00

The cost would include the cruise based on room category selected. Air from points listed to Miami and return, based on Group 40 airfare. This means that there must be a minimum of 40 in each group and the entire group travels together for the round trip. Tips to skycaps for baggage handling. Transfers from the airport of the pier, from the pier to the convention hotel and from the convention hotel to the airport in Miami. (Transfers, etc. not included in Miami price) All rates are based on those in effect December 15, 1977. Some increase, particularly in the air portion, could be expected between now and January of 1979.

Space will be assigned to day of departure. Space available as required.

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

Not Included In Cost Are: Tips to ship personnel, shore excursions, convention hotel or other expenses while in Miami, with the exception of transfers. A $100.00 per person deposit is required to hold a reservation, with the balance made payable at least six weeks prior to departure. Reservations cancelled 30 days before departure are not subject to any charge. Those cancelled less than 30 days prior to departure may be subject to a 25% cancellation charge.

Reservation Request

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

Name(s) ___________________________ Address _______________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________

Important! Check desired ship, space selection and boarding city. M/S BOHEME
M/S CARIBE
M/S BOHEME
M/S CARIBE

My cruise package should be scheduled from:

Detroit
Miami

Reservation request and deposit check should be sent to:

Mr. Kenneth Wiles
Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, Michigan 48909
On Issues of Potential Impact on Agriculture and the Nation

Key Votes in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

In the 1978 elections Michigan voters will elect one U.S. Senator for a six year term and 19 U.S. Representatives for 2 year terms. Following are the voting records on selected Issues for incumbent Senator Robert Griffin who faces reelection in 1978 and 7 incumbent Michigan U.S. Representatives who also face reelection. Senator Griffin and the U.S. Representatives have been designated by the MFB PAC as "Friends of Agriculture." The specific issues were selected on the basis of degree of major controversy and/or potential impact on agriculture and the nation.

Votes shown in large type (Y or N) are consistent with the Farm Bureau position. Votes shown in small type (y or n) are in opposition to the Farm Bureau position.

U.S. SENATE KEY VOTES

1. S. 354 No-Fault Auto Insurance — Motion to recommit, and thus kill, legislation to establish federal standards for no-fault auto insurance, require states to adopt no-fault plans or accept a federal plan, and make no-fault insurance coverage mandatory for all drivers. Motion to recommit passed. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

2. S. 1871 Minimum Wage — Motion to approve an amendment that would allow employers to hire workers under age 20 at 85 percent of the minimum wage for the first 6 months on the job. The amendment was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

3. S. 2104 Natural Gas Pricing — Motion to adopt an amendment to end federal price controls for natural gas found onshore, retroactive to January 1, 1977, and to cease regulation of new offshore gas after December 31, 1982. The amendment was adopted. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

4. S. 1811 Nuclear Energy Applications — Motion to table, and thus kill, legislation to establish federal standards for nuclear power plants, prevent construction of federal storage facilities for radioactive wastes. The amendment was tabled. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

5. H.R. 7555 Economic Impact Statement — Motion to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to prepare an economic impact statement for all regulations issued by the agency. The motion was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

6. S. 275 Food Stamps to Strikers — Motion to table, and thus kill, an amendment to prohibit the availability of food stamps to strikers. Motion to table was approved. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

7. S. 275 Food Stamp Purchase Requirement — Motion to retain the requirement in existing law that recipients pay for a portion of their food stamps. Motion was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

8. H.R. 14232 OSHA Citations — Motion to table, and thus kill, an amendment to prohibit the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from issuing first instance citations for other than repeated or willful violations of OSHA regulations. The amendment was tabled. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

9. H.R. 11504 Emergency Farm Credit — Passage of legislation to create a two-year, $4 billion "economic emergency" loan program permitting refinancing of existing farm debts, to raise individual loan limits and to extend an emergency livestock credit program. The bill was passed. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

10. S. 2493 Airline Deregulation — Passage of legislation to encourage airline industry competition by increasing airlines' flexibility to set fares and enter additional routes. The bill was passed. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

11. H.R. 6782 Emergency Farm Bill — Adoption of the conference report on legislation to provide a one-year flexible parity program with graduated target price levels for wheat, corn and cotton, and to raise loan rates for those commodities. The conference report was adopted. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

12. Executive N Panama Canal Treaty — Adoption of first resolution of ratification of the Panama Canal Treaty. The resolution was adopted. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

U.S. HOUSE KEY VOTES

1. H.R. 4250 Common Situs Picketing — Passage of legislation to permit a labor union with a grievance with one contractor to picket all contractors on the same construction site. The bill was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

2. H.R. 10 Hatch Act Amendment — Passage of legislation to revise the 1939 Hatch Act to allow federal and civilian and postal employees to participate in political activities. The bill passed. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

3. H.R. 7171 Food Stamps to Strikers — Motion to eliminate from the food stamp program any household in which a member is on strike unless the household was eligible before the strike. Persons who refused to accept employment at a plant site because of a strike or lockout would not be eliminated. The motion was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

4. H.R. 7171 Food Stamp Purchase Requirement — Motion to require that recipients pay for a portion of their food stamp allotment. The motion was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

5. H.R. 7171 Food and Agriculture Act — Passage of legislation to extend and increase support payments for wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice four years, extend the food stamp program four years with numerous changes, extend the PL 480 program two years, amend the peanut support programs, expand agricultural research programs, authorize establishment of a farmer held grain reserve and make other changes in U.S. agricultural programs. The bill was passed. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

6. H.R. 8444 Use of Energy Tax — Motion to use 1978 revenues from the proposed crude oil equalization tax to supplement the Social Security Trust Fund System. The motion was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

7. H.R. 8444 National Energy Policy — Passage of legislation to establish a comprehensive national energy policy including a crude oil equalization tax. The bill was passed. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

8. H.R. 3744 Minimum Wage Study — Motion to establish a nine member commission to study indexing the minimum wage, effects of the minimum wage on employment, youth differential and other aspects. The motion was adopted. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

9. H.R. 3744 Youth Differential — Motion to permit employers to pay 85 percent of the minimum wage to young workers under a year 18 during their first 6 months on the job. The motion was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

10. H.R. 4180 Labor Law Revision — Passage of legislation to aid union organizing and bargaining by amending the National Labor Relations Act. The bill was passed. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

11. H.R. 1037 Cargo Preference — Passage of legislation to guarantee U.S. flag ships a 9.5 percent share of the nation's oil imports. The bill was rejected. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

(continued on page 12)
Key Votes in Michigan House on Issues Important to State's Agriculture

In the 1978 elections Michigan voters will elect 38 State Senators for 4-year terms. The following are the voting records on selected issues for incumbent State Senators during 1977-78, who have been designated as "Friends of Agriculture." The specific issues were selected on the basis of importance to Michigan agriculture.

Votes shown in large print (Y or N) are consistent with the Michigan Farm Bureau position. Votes shown in small type (y or n) are in opposition to the Farm Bureau position.

MICHIGAN SENATE KEY VOTES

1. H.B. 4223 Truck Covers — Passage of bill requiring loading and construction of vehicles to prevent escape of contents on highways. The bill contained an exemption for vehicles used to transport seasonal agricultural commodities at harvest time. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

2. H.B. 4500 School Aid — Passage of bill to establish policy and procedures for prompt and equitable resolution of malpractice claims in the medical profession. The Senate passed the bill. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

3. H.B. 4606 Malpractice Insurance — Passage of bill to establish policy and procedures for prompt and equitable resolution of malpractice claims in the medical profession. The Senate passed the bill. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

4. H.B. 4849 Right-of-Way Taxation — Passage of bill to eliminate taxation against private property owners of land on which there is a public right-of-way, such as a highway. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

5. H.B. 4850 Pesticide Property Improvements — Passage of bill directing assessors to exclude pesticides designed to protect farmers from financial loss in case of default. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

6. H.B. 4506 Minimum Wage — Passage of bill to extend minimum wage coverage to persons over 65 and extend coverage to include employers who employ two or more persons at any time within a calendar year. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.

7. S.B. 689 Nuclear Waste — Passage of bill prohibiting the Governor from conveying title of land or turning jurisdiction of land over to the federal government for use of storing, depositing or dumping radioactive materials. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

8. S.B. 6122 Price Lawyer Agreements — Passage of bill requiring persons engaged in the commercial business of buying, exchanging, selling or storing grain under price later agreements to meet specific standards designed to protect farmers from financial loss if case of default. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

9. S.B. 4 Household Income — Passage of bill to exclude Social Security Income, certain retirement benefits, contributions towards insurance plans and the first $300 from contest winnings from the definition of income when computing tax credits under the Homestead Property Tax Act. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

10. S.B. 145 Written Permission — Passage of bill to require that hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers, and ORV operators obtain written permission from the landowner before entering farmland and connected farm woodlots without the land being posted or fenced. The bill also applies to other non-farm property subject to specific conditions. The Senate passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

11. S.B. 131 Unemployment Compensation — Passage of bill to bring the State Unemployment Compensation Act into compliance with minimum standards enacted by Congress. The bill was passed by the Senate without requiring more stringent standards from Michigan employers than required by the federal law. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

12. S.B. 714 Single Business Tax — Passage of an amendment to exempt agriculture from
Michigan Senate Votes on Key Issues with Potential Agricultural Impact

### Key Votes in Michigan Senate on Issues Important to Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Description</th>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Vote Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.B. 808 Employment of Minors</td>
<td>Passage of amendment to exempt from permit requirements minors employed in agriculture</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 4350 School Aid Act of 1977</td>
<td>Passage of bill</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 4501 Artificial Lights</td>
<td>Passage of bill making it illegal to use an artificial light to hunt, pursue, or kill a deer while having a bow, firearm, or other weapon in possession</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 4546 Food Handler Licensing</td>
<td>Passage of bill revising license procedures for firms engaged in processing, packaging, preserving, fabrication, storage or sale of food</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 4570 Tax Assessment</td>
<td>Passage of bill amending the General Property Tax Act and requiring the State Tax Commission to establish assessment and equalization procedures for property by type of use</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 5417 Taxing Property Improvements</td>
<td>Passage of bill to solve a problem encountered by lenders in providing loans to farmers who have signed P.A. 116 contracts</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 5476 Minimum Wage</td>
<td>Passage of bill to include dairy workers to exclude expenditures for normal repairs and maintenance of up to $400 per year for three consecutive years when determining the true cash value of property</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
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<td>H.B. 5511 P.A. 116</td>
<td>Passage of bill to provide a $20 indemnity payment to owners of dairy cattle biopsied for PSB prior to slaughter, pay owners $2.50 per day for the dairy animals testing above PBB tolerance while awaiting</td>
<td>Favor a &quot;Y&quot; vote.</td>
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### VOTING RECORD MICHIGAN SENATE 77th and 78th Legislative Session

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<td>Young (R-Saginaw)</td>
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### Federal Statute or Regulation

The Senate rejected the amendment. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.
On Specific Issues with Potential Impact on Michigan Agriculture

Voting Record of Agri-Pac's "Friends of Agriculture in Michigan House"

(Continued from Page 13)

12. H.B. 5988 Agricultural Commodities Promotion — Passage of bill to lower producer referenda requirements for approval of a commodities promotion program to a simple majority of those voting representing a simple majority of the commodity produced by those voting. The House passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

13. S.B. 4 Household Income — Passage of bill to exclude Social Security income, certain retirement benefits, contributions towards insurance plans and the first $300 from contest winnings from the definition of income when computing tax credits under the Homestead Property Tax Act. The House passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

14. S.B. 45 Fence Law — Passage of bill to amend the outdated fence law. Requires that a person constructing a fence pay the entire cost unless an adjoining property owner uses the fence in which case he would pay a portion of the cost. Provisions for fence viewers to settle disputes are included. The House passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

15. S.B. 547 Livestock Health Certificates — Passage of bill to update health certificate requirements on imported livestock. Persons receiving imported livestock would be required to obtain health certificates and see that the certificates accompany the animals. Swine imported for breeding purposes would be required to pass a pseudorabies test before entering the state. The bill passed the House. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

16. S.B. 689 Nuclear Wastes — Passage of bill prohibiting the Governor from conveying title of land or turning jurisdiction of land over to the federal government for use in storing, depositing or dumping radioactive material. The House passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

17. S.B. 714 Unemployment Compensation — Passage of bill to bring the State Unemployment Compensation Act into compliance with minimum standards enacted by Congress. The bill was passed by the House without requiring more stringent standards from Michigan employers than required by federal law. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


19. S.B. 808 Employment of Minors — Passage of bill to establish working standards for minors and exempt from work permit requirements minors engaged in farm work that is in compliance with the standards. The House passed the bill. Michigan Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

VOTING RECORD MICHIGAN HOUSE 78TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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1 Replaced Angel in Special Election May 4, 1978 - has not voted on these issues.
National Perspective (continued from page 7)

work with — officials of the European Economic Community.

We have been part of two important trade related sessions recently. The first was a meeting between the general farm and commodity organizations from the U.S., and the 9-member European Economic Community, held at Reims, France, in early June.

More recently we mounted a Farm Bureau trade mission to Europe with meetings at Geneva, and Brussels.

After months of discussion, the "Tokyo Round" of GATT negotiations is reaching a critical phase both for U.S. agriculture and U.S. industry. Many agreements of extreme importance are being debated and are now near final decision.

Our talks have been amiable, but often return to the basic fact that many European farm leaders appear to value price "stability" (often pegged by government at very low average prices) more than they value market opportunity.

European farm organizations are themselves somewhat captives of government, and their thinking often closely reflects the government political view. One result is that European "farm" programs are often blended with social-action schemes designed to meet some government goal — such as reducing unemployment through keeping people busy on farms.

At the Reims conference, a number of us within the American delegation expressed growing concern that farmers of the community allow politics to replace farm economic realities.

At one point I made the formal statement that: Farm Bureau believes that the working of the price mechanism, as determined by supply and demand relationships under the private, competitive enterprise system, has been demonstrated to be far superior to attempts to politically regulate world trade . . .

This, I added, appeared to be the one most basic ideological difference we have with some of the policies of the economic community which include the concept of government controlled stockpiles and allocated shares of world markets.

Farm Bureau's objective in these talks is (at a minimum) to preserve, and if possible to improve, the excellent competitive position that American farm and ranch people have by their own efforts, so greatly earned.
A Day in the Life of a Regional Representative

Stories by Donna Wilber
Photos by Marcia Ditchie

Three out of the last four state "distinguished young farmers" were products of the West Central Region. The only woman is Oceana County Farm Bureau president in Michigan. Pat and Ann are members of the West Central Region. Their activities are on the agenda.

"Watching my people grow"-- Pat Lause, West Central Region

"Pat talks with 10-year FBS veteran Dick Thow at the busy Services' headquarters in Scottville.

"President Carter's action on beef imports is the topic of discussion with fruit grower and beef producer Bruce Brown."

"Pat asks Membership Chairman Loren Young to be thinking about committee appointments as he sprays his cherry orchards."

The modest, hard-working, believes, and therefore, he has no interest beyond his job. Pat and Ann review their "typical" day before and after the Farm Bureau meeting at the home of -

The next stop was at the Oceana County Farm Bureau office in Shelby to check the bureau's "weekend cowboy," Pat Lause. Pat and Ann review the agenda and also discuss (naturally) membership.

Our first stop in Mason County is at the home of County Representative Pat Lause. Pat and Ann review the agenda and also discuss (naturally) membership. Our last stop of the day, was in the orchard of Mason County Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Young Farmer," Bruce Brown. Pat explained - Mother Nature, prices, and other farmer challenges -- he took our visit and the snapping exuberance, when Pat reported another membership increase. Pat explained - Mother Nature, prices, and other farmer challenges -- he took our visit and the snapping exuberance, when Pat reported another membership increase.
"Watch Them Grow!"

Janet Wields President's Gavel with Ease

"She's doing a great job.

That's what Regional Representative Pat Lause, West Central Regional, has to say about the only woman county Farm Bureau president in the state, Janet Groth.

When Janet was first asked to be president of the Mason County Farm Bureau, her answer - after a few sleepless nights debating the decision - was "no." This negative answer was not because she doubted her ability to handle the job, rather, it was based on the fact that she was involved in a sideline business to the farm operation that was demanding more and more of her time and energies.

She did, however, consent to take the vice presidency post. She, nor anyone else in that Mason County Farm Bureau, could have predicted that the president would move out of the county after selling his farm. This put the gavel in Janet's hands and she's wielding it, like all her other responsibilities, with confidence.

We interviewed Janet under the watchful eyes of hundreds of fish, some beautiful, others ugly but interesting - all attractively displayed in 158 tanks with appropriate underwater backgrounds and props and all housed in a new facility accented with hanging plants and educational books to tempt the fish enthusiast.

This business started out innocently enough - three little goldfish brought home by her husband as part of a promotion in a store where he delivered eggs. The next time he delivered eggs to the store, there were still goldfish in the fish tank and they found a home in the Groth household.

As husband Gordon discovered "little by little, they make big fish" and the kids began to want more, they graduated from a small bowl to a 10-gallon tank, then another and another until there were three 16-gallon tanks on Janet's counter.

Then came the news that a fish business in the area was selling out and Gordon bought the inventory. However, when he got involved in expansion of the fish business, it was up to Janet to take over the fish business, which was moved into the newly-constructed facility last January.

In addition to a husband who operates a honey and egg farm (with a route covering Mason and Manistee counties and a self-serve egg business) and brings her goldfish instead of flowers, Janet has two children, a girl 18 and a boy 14 ("and sometimes could use a few more.").

Janet has some thoughts on why she is the only woman county Farm Bureau president in the state. First is, she thinks, they haven't been in the right place at the right time.

"I don't think we have enough women on county boards and of course, that's the place you must start - you have to serve on the county board before you can become county president," says Janet. "It's a challenge to get young women to come forth and accept a new responsibility. They might say, 'Well, I don't know anything about it, but you get in and you learn - FAST!'"

Another reason, she believes, is that women have failed to see themselves in the role of county president.

Janet has had the experience of being a county president's wife, several years ago, and of serving as Women's chairperson for three years.

The experiences she's gained from her service, she believes, helped equip her for the county president's role. She also serves on the Mason County Farm Bureau, with Joan Allison as her partner. They've made about 14 presentations this year to other county Farm Bureau units, organizations and schools.

They follow their school presentations with a farm tour to give students the opportunity to see and sometimes touch farm animals for the first time.

Janet has one more term to serve as county president. Will she run again? She hasn't made that decision yet, but says in a recent interview, "I think it's a good challenge and a good experience."

"Watch Them Grow!"

Top Young Farmer is County, State FB Leader

Pete Bonetteke, Osceola County, 1974 Distinguished Young Farmer; George Parsons, Osceola County, 1976 Distinguished Young Farmer; Ron Wood, Mason County, 1977 Distinguished Young Farmer. A proud record for the West Central Region!

Regional Representative Pat Lause has a theory that the challenges of agriculture in that particular area are conducive to the current situation with which the region turns out award-winning young farmers. "We don't have the land quality they have in other areas; we don't have a Saginaw terminal to haul our grain to; we don't have a Detroit market to bring in that income to ship our milk to - so our farmers have to make it on their management skills. They're a family operation; managers; they have to be," he explained.

Another common thread to the three top young farmers, Pat says, is that they're open, friendly, and very proud of their operators. "We're a family operation, and his heritage - is certainly evident in the current DYP, Ron Wood. It's not a boastful pride, rather a kind of reverence and sense of responsibility that shines through when you talk to Ron about the Centennial farm of which he is a family partner.

That pride is illustrated by a special Maple Wood Farms centennial book, a pictorial history of the family farm, complete with a dedication to his mother and father, maintenance, and lovingly put together by Ron and his wife, Neva, as a special Christmas gift to the family partners.

That pride is also evident as he takes his visitors on a tour of the efficient dairy operation and when he explains that at least one of his four children will decide to stay on the farm to carry on the proud family tradition.

He's proud, too, of the title that was bestowed upon him at last year's Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting.

"When I was named Distinguished Young Farmer at the county annual meeting, it was a complete surprise," he recalls. "I was sitting there just waiting for that part of the program to get over with so we could get started on resolutions - and then they announced my name. When you're selected by your fellow board members for such an honor, well, I thought it was just great. If it had stopped right there, it would still have been tremendous."

"Then I filled out the application for the state contest and it was a real nice experience to be interviewed on the farm by the judges. It was great to be in the state contest and meet other candidates.

Several of the candidates were in FFA when I was; in fact, I had interviewed for State Farmer Awards when I was an FFA officer. So I know what kind of farmers they were competing against!

Then being named Distinguished Young Farmer was something I was looking forward to but don't really expect to happen. Representing Michigan in the national contest was another great experience.

Ron has been on the Mason County Farm Bureau board of directors for three years and last year was elected to the executive committee.

He's been active in his community. He's been a member of the local 4-H Club, a member of the Mason County Farmers Cooperative, Inc., in December, he was elected to the state board.

He talked about this relatively new role and the responsibility he feels toward it. "I'll never be a rubberstamp farm person - I don't want to argue up to the time the vote comes, but once the issue is passed, then I will support it as an educated position. That's the way it should work in Farm Bureau," he explained.

Ron and Neva had just returned from the combined Farm Bureau state boards' annual week-end meeting and were enthusiastic about their participation. "It was an education," Ron said. "I would compare it to a half semester of college. I wish that all young farmers could be actively involved in all the programs and activities Farm Bureau has to offer.

What do these kind of young farmers mean to a county Farm Bureau? According to Pat Lause, they're respected farmers like this belong to and are active in the organization, it projects a positive image of the County Farm Bureau - and does more to keep it going than anything else."
Passing the Buck--Farmers May Bear Burden for Inflations

By Dr. Paul Kindinger

Farmers are in for some rough sledding if food prices continue to increase. Yes, farmers appear to be the ones chosen by the Carter Administration to bear the burden for inflation in the U.S. and worldwide.

In a recent Wall Street Journal article Barry Bosworth, director of the Council of Wage and Price Stability was quoted as saying that the success of the Carter Administration's anti-inflation program would be judged by consumers in the nation's grocery stores. This statement may contain a great deal of truth since food is one of the more visible items in the household budget. But how feasible is it to assume, by concentrating on a single component of the consumer price index, inflation will be eliminated. Rising food prices are as much the result of inflation as they are the cause. But it's probably more popular politically to attack food since it is the most visible item in the household budget and to ignore the small number of farm votes.

If U.S. beef producers are causing inflation - why then, did Sweden experience a 13 percent increase in its consumer price index during the past year? Or similarly, why did Brazil's CPI increase 38 percent or Argentina's increase an unbelievable 173 percent? Many developed and developing nations are experiencing higher living costs compared to those four years ago. It is simply unrealistic to blame such serious problems on one segment of society in a particular country.

What is the cause of inflation if it's not just food prices? Obviously there is not a single answer. It is a combination of events.

Most introductory economics textbooks expound the virtues of increasing productivity commensurate with increased wage rates. This advice may be more pertinent today since many wage settlements now take into account future expectations regarding inflation, thus, building in guaranteed inflation.

U.S. government statistics also indicate that disposable income has risen 54 percent since 1972. Wages have risen faster than the cost of living during the same period. Certainly there were some ups and downs, but basically the trend in real wages is up. This means that people have additional discretionary income. Demand has been strong for automobiles, new houses, recreational items, and etc. Thus, strong demand has helped to pull prices up.

Government itself is a prime cause of inflation. Large budget deficits and Federal debts are inflationary. These same factors have shaken the foundation of our currency in overseas markets. Every U.S. citizen must pay the price when Uncle Sam prints another dollar bill to replace one that has gone overseas or goes toward paying interest on the federal debt.

External shocks to the U.S. economy have also had a dramatic impact on our cost of living in the U.S. The exact amount is difficult to measure. The creation of OPEC certainly played a tremendous role in pushing up our inflationary spiral that is still going on.

It is unfair to single out agriculture or food prices as the cause of inflation. Farmers are also consumers. The price of the lumber, steel products, electricity, fuel, and etc. are rising since 1972. Fact is the majority of farmers have little or no market power to affect the prices they receive. It also appears that they cannot look towards the current administration for assistance in their fight to control input costs and make a decent return on their investment from the market place.

Perhaps farmers should start their own rumor: Mr. Carter is the reason food prices are going up! One thing is certain, the buck must stop somewhere.

What Does Inflation Really Mean?

By DR. PAUL KINDINGER

We read about it every day: every businessman dreads it; consumers curse it; and some are blamed for it. But what is it? Inflation...that 6% percent increase in the cost of everything we purchase. Some items increase more than 6 percent, some increase during certain times of the year, then slow down at other times. But, on the average, the American economy now seems to be geared to a 6% or 7 percent rate of inflation. Unfortunately, few understand just what that really means.

Taking a 6 percent rate of inflation, it takes exactly 11 years for the price of an item to double! So if an item costs $1.00 in 1975 it will cost $2.00 in 1985. For instance the $4.00 haircut becomes $8.00; the $7,000 car becomes $14,000; the $5,000 home becomes $10,000. All this means that a person earning $10,000 today must earn $20,000 or more just to stay even. It will have to be more than $20,000 because of the higher income tax rates of the current law.

People should also realize that the compounding process continues as time marches on. After the initial doubling, it only takes an additional six years before our original item costing $1,000 will cost $2,000, $4,000, etc. Further, a 7 or 8 percent inflation rate means that it takes even less time for this doubling process to occur! Therefore, it behooves each of us to consider these facts when we are electing those public officials who will vote on state and federal budgets and tax laws. Certainly each of us must play a role in curbing inflation. But the example for us to follow must begin with our public officials.

Crop Predictions

The grape crop should be the best in several years. With a good season this crop could easily reach 60,000 tons. This big crop comes at a time which should be good for growers and processors.

The blueberry output should double last year's disaster, but will still be less than the five year average. Poor production could continue for several seasons as canes for future years have been killed during the last two cold winters.

Both sweet cherries and plums will show increased production over last year and the five year average. An accurate plum prediction is somewhat difficult to determine as many growers have removed or abandoned orchards. The upcoming fruit tree survey should supply us with much needed fruit production capacity information and planting trends.
**FB Member's Son Wins FFA Speaking Contest**

Paul Horny, son of Farm Bureau member Joyce Horny of Chesaning, was selected statewide winner of the Future Farmers of America extemporaneous speaking contest.

The contest, held recently at Michigan State University, was sponsored by the Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

More than 75 FFA chapters in Michigan participated in the contest and the winners were selected on the district, regional and state levels.

In the state competition, each contestant drew a topic at random and was required to deliver a five minute speech on the topic after a short preparation period. All topics related to agriculture.

As the first place winner in the state, Paul Horny, along with three other state winners, will compete at the national competition in Kansas City, Mo., for a chance to win Gold and Silver Awards.

The other statewide winners included Mike Eagleking, Alpena High School, Rick Creger, Corunna High School, John Sipple, Michigan Agricultural College High School, Laura Berry, Reading High School, and Steve Mixer, Ubly High School, Silver Award winners.

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**Trade Mission**

(continued from page 7)

provide for expanded mutually advantageous agricultural trade.

Accompanying Grant on the trade mission were ten state Farm Bureau presidents (eight of whom are members of U.S. Agricultural Trade Advisory Committees) and four staff members. The state presidents included Hugh M. Arant, Mississippi; John Junior Armstrong, Kansas; Harry S. Bell, South Carolina; Donald Halvorson, Wisconsin; Richard McGuire, New York; Cecil H. Miller, Jr., Arizona; Elton K. Michigan; Harold B. Steele, Illinois; E. Robert Stuhmiller, Washington; and J. Robert Wade, Kentucky.

Staff members who made the trip included John C. Davis, director of the Washington, D.C. AFBF office; Tom Hammer, assistant director, AFBF Natural Resources; Harold Harlley, director AFBF Commodity Division; and Kenneth E. Goy, executive vice president, to Farmer-Tour Tours.

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**What's Happening...**

**July 7-9**

Sebewaing Sugar Festival
Sebewaing, Michigan

**August 8**

Primary Elections
Statewide

**August 10-11**

Agri-Marketing Seminar
Hilton Inn, Lansing

**August 21-22**

North Nut Growers Association 69th Annual Meeting
West Holland Hall, Michigan State University

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**MCA RECORD ALBUMS AND TAPES - LIMITED TIME OFFER**

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**JULY, 1978**

**FARM NEWS**

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Louise Smith

Passes Away

Mrs. Louise Smith of Galesburg, who served as plans manager for the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meetings for 17 years, passed away May 30 at the age of 72.

A long-time Farm Bureau member and affiliated with the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and was also involved in the women's program at the state level.

She is survived by three sons, Ledward E. of Bronson, Duane A. of Mason, Craig B. of Roscommon; a daughter, Mrs. Donald (Carolyn) Roberts of Dowling; her mother, Mrs. Maude Shuler of Battle Creek, and 11 grandchildren.
Women's Program Stresses
Rural & Farm Safety

The Ogemaw County Farm Bureau Women presented an educational program promoting safety in farm and rural life to 50 guests at a meeting held in May. Mrs. Green, safety chairman for the county Women's Committee, told the group that with emphasis on safety, the Farm Bureau Women are promoting the use and sale of Early Warning smoke and fire alarms and escape ladders. Mrs. Green also told the group about a rash of fires in the area earlier this year and that a smoke alarm was credited with saving lives in a home fire.

A movie entitled "Agricultural Tractor Safety" was also shown to the group, giving a complete rundown on safety practices involving farm tractors and other agricultural equipment. Bill Craig, regional representative, spoke on the Rural Crime Prevention program in conjunction with the Ogemaw County Sheriff's Department and the Ogemaw County Farm Bureau Women in promoting the program. Also participating in the safety program were Vern Clemens, an FBIG agent, who talked on safety in wood-burning stoves and Roberta Beck, chairman of the women's first aid and cardio-pulmonary committee, who reported that the American Red Cross provides a variety of emergency and first aid training instructions. The objective of the Ogemaw County Farm Bureau Women's Safety Committee is to have at least one person in every farm family knowledgeable of first aid training so that they can respond to emergencies on the farm.

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The Voucher Plan

Petitions are being circulated to place an amendment to Article IX, Section 6 of the Ohio Constitution on the November general election ballot. The proposed amendment is entitled "School Finance Proposal", but is commonly referred to as the Voucher Proposal. This proposed amendment is sponsored by the Citizens for More Sensible Financing of Education. The core of the group represents non-public schools of their parents or guardians choice.

Parents of non-public school students pointed out the fact that they presently support two school systems. Increasing property taxes for public schools and rapidly increasing costs of operating non-public schools have pressed parents of non-public school children to seek remedies. The proponents of this proposal express deep belief that the property tax is not suitable for financing schools, but that leaves property tax as a major source of revenue for other units of local government, including community colleges.

Constitutionality

Present public assistance to non-public schools is limited to transportation, auxiliary services and time sharing of public school courses. This assistance has been supported by the courts. and time sharing of public school courses. This proposed amendment is entitled "School Finance Proposal", but is commonly referred to as the Voucher Proposal. This proposed amendment is sponsored by the Citizens for More Sensible Financing of Education. The core of the group represents non-public schools of their parents or guardians choice.

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Constitutionality

Present public assistance to non-public schools is limited to transportation, auxiliary services and time sharing of public school courses. This assistance has been supported by the courts. The federal government has provided educational vouchers to veterans since World War II. These vouchers can be taken to colleges and universities as well as other private colleges and to public colleges and universities.

Many groups oppose this amendment on grounds that money paid to a parochial school on the basis of the voucher credit is actually public maintenance of an institution religious in character, and thus conflicts with the Federal Constitution. Surely, the question will be put to the courts if the amendment is ratified in November.

Parents' Rights

No two schools are exactly alike. Schools develop programs which vary according to the priorities of the administration, demand by parents and students and the amount of money available. The proponents of the amendment have asked, with good reason, if each child and his or her parents could choose a school with programs in the style best suited to their interest and needs? Many schools are operating close to capacity. Would this amendment require such schools to make additional provisions for every child coming with voucher in hand? What would happen to facilities of schools lacking the population density to keep classrooms, laboratories, and shops filled? Property taxes would be levied as usual to pay principle and interest on outstanding debt but how would operational expense be handled? Certainly, some reorganization of school operation across the state would be required. The proponents believe that these provisions would provide stimulus to higher quality education. Some schools would be scaled down or closed, some would be scaled up. Many new schools would be opened.

Transportation systems would have to be redesigned in some areas where the pattern of school attendance becomes scattered. In such areas perhaps the traditional school bus system would give way to a transportation credit within each educational voucher. Then parents could seek out the necessary transportation for their children. What would become of cross-busing for purposes of racial integration if each child and the parents could choose a school?

Economic Issue

Removing the property tax now used for schools and shifting the burden to other taxes would result in redistributional effects which cannot be accurately predicted. However, removing one-half to nearly all the property tax would result in a windfall to present property owners. The cost of owning and enjoying the use of property would diminish considerably, and abruptly. Future purchasers would be willing to pay more for most classes of property. As a result income properties such as apartments and investment property, such as prime open land, would increase in price rather quickly. Future owners would pay interest on a higher purchase price in place of the repealed property taxes. Some new property owners could end up paying considerably more interest than would have been the case with higher property tax, and also paying the higher income taxes to support schools. Some would lose, some would gain, some would end up with about the same discretionary income as before. Every major change in taxation produces a redistribution of wealth. These effects must be kept in mind when evaluating the overall advantages and disadvantages of proposals for change.

Approved Schools

One task of the legislature under the proposed voucher amendment would be that of drafting new legislation for state approval of schools. Children may receive credit for their vouchers only at state approved schools. There is at present no uniform system of evaluation and approval such as would be required under this proposed amendment. As for non-public schools, state approval exists under the Private Dominant and Parochial School Act. This Act would be insufficient as a basis for state approval without considerable amendment.

State approval of all schools is an issue in itself. The state would be funding the entire operation of public schools (federal grants excluded) and some part of the operation. How many state regulations would follow the money? Perhaps no more than would be required for accountability. Perhaps more. Who can say?

Effect on Millage Limitations

Many point out that the property tax cut may not last long. This amendment does nothing to change the basic limitations in Article IX, Section 6 of the State Constitution. The 50 mill limitation is retained as is the 15 mill limitation. If nothing else were done by courts or the legislature, it is conceivable that the county and township could receive the tax allocation within the 15 mill limitation which had formerly gone to schools. In most counties this would be 8 mills. In counties which have voted to fix the tax allocation to schools, it is presumable, no change in the limitations would occur for the township and county, since limitations have been already been fixed by the voters. It has been pointed out that elimination the present locally voted millage would make it available for other county and local uses.

Forty-seven percent of the state budget now goes back to local units of government. It is conceivable that the state could cut back on various forms of local aid in order to help pay for the costs of schools because the property tax would be available for other uses.

Proportion of Funding

Nothing in this proposed amendment specifically requires the legislature to pay for the entire support of each child through the educational voucher. In the case of public school financing, what portion would be direct appropriations and what portion of funding would be made through the vouchers? In the case of the non-public schools, what portion of the funding would remain private and what portion should be made through the vouchers? The legislature or the courts might be asked to interpret the words in the amendment, "... a method of distributing funds to support the attendance of..." What portion of total school operation costs are to be funded through vouchers is apparently a matter for the legislature to decide, unless and until the courts are asked the question.

Rewriting Laws

The amendment would require the rewriting of much of the school code and a number of tax laws. Some constitutional laws would need to be written. But this is not a sufficient reason for rejecting a new system of public finance. If the reasons for change are sufficient in the minds of the voters, then the necessary legal framework can and will be developed.
Nigerian Farmer Visits FBS

Ishiaiku Yusufu Dutse, a farmer from Nigeria, is questioned by MFB's Cary Blake. Ishiaiku was joined by a farmer from the country of Holland in hopes of purchasing U.S. farm supplies.

Sweet Charity...

These southwestern Michigan Blossomtime Queens are posing with the ingredients of what could make the world's most expensive strawberry shortcake...a crate of strawberries that was sold for $1,900! Yes, these are very special berries...they're the first of the season. They were auctioned off for charity at the opening of this year's Benton Harbor Farmer's Market.

Isabella Women Are Governor's "Minutemen"

As part of Michigan Week festivities in May, 25 Michigan citizens were recognized by Governor William G. Milliken for their efforts in promoting the "Great Lake" state. Sponsored by the Greater Michigan Foundation, the 25 people received the Governor's Minuteman Award for their achievements in working for a better state, telling other states about Michigan and teaching state residents about the quality of Michigan.

Two of the 25 recipients of the Minuteman Award were Isabella County Farm Bureau members Minnie O'Brien and Lillian Wonsey, who were recognized for their achievements in promoting Michigan agriculture and the annual Michigan Week smorgasbord, sponsored by the Isabella County Farm Bureau Women.
FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership; additional words 10 cents per word. Figures such as 512.25 count as one word. MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 96, Lansing, MI 48904. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

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