Farm Co-ops, Milk Market Order Program Challenged

A fight to preserve farmers' right to market through their cooperatives is currently being waged in Washington, D.C. where a federal Antitrust Review Commission is looking into allegations that some large farm co-ops have used their muscle unfairly to enhance food prices and cut out competition.

In January of 1977, the Justice Department's Antitrust Division issued a report on milk marketing in which questions were raised about co-ops, including the possibility of reshaping the Capper-Volstead Act of 1977. In a series of public hearings held this summer, those testifying included the National Milk Producers Federation and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. The NMPF presented an analysis of the role the Capper-Volstead Act and cooperative marketing play in agriculture and the dairy industry, and of the importance of the federal milk market order program.

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives recommended that an independent commission study milk marketing and farmer cooperatives – if the Commission concludes that further study is necessary. NCFC Vice President Donald E. Graham said that members of such a study commission should be selected from among responsible consumer, farmer and middleman interests, and not from the Federal Trade Commission, Agriculture or Justice Departments.

Graham concluded that if the Justice Department were truly interested in fostering effective competition in food marketing, it would encourage farmers to use cooperatives more, since that would inject more competition to the benefit of producers and consumers alike. "Instead," he said, "Justice seems to be attacking cooperatives because it receives a distorted vision from its limited exposure rather than for sound economic reasons."

In a joint letter to President Jimmy Carter, the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Grange and National Milk Producers Federation, the groups outlined their mutual concerns regarding the Commission's limited time could be spent more productively on other issues.

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland also testified before the Commission. A former farmer and co-op member, he said: "My own view, which I believe is well-supported by history, experience and research, is that the Capper-Volstead Act and our marketing order system are in no need of statutory modification."
Peaks and Valleys -- The USDA and Carol

Have you ever noticed that life tends to have peaks and valleys (sometimes even pits)? How when you’re ‘flying high’ something happens to bring you back down to earth again? The most you can hope for is more peaks than pits... if you were never in the pits, you couldn’t really appreciate the peaks.

I recently experienced a peak-to-pit ride that was more traumatic than any I’ve had since a pimple popped out on the end of my nose on prom night. Michigan hosted the American Farm Bureau Federation Information Conference in early August and how proud we were to show off the beautiful Traverse City area to our out-of-state guests! And how proud we were to have Michigan win four of the 13 awards in the area of communications, an economist with the Justice Department, for outstanding individual information efforts.

Talk about flying high! There’s nothing like national recognition of your work to feed the always-hungry ego of creative people and stimulate them to do even more. I’d like to tell you about one of those awards because many of you are responsible for it. Our FARM NEWS special article on Worker’s Compensation wins the prestigious ‘Best Feature Story’ award and, if you remember, our visits with you and your willingness to share your experiences made it possible for us to write this story. It would not have been an ‘awards dinner without PEOPLE’.

The peak was so high, I almost needed an oxygen mask. I was so cowed I waited me back in Lansing! was deep and dark. A valley I could have handled, a pit after a peak was well, my kids could never talk me into riding a roller coaster. It was a column by an editor of a weekly newspaper who called my work “bleatings,” offending, biased, one-sided, and condemned the paper like the south end of a horse facing north.

After all my experience in the world of communications, I thought my skin had toughened, but... WOW! I’m bleeding yet! One column I write will make me appreciate the next peak even more. While I’m waiting for keep reading, over and over, the anonymous saying that hangs on my office wall over the typewriter: “In a way, to be typewriter: “In a way, to be
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Groups Oppose School Lunch Transfer

Higher prices for school lunches and reduced participation in reduced child nutrition programs could be the result of a Senate proposal to transfer child feeding programs controlled by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to a new, cabinet-level department. A coalition—what members of the so-called Save School Lunch coalition—say members of the so-called cabinet wish to eliminate the school lunch programs in schools that are already financially hard-pressed.

In a joint letter to the Senate, the coalition refers to a study showing that for each 1 cent increase in the lunch price, 1 percent of paying students drop out of the program. Lower participation of paying students will then result in higher lunch prices, the group contents. "It is a vicious cycle," the coalition concludes, "that will threaten the existence of school lunch programs in schools that are already financially hard-pressed.

According to an American Farm Bureau Federation spokesperson, the farm organization has been watching the progress of Senate Bill 991 closely and supports the efforts of the Save School Lunch coalition to block transfer of the lunch program. However, said the spokesperson, AFBF opposes the farm bill in Congress, which would transfer the program to a new, cabinet-level department.

Groups Oppose School Lunch Transfer

AgriPac Schedules First Fund-raiser

AgriPac, the political action arm of the Michigan Farm Bureau, has scheduled its first fund-raiser with proceeds to help elect designated "Friends of Agriculture" in the 13-county southeastern portion of the state. Under the leadership of AgriPac member, George Robb of Livingston County, the fund-raiser will be held September 9 at the 4-H Building, Fowlewiler fairgrounds, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The event will begin with a pancake and sausage luncheon at 11 a.m., with opportunity for Farm Bureau members to personally talk with "Friends of Agriculture" political candidates and the farmer-chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. B. Dale Ball, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, will be the speaker.

Tickets for the fund-raiser are available from selected persons in each of the 14 counties involved: Hillsdale, Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Washtenaw, Wayne and Lapeer. Farm Bureau members outside the 14-county area who wish to attend may order tickets from the Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 26060, Lansing 48909, phone: 517-323-7600.

AgriPac fund-raisers are also being planned for other parts of the state to help elect "Friends of Agriculture."
Conferees Evaluate Michigan Tax Proposals

According to Dr. Doug Roberts, Michigan Department of Management and Budget, Michigan's "taxpayer revolt" could backfire and actually increase the total tax burden on landowners, small businesses, senior citizens and renters. Roberts joined speakers from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of the Treasury, Michigan State University and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce to discuss land use and taxation at the Michigan Farm Bureau sponsored Land Protection and Property Tax Statewide Conference on August 1.

In his afternoon presentation, Roberts warned that the Tisch, Headlee and Voucher amendments are not truly tax cuts, but rather represent a tax shift. Only the Headlee amendment, said Roberts, actually attempts a genuine tax limitation.

"In my opinion," said Roberts, "the Tisch proposal has two elements which do in some way limit taxes. It does decrease assessed values from 50 percent to 25 percent and does limit the maximum state income tax rate to 5.6 percent or an additional 1 percent increase. However, there is nothing in the Tisch that limits state spending, therefore, the state legislature, by a majority vote, could increase all other taxes.

Roberts referred to the possible extension of the sales tax to include items now statutorily precluded from taxation such as professional services. Increases in the Single Business Tax could also be voted by the legislature to recoup part of the $1.75 billion dollars lost in property tax revenues. Although he considered it unlikely, Roberts reminded the conferees that the agricultural exemption from SBT was a statutory exemption and could be reinstated.

There is not a limit on the total taxation power of the state legislature" mandated by the Tisch amendment, Roberts said.

If adopted by the voters, the Tisch amendment would have ramifications for farmers in the P.A. 116 land use program. "Each farmer will have to judge for himself whether the tax shift will make him a winner or a loser," said Roberts. "Each farmer should look at his taxable income and see what a 2 percent increase in income taxes would mean. The farmer must take into account whether he is a member of the Farmland and Open Space Act, which provides substantial property tax relief, as well as the general property tax credit available to all homeowners in doing his calculations. Some will be winners, some will be losers and each farmer will have to choose for himself whether or not this tax shift will benefit him."

The Headlee amendment, on the other hand, said the analyst, has never claimed to provide a tax cut. The proposal would require the state to limit the collection of all tax revenues at the current 9.4 percent level in relation to the total personal income in the state. To effect, the Headlee amendment is a limit on state spending by limiting the percentage of overall state revenues. Roberts explained that tax increases are allowable under the Headlee proposal, but the average increase in any unit of government may not exceed the rate of inflation as reported by the Consumer Price Index. Within that governmental unit, however, individual property tax increases may actually rise above the CPI percentage.

Essentially, the Voucher amendment is offered as an option to financing Michigan schools. By eliminating all operational millage, the Voucher plan would generate problems similar to the Tisch amendment and would, in effect, diminish local control of schools.

Dennis Hall, who manages the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act program, agreed that there is a possibility that the Tisch amendment would mean less participation in the program, which gives property tax breaks to farmers who agree to keep their land in farm production.

If property taxes are cut, said Hall, growth of the program is likely to experience some short term lag. "If property taxes go down, there is obviously not a need to participate, although there are other benefits from participation in the P.A. 116 program that may not be directly associated to it. For instance, the farmer who participates is automatically exempt from special assessments for sanitary sewer, light and non-farm drainage and in an urbanizing area, the farmer may need that assistance."

Reacting to the potential impact of the proposals on agriculture, Ingham County Farm Bureau President Charles Wilcox expressed concern for the future tax burden that farmers will have to carry. "It appears that under any one of the three tax limitation proposals farmers could end up paying more taxes. Particularly under the Tisch amendment, tax incentives to participate in the P.A. 116 land use program would be weakened and farmers would also lose the Homestead Property Tax Credit. Add to that a probable increase in income taxes at the state and local level and there you have it... Farmers could lose whatever property tax relief they have had in the past."

Michigan Farm News
Good Profits for Growers

The good news is that we have a large crop of apples this year and that prices will return a good profit to growers. Where is the bad news? At this point, there is none.

Our estimated production is set by the USDA at 18.3 million bushels. This is a large crop but certainly not overburdening.

Red Delicious varieties make up a large portion of the crop. Unless we have a terrible fall season, it looks likely that we will have an adequate number of pickers for harvest. That may be the bad news.

by Ken Nye

The August 11 crop report indicates a repeat of the disastrously low grain prices, which battered American farm incomes in 1977, is in store for farmers faced with built-up reserve stocks and bumper crop predictions.

Meeting in Manhattan, Kansas on August 11, ten Farm Bureau presidents of the Midwest region expressed alarm at the impact of the USDA crop report and renewed their previous demands for an effective 30 percent minimum set-aside for feed grains in the 1979 program.

Representing farmers in the temperate Midwest grain belt, the farm leaders charged that hoped-for participation in this year's set-aside never materialized because the program was announced late and was confusing to most farmers.

The group emphasized the need for an official an­nouncement of the 1979 set-aside program with sufficient incentives to assure broad participation in the 1979 program, and called upon Secretary of Agriculture Bergland to announce next year's program by Sep­tember 15.

In related action, the state presidents denounced any move to reopen the 1978 loan program to those who did not participate earlier.

There has been some speculation in Washington that the 1978 loan program may be extended to farmers not currently signed up in the set-aside and loan program.

Everybody has heard of "supply and demand." Start talking about the economy or prices and supply and demand almost automatically become part of the conver­sation. Generally people understand that it is the interaction between supply and demand that creates price, although even this is questionable at times. In order to gain a better understanding what makes up a price, it might be well if we simply review, piece by piece, some of the major components that actually go into making a price. Like any anatomy course we will examine the specimen (price) one piece at a time before we put all the pieces together. Let's begin by examining demand.

Webster's dictionary and most economists define demand in several ways. Effective demand is the willingness and ability to purchase a commodity or service. Simply stated, the customer walks in a store, picks out the product he wants and then pays for it. All of us have wants and desires that are not immediately attainable. That's what distinguishes them from effective demand. It is not until we actually lay out the cold, hard cash that our wants and desires are truly expressed in an economic sense. Thus, part of understanding demand is that understanding that it involves some conscious efforts, rational choices and a commitment of resources (namely money) on the part of a consumer. We will discuss later what factors go into making such a choice.

Mr. Webster and most economists have also outlined a law which describes how you and I are supposed to behave. The law of demand simply states that consumers will buy more at lower prices. Conversely, as prices rise, less product or service will be taken at that given point in time. Generally speaking, as the consumer uses additional amounts of a commodity, satisfaction or pleasure derived from each additional unit, decreases. In economic terminology this is referred to as the law of diminishing marginal utility (just in case you're interested).

It is important to realize that demand can only be measured when we specify a time period and location. It's like taking a picture on vacation ... you don't take one picture of the entire vacation, rather you have a series of snapshots to depict the trip. Similarly each of us has a certain demand for a product at a given time and place. Of course, if we take enough pictures of individuals and add them together, we get some idea of the total market demand for a certain product, at a given point in time.

An individual's demand for a product is a function of many different factors. It would be impossible to list all of them since there are probably as many as there are individuals in the world. However, some of the major determinants can be categorized as follows: Income, personal tastes and preferences, whether or not substitute products are available and artificial restrictions. These obviously influence demand. Most of us, however, must live within certain budget constraints. If we all had an unlimited income and time to enjoy it, there is little doubt we would spend more. But limited income causes us to choose between various alternatives and places boundaries on our consumption patterns.

In addition, individual tastes and preferences, therefore, must be purchased in order to sustain life. Food is a good example. Housing or shelter, clothing and transportation are further examples of things which are generally given rather high priority in the individual or household budget.

Even for those items classified as necessities, however, personal tastes and preferences may influence demand. Not everyone lives in the same type of style of home, drives the same make, model and color of automobile or eats the same kinds of varieties of food. The same is true for clothing, toothpaste, gasoline, etc. etc. Thus, your tastes and mine have a dramatic impact on the "demand" for any given product.

Similarly, when a product has many close substitutes, consumers are given a wider range of choice and thus they have more bargaining power. Compare the above situation to one where only a single product will fill a particular need. In that case the consumer has little choice but to accept the product and conditions of sale. This obviously affects the way any given product is viewed.

It may also be possible that two products are complements. Like a steering wheel and an automobile or cereal and milk, things that are normally consumed together. In this case, the demand for one is directly tied to the other product.

Artificial restrictions come in a variety of forms. They might be quantity restrictions where you must buy a certain amount of products and no less. They could be caused by government regulations, licensing or legislation. Certain drugs, doctors services, chemicals, etc. fall into this category. There are a number of ways the demand restrictions are enforced, but the end result is the same. These limitations of demand are enforced, not to prevent demand, but to accept the product and conditions of sale. This obviously affects the way any given product is viewed.

Next time we'll examine another component of price: Supply.
The IRS and You
by Jack H. Anderson
Marketing Specialist

If you are like most taxpayers you make it a point to avoid confrontations with the Internal Revenue Service. This reluctance to do battle is understandable. Unless you hire someone to represent you, you're forced to match your laymen's knowledge of tax code against that of IRS agents. And they'll put up a good fight, make no mistake about that.

Most taxpayers who take their cases all the way to court eventually go home as losers, whether they have professional help or not. On the other hand, sometimes the underdog wins. Taxpayers contesting IRS opinions in the U.S. tax court win outright about 10 percent of the time and manage to wrangle compromise decisions, meaning the court finds merit on both sides of the case about 30 percent of the time. When cases are appealed to a higher court, taxpayers win nearly 20 percent of the time. Those are the odds you face when you tangle with the IRS.

But statistics on court decisions are only a small part of the story. A far greater number of cases - in fact, 97 percent of all taxpayer-IRS disputes are settled by compromise and mutual agreement long before they reach a courtroom. They are decided within the administrative appeals procedures set up by the IRS. If you want to fight, that's where you'll start.

You and the Auditor

The first step signaling an official disagreement between you and IRS is the audit. If you decide during the course of the audit that you disagree with the auditor's position, you can ask to meet with his or her supervisor. If you can't get a more favorable ruling that way, you can go home and wait for a letter of deficiency, which will permit you to take your case directly to the U.S. Tax Court or you can pursue your appeal within the IRS. Most people try the IRS route first.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Now, District Conferences can weigh the hazard of litigation for cases in which the disputed amount of tax doesn't exceed $2500 in a single year. This increased authority has made more compromises possible at the district level and most disputes are settled there.

APPELLATE CONFERENCE: This is as far as you go within the IRS. Normally appellate conferences are convened only if a dispute involves a major question of law. Most taxpayers hire an accountant or a lawyer to do their negotiating at this level.

THE COURT SYSTEM: You can wait until you've exhausted the administrative procedures available, or you can abandon the IRS appeal route anytime after the audit and take your case to court. There are three courts empowered to hear tax cases: 1) U.S. Tax Court. 2) U.S. District Courts. 3) U.S. Court of Claims.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES: Preparation for your battle should begin before the initial audit. The letter you receive from IRS will generally indicate the areas being questioned but the auditor doesn't have to limit the examination to those items. You should review your entire return. During the audit, don't volunteer more information than you are asked for. If the auditor raises a point you didn't anticipate, you needn't fumble for an explanation. Remember, you don't have to decide whether you agree or disagree with the auditor at the meeting.

If you're not sure of what you should do, wait for the auditor's report and study it in a more relaxed atmosphere at home. Then you can plan your approach. The first consideration should be strictly a practical one: how much time and money are you willing to devote to a dispute if the best you can realistically hope for might be some sort of compromise agreement? If you decide an investment of time and money would be worthwhile, invest them wisely.

MONEY: Spend some for a consultation with an accountant and an attorney who specializes in tax manners.

TIME: If you plan to handle your own case, your time would best be spent studying on the issues involved.

The Decision is Yours

At every step of the appeal process, you'll have to decide whether you want to continue the next. Time and money will always be major considerations. If you stick with it and your case involves a question of law that a court must arbitrate, the dispute could stretch on for years. That helps explain why so many taxpayers decide to settle for a compromise somewhere along the way.

For further information on dealing with IRS problems, or information on investment credit for farmers, contact the Market Development and Research Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, 48909, phone: 517-322-7000.
**MICHIGAN'S TAX SYSTEM**

Because of equalized increases, S.B. 1543 tightens the present law considerably and would prohibit the use of the present law from taking advantage of an increased state equalized valuation by using the same funds. In other words, receiving more revenue than that would be realized if the state equalized valuation had not increased. In order to receive such additional revenues, the unit of local government governing board must vote to apply the millage to the increased state equalized valuation and the public must be notified.

**CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS**

Three Constitutional amendments on taxation issues were decided before the ballot in November as a result of petition drives by various groups. The following is a brief summary:

- **TAX LIMITATION** proposed by “taxpayers United, Inc.” but known as the “Tisch Proposal” the intent is:
  - Limit the total of all state and local taxes.
  - Total state revenue could not exceed in any one year the 1978-79 State Revenues.
  - Personal Income equalization.
  - Multiplying the personal income of either the prior year or the average of three previous years, whichever is greater. The estimated limit is 9.15 percent to 9.48 percent.
  - If the limit is exceeded by 1 percent of more, the excess must be refunded on a pro rata basis. Less than 1 percent would be carried over to the next year.

- **TAX LIMITATION** proposed by the Budget stabilization Fund. This is a proposal for an emergency, for only one year. The Governor must declare an emergency and it must be approved by two-thirds of each house of the Legislature.
  - The state could not reduce the state's share of costs of local government services required by state law. The state could not fund any new programs.
  - State could not reduce the proportion of state spending in effect FY 1978-79 going to all local government units taken together.
  - Limits rate of increase of the yield of local property taxes to rate of increase of the Consumer Price Index. However, new construction and improvements would be subject to the full levy for the first two years.
  - Limitation does not apply to levies for servicing existing bonds or debts or to debt approved by the voters.

- **TAX CUT**, the “Tisch Proposal” is mainly directed at the local property tax but it would also have considerable impact on state government operations. The intent is to:
  - Limit assessments, as equalized to 2 percent of value (presently 50 percent).
  - Limit assessed valuation increases to 2 1/2 percent a year.
  - Limit state income taxes to 5.6 percent (presently 4.6 percent).

- Permit K-12 school districts to impose up to 1 percent income tax for 10 years at a time if approved by the voters.

- Prohibit the state from requiring new or expanded activities by local government unless the funds are timely and/or fully state financed.

- Prevent shifting of expenditures to local government unless the funds are timely and/or fully state financed.

- An election is required to levy any local tax or tax increase subject to the voters before passage of amendment.

- If the base of an existing tax is broadened, the tax rate must be reduced to prevent the tax rate from going over a 100 percent increase in revenue than before.

- The 15 (or 18) and 50 mill limitations in the Constitution are to be increased to the extent approved by the voters (except debt outstanding at the time of ratification).

**OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS**

- The “Citizen’s for More Sensible Financing of Education” the proposal was introduced primarily at school of the parent’s or school district’s school of their choice to be “applied toward the cost” of education in the “state approved” school of the parent’s or guardian’s choice.

- **BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND** - Michigan’s 1977-78 Fiscal Year. The Legislature created the Stabilization Fund. The idea is to save for a rainy day.

- **MILLAGE LIMITS**

- **REFUNDS** - “CIRCUIT FUND” - Michigan’s 1977-78 Fiscal Year. The Legislature created the Stabilization Fund. The idea is to save for a rainy day.

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**NATIONAL NOTES**

**USDA Announces '79 Set-Aside**

The Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland announced a 20 percent set-aside for the 1979 wheat crop, identical to this year's program.

By complying with the provisions of the 1979 set-aside, wheat farmers will be eligible for a large loan of $2.35 a bushel, and a target price of $3.40 per bushel. Also the same as the 1978 program.

Secretary Bergland called the 1979 program a "stabilizing measure that will benefit both producers and consumers."

"If farmers use the 1979 program as well as they did this year, we believe that wheat prices will be maintained," the Secretary said. "This program is also anti-inflationary. These provisions will not add to food price inflation," Secretary Bergland said.

USDA studies show that no increase in U.S. wheat stocks would result in U.S. wheat stocks being well above normal, considerably lower farm prices, an increase of 5 to 10 percent, and a decrease in export earnings from wheat. Bergland added, "Good participation in the 20 percent set-aside will result in wheat stocks on June 1, 1980 near 7.5 percent of the projected world wheat use or approximately 1.13 billion bushels," he said.

The Secretary reiterated that the commitment to wheat reserves is a special federal reserve and the special emergency reserve for food aid commitments of 150 million bushels (4.4 million tons).

"The Administration will continue to take actions that will ensure a strong family farm system of import quotas and price objectives to be achieved by using a flexible system of import quotas and price objectives to be maintained, " the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Senate, August 11, passed a bill (S. 7) that would require all foreign investors who own U.S. farmland, or buy it in the future, to report their investments to the President, the Secretary of Agriculture.

Under the Farm Bureau-supported bill, the Agriculture Secretary would be required to analyze information gained from the reports and submit an annual report to the President, the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress on the effects of the foreign investment.

The real estate transactions covered would include direct sales, leases, and agreements of five or longer, land sales contracts, leases, and options to buy. The bill defines agricultural land as any land used in production of agricultural commodities, including forest products.

Failure to file the required reports, or if such reports contain false information, would subject land buyers to a fine of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the land as determined by the Agriculture Secretary.

Senator Herman Talmadge, (D., Ga.), a sponsor of the bill, told Farm Bureau News in a recent interview that foreign investment in U.S. farmland is seen as a good buy. He noted that foreign investors had acquired 6.3 percent of all farmland in a single county in his home state of Georgia in the past year and a half.

USDA Chief Economist Howard Hjort said that reporting foreign investments in U.S. farmland is premature because USDA and others in government have not yet completed surveys ordered in 1976. Those surveys are intended to pin down the amount of land owned by foreigners and whether it threatened the national interest.

**House Measure Would Halt Nitrites Ban**

According to a UPI wire story, "Government food experts consider the latest cancer evidence against the meat preservative nitrite so damaging that a new set-aside plan has been drawn up to ban it completely. The plan — still undergoing scrutiny within the government — is expected to be introduced as a proposal to be published this fall for a phase-out of the chemical now used in more than 50 percent of all U.S. processed meats, including bacon, hot dogs, lunch meat, cured fish and other products each year."

However, legislation to prevent the federal government from banning the use of nitrites in food preservation until a government-sponsored study of the cancer-causing effects of saccharin is completed, was introduced by two members of Congress.

Representative William C. Wampler of Virginia, ranking Republican member of the House Agriculture Committee, told a news conference that two measures he introduced jointly with Representative James G. Bump, (R., Ohio), were designed to make sure the government is on "solid and undisputable scientific ground" before it takes "precautionary action" to ban nitrites.

Declaring that there is no known substitute as cost-effective way of retaining preservatives by the "inexpensive, easy-to-use, and economic" method used in food preservation, "until three months after the Saccharin Study is completed," the legislation was "consensus of the House and Senate of Representatives that only action respecting nitrites by the Secretary of Agriculture should be taken when the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, be delayed until completion of the Saccharin Study."

**Sugar Bill Provisions Concern FB**

The House Agriculture Committee reported out a new Sugar Bill designed to preserve the nation's ability to produce part of its own sugar supply and to help protect both farmers and consumers from the erratic price swings that have plagued the market in recent years.

The measure, which would be effective through September 30, 1983, sets an initial 10-cent goal for sugar and would allow for semi-annual adjustments in the price goal, beginning in October, 1979, to keep pace with government indexes of farm costs and wholesale prices.

Another major provision of the bill would allow sugar price objectives to be achieved by using a "flexible system of import quotas and rules to regulate the flow of foreign sugar into the U.S., keeping the price at the 10-cent goal," the bill said.

A labor provision was added in the bill which sets a minimum wage for field workers at $3.80 an-hour beginning in October of this year. This rate would increase by 20-cents-an-hour each year until it reaches a maximum of $3.80-an-hour in October, 1982. The wage for equipment operators would be 10 percent higher than field workers' wages. These minimums are higher than the current federal minimum wage of $2.30 an-hour.

The committee also agreed to a provision in the bill calling for U.S. participation in an International Sugar Agreement.

Farm Bureau supports the objectives of the domestic programs of the bill but opposes the minimum wage requirements and the authorization for U.S. participation in the International Sugar agreement.
Honey Producers Proud to be Part of Michigan Agriculture

Story by Marcia Ditchie
Photos by Leon Bigelow

Michigan's agricultural industry brought an approximate 8.5 billion dollars into the state's economy in 1977 from the production, transportation, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Of this 8.5 billion dollars, nearly three million was generated from the production of honey, ranking Michigan tenth in the nation last year in honey production.

In 1977, Michigan had 1,05,500 colonies of bees, which not only produced over 5.5 million pounds of honey, but were also used for pollination in over 40 crops.

Two of Michigan's commercial honey producers and pollinators are Charles and Sally Scott, a young Farm Bureau couple in the Traverse City area, who have approximately 1,100 colonies of bees spread over a four county area in Northwest Michigan.

The Scotts became professional beekeepers in January of 1973 when they bought out a commercial honey producer who was retiring. Asked what background he had in beekeeping before this, Scott stated that his father had had some bees just as a hobby and he knew the basics, and that he "liked the agricultural spirit."

Expanding from 450 colonies (hives) in 1973, to 1,100 this year, the Scott's find themselves busy year-round. Once the disease is in with about 35 out-yards in a hive, it can and will spread over a four county area in Northwest Michigan. As a general rule, most beekeepers try to keep the out-yards at a distance of at least two miles apart. This is the area that the field force of the hive will forage for food sources.

Work with the bees starts in early spring. How early depends on weather conditions and how hard the winter has been on the bees' ability to survive. "On the first visit to the hives, we take the snowmobiles and shovels. Usually the hives are drifted over with a deep blanket of snow. Once we dig down to the tops, the heat of the hives has hollowed out a space in the snow to allow for necessary ventilation. Now, each hive is checked for food stores and will be fed accordingly," explained Scott.

Several yards a day are checked and necessary food is returned as soon as possible. Once the bees have started on their reserve of honey and this runs out, they could starve to death within days.

Schott explained that they feed the bees a sugar syrup, a mixture of water and granulated sugar, and also use the drugs teramycin and sulpham in the syrup to prevent disease of the brood. "Many people frown on the use of these two drugs, but they do not realize the devastating effects of the brood disease if it is allowed to mature and spread. Once the disease is in a hive, it can and will spread uncontrollably. Treatment for infested hives is burning. After burning, the bees and the inner equipment of the hive," he explained.

The sugar syrup is placed in sealed, two gallon buckets and is carried into the bee yards on snowmobiles and toboggans. This requires a lot of "leg work" winding through the snow. Most yards are at least a quarter mile off the road. By inverting the buckets on top of the inner hive, the bees are able to draw the syrup from small holes piercing the lid. The bees store the syrup as they would honey and use it to stimulate brood rearing and food consumption.

After the first feeding, the Scotts continue to check and feed the bees as needed. This is a very important part in preparing them for the upcoming pollination season, usually the first part of May, depending on weather conditions and progress of the fruit trees. "This year, we moved about 800 colonies into area cherry orchards. The hives are four to a pallet and can easily be placed with a forklift where they will do the farmer the most good. In our area, the main pollinating crop is sweet and tart cherries. Other parts of the state that depend on pollination by honey bees are for blueberries, pickles, melons, beans, etc." explained Scott.

The hives remain in the orchards two to four weeks, depending on the blossom period. Farmers will then give them notice when to remove the bees before they must spray any chemical that could harm or kill the bees.

The Scotts produce liquid and cut comb honey and production depends upon honey flow. The main honey flow was delayed until August 1st due to dry weather and only lasted 15 days. They explained that since they produce mainly cut comb honey, the average production is cut about in half because the bees have to fill the wax out in the comb each time. "We can figure, hopefully, on 85 pounds of honey per hive, but it depends on the weather and other conditions, too. We try to manage the bees so we can come out somewhere near there," stated Scott.

Besides the risk of a poor honey crop due to bad weather conditions, the Scotts also face the growing problem with sprays and insecticides. This can mean losing up to half of the field force that gathers honey in the summertime from the drift of sprays.

Scott estimated that an average hive costs $100 to get started and put together. In addition, he said, "You have to have some knowledge of beekeeping and keep one step ahead of the bees all the time, otherwise they could starve or die." However, despite variables such as weather, disease and rising production costs, the honey industry tends to stay regular, and the Scotts don't experience marketing problems, as most of their honey crop is pretty much spoken for from year to year. They ship most of their cut comb honey to brokers in the Boston and Chicago areas because of the strong demand for natural foods, and sell their liquid honey to small packers, and occasionally supply local retailers.

Do the Scotts consider themselves a part of agriculture? They sure do. "We consider ourselves very much a part of Michigan agriculture and are proud of the bees and the products we help to produce," Scott stated, "and what you put in determines what you get out." Isn't that true with any industry?
Discussion Meet Topics Are Selected

The 1978 Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer District Discussion Meets began in August and will run through September and October. The Discussion Meet provides Young Farmers the opportunity to express their views regarding current agricultural issues.

Topics were selected by the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and will be used in the county, district, state and national contests. The four topics selected by the committee are:

1. Policy development - what it means and how to make it work; who should own and control the land? What can the farmer and rancher do to have more input in domestic and international marketing, processing and transportation of his product; and what should Farm Bureau's role be in energy research and development?

2. District Discussion Meet winners will compete in the state contest at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November and the state winner will receive an all expense paid trip for two to the AFBF Annual Meeting in Miami Beach in January, 1979 to compete in the national contest.

3. Awards will be prepared and distributed by the Young Farmer Department and given to all county award winners at county annual meetings. One winner and one runner-up will be selected at the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in November as state winners. The first place winner will receive an all expense paid trip for two to the Washington Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C.

4. The deadline for mailing entry forms for the state contest is November 1, and should be sent to Don Currey, Manager, Young Farmer Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Young Farm Woman Award Announced

With the role of women in agriculture constantly changing, the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Department developed a program two years ago to recognize their efforts and to provide a spokesperson for agriculture and promote leadership development. As a result, the Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award was designed to recognize young Farm Bureau women for outstanding achievement.

Applications must be a Farm Bureau member, no more than 32 years of age on December 31, 1978, and must use an official entry form for the state award contest.

Applications are to be submitted by county winners and their applications should be sent to Don Currey, Manager, Young Farmer Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909. To be considered, applications must be received in the office of the Young Farmer Department or their county Young Farmer Committee and be postmarked by November 1, 1978.

Producers Forum Set

A Producers Forum, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Association of the Future Farmers of America and Michigan Farm Bureau, has been scheduled for December 8 and 9 at the Valley Plaza Ramada Inn in Midland. The purpose of the forum is to expose potential agricultural producers to an intensive instructional program of current agricultural issues.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For Members in Farm Bureau's Blue Cross-Blue Shield Group

A special reopening will be held from September 5 through September 15 to accommodate member-subscribers in the Comprehensive plan who wish to transfer into the lower cost Econo plan. Effective date of the change will be November 20, 1978.

For further details, contact your county Farm Bureau secretary.
A Day in the Life of a Regional Representative

`The Rookie' -- Northeast Region

There are no fancy county Farm Bureau offices in the Northeast Region of Michigan; the "offices" are in the homes of the county secretaries. It isn't the most productive agricultural area in the state; its woods and lakes are a vacation wonderland for permanent residents, but according to regional representative Bill Craig, Farm Bureau is alive and healthy in the Northeast, which is composed of Alcona, Ogemaw, Iosco, Arenac, Clare and Gladwin counties.

Affectionately tagged "The Rookie" by his fellow field staff members, Bill is the newest regional representative for Michigan Farm Bureau. He joined the staff in November, 1977, armed with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from Western Michigan University and the experience gained from two trips to Australia to study agriculture in that country.

Bill's first item of business for our "day" was to get Bill registered so he could vote in the Primary. "I can't very well go around preaching to our members to vote if I haven't registered myself," he explained.

The main topic of discussion at visits with two county secretaries, Francis Williams of Arenac and Terri Goodrow of Iosco, was the retirement of county committees. Bill doesn't believe in "paper committees," and thinks that people who are appointed to a committee deserve to know what is expected of them. He's currently planning special training for the state and national affairs committees in his counties so that when the telephone grid system is put into operation, members in the sparsely populated counties of the northern region. The Sterling Farm Bureau Service was closed after our visit for economic reasons. It's also not economically feasible for FPC to haul long distances to farmers in that area.

But that problem has been solved for farmer-customers in the Lincoln area, where an independent dealer, Robert Karsen, carries Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Service products. It's a relatively new concept and according to Bill Rockey, Director of Energy and Hardware for FBS-FPC, it's also very successful. "Farmers like Bob. He's worked directly with them through the county boards and community groups to get it going -- and it's been a good thing for everyone involved," reports Rockey.

Our last stop was at the Nelkie dairy farm outside Tawas City. It's an attractive, progressive operation, and a sign in the front yard captures the attention of travelers: "Get high on milk; our cows are on grass." Russell Nelkie, Jr. is president of the Losco County Farm Bureau. "I'm lucky to have him as president," says Bill. "He's a highly respected member of the community and that strengthens the image of the county Farm Bureau."

Bill believes the most challenging part of his job is keeping members informed and enthusiastic so they'll want to be involved in the organization. "I have a chance to get recharged, to get my adrenaline flowing, when I come into the state office once a month and hear everything Farm Bureau is involved in and accomplish. I think transmitting this enthusiasm on to the members -- the people who are working voluntarily to get things done for agriculture -- is something we have to keep trying to do. We've got to let them know we're not just out after their $35, or that Farm Bureau is a place to get their insurance cheaper. We've got to let them know we're an active organization working successfully for the interests of farmers," says Bill -- not sounding like a "Rookie" any more.

The wage loss benefits payable to accident victims under Michigan's no-fault automobile insurance law will rise from a maximum of $3,737 per month to $4,475, effective October 1. The 7.4 percent increase reflects changes in the cost of living as calculated under the federal Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index. The amount of maximum wage loss benefits is adjusted every year to make sure that auto accident victims are compensated adequately, according to Michigan Insurance Commissioner Thomas Jones. "Michigan is the only state that directly links work loss benefits with inflation this way," Jones said. "In most other states, a fixed sum is awarded that may have no relation to the actual cost of living."

When the no-fault law went into effect October 1, 1973, the maximum monthly wage loss benefit was $1,000 a month. The monthly wage loss payments to accident victims is limited to three years.

Bill and Marie Craig on the steps of their new home in Tawas City.

Story by Donna Wilber
Photos by Marcia Ditchie

No-Fault Benefits Rise

Bill stops to visit Brad Rogers, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, at his office in Harrisville.

Robert Karsen, an independent dealer, stocks plenty of FBS-FPC products for farmers in the Lincoln area.
Photo Contest

The contest has two divisions, according to the age of the photographer. There is a Junior Division (18 and under) and a Senior Division (19 and above).

PRIZES AT FOLLOWING RATES:

1st Prize - Each Division $50.00
2nd Prize - Each Division $35.00
3rd Prize - Each Division $25.00
Special Merit Awards $10.00

OFFICIAL RULES

1. The contest is open to all amateur photographers who are members of Michigan Farm Bureau (a person earning any income from photography is ineligible).
2. Employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliated companies are ineligible.
3. The contest is composed of two divisions: a) Junior Contest—for those 18 years old and under and b) Senior Contest—for those 19 and above, as of December 1, 1978.
4. The contest is for prints only. Prints may be in color or black and white. They must be 8x7 inch prints or larger, and need not be mounted.
5. Photographs should depict aspects of rural life or agriculture in Michigan.
6. Photographs will be judged on treatment of subject matter, visual effectiveness, and technical ability.
7. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes in each division will be determined by a panel of professionals outside of Michigan Farm Bureau. The decisions of the judges are final.
8. Special Merit Awards will be supplementary to the awards given in each division. Winning photographs in this category will be selected by the Information and Public Relations Division of Michigan Farm Bureau.
9. All prizes or award winning photographs become the property of Michigan Farm Bureau. Whenever published proper credit will be given to the photographer.
10. Photographers not winning prizes or awards will be returned to entrants provided a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies the entry. Care will be taken in handling photographs. Michigan Farm Bureau is not responsible for loss or damage to photographs.
11. A model release form must be available for any identifiable person in a photograph.
12. Each photograph must bear the name, address, date of birth of entrant and where the photograph was taken.
13. Entries must be received no later than November 1, 1978.
14. Mail entries to: Michigan Farm News Photography Contest P.O. Box 30090 Lansing, Michigan 48909
15. Contest is subject to all local, state and federal regulations.

A limited supply of model release forms is available from the Michigan Farm Bureau Information and Public Relations Division.
Farmers are reluctant to share irrigation data

Survey deadline extended to September 30

Michigan farmers who use irrigation have been requested by the Department of Natural Resources Water Management Division to fill out a questionnaire. They’ve been asked what their water source is, how much water was used during the 1977 irrigation season, and the kind of pump they use, its energy source, and the average annual yield of the acres that were irrigated.

According to Steve Miller of the Water Management Division, farmers are not responding to the survey, even though the gathering of the data will be used during the 1978 irrigation season. “Some farmers have not submitted any data, some are still receiving questionnaires, and some have not received any,” Miller said. “It is not clear what the problem is.”

Farmers are not the only ones interested in the data collection, Miller explains. Commercial, industrial, domestic, mining, power, and public waste water treatment plants are also interested in the data. “The data will be used to determine the extent of irrigation in Michigan and the extent of water use,” Miller said.

Farmers are suspicious of how the irrigation data will be used, and Steve Miller of the DNR Water Management Division said a special interview was taped at Farm Bureau Center. Miller said the interview will be used during the special interview. Miller said the interview will be used during the special interview.

Michigan Farm Bureau, the Michigan Agricultural Management Division, Steven T. Mason Building, Box 30062, Lansing 48909.
DONNA (Continued from Page 2)

agriculture, and not the cheap food policy of our government.

"If the USDA were moved to Farmer City, it would add 10,000
persons to the 2,500 who now live there.

That would be all right with Tom McConkey, an auto
dealer who is mayor of the town. "They would certainly
be welcome, he said. They

would be an economic boom
to the town, but I doubt if it
will happen. I don't think
there are 16 Democrats in this
town. I'm a Republican
myself..."

CAROL'S GOT CHUPPAH!

Speaking of the USDA

MFN Associate Editor Conrie

Lawson has some thoughts

on Carol Foreman.

Carol Tucker Foreman is a

truly amazing woman and

that is a sincerely-meaning

statement. She has

established herself and her

public image as a prototype

of consumer interests.

She has earned the respect

of her colleagues as an ad-

ministrator of energy and

ability. She's a woman who

gets things done. In short,

Carol's got chuppa!

Unfortunately, Carol

Foreman is accomplishing

these feats in her top-level

position as Assistant

Secretary of Agriculture in

the USDA, and, many persons

feel, at the expense of

American agriculture.

Until recently, that

judgment was merely a

figure of speech. But in a new

administrative play to

represent the consumer, Carol

Foreman has ad-

vocated related expense

burdenment for

representatives of the Con-

sumer Federation of

American, who provide

testimony at public hearings.

The current series of public

hearings centers around the

controversial use of nitrates in

lawn and processed meats.

CFB spokespersons will

present the consumer

viewpoint at these hearings

and Carol Foreman feels that

the taxpayer-consumer

should have the privilege of

footing the bill for the non-

governmental, self-appointed

customer group... of which I

am not a member nor a

philosophical supporter. On

that basis, I want to make it

resoundingly clear that I do

not want to see tax dollars

expended to "buy" testimony

of the Consumer Federation

of America or any other

special interest group.

The open forum provided

by the public hearings to

surface scientific evidence,

public opinion and to guide

government is basic to our

system of democracy and

free speech--let's keep it that

way.

We went to Dr. James Boyd, Agricultural
Engineer at Michigan State University, for
some heating and insulation advice.

Heating

If your shop or barn is heated by a
regular stove, install a fan to distribute
the heat evenly throughout the work-

space. This will eliminate cold spots

and help you get more comfort from

your heating budget. A heat reflector
can be constructed from sheet metal

and placed behind your stove. This

also can distribute the stove's heat

more evenly while reducing the pos-

sibility of a fire. Be sure to have an 18"

air space between the reflector and

the wall or other combustible material.

Insulation

All insulation materials should be

installed according to manufacturers'

recommendations. Mineral wool,

fiberglass and cellulose fiber are

probably the most satisfactory and

easiest to install. These should be

installed with no air space between

insulation and inside wall sheathing.

When batt or blanket insulation is

used, the heavy paper should be on the

inside. Other insulation materials

are available with varying degrees of

effectiveness, convenience and safety.

No matter what material you choose,

be sure to follow the manufacturer's

installation instructions.

For other ways to conserve energy

through insulation, write to: Agricultural

Engineering Dept., Michigan State

University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.

SAVE WHERE IT REALLY COUNTS. THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Detroit

Edison
Making Your Voice Heard

Every member of Farm Bureau has become a member through choice. However, just being a member does not end his membership. Every Farm Bureau member should express himself on agricultural matters, make his wishes known, and take an active part in the organization and direction of its policies.

The foundation of Farm Bureau's structure is self-government. This foundation upholds a structure which emphasizes the freedom of the individual. Every organization needs policies for problem solving, and these policies are formed by community groups and individuals. The structure of Farm Bureau embodies the concept and purpose of the organization - determined by community, county, state, or national issues.

Farm Bureau structure is unique among organizations. It is an organization operated by its members for the benefit of its members. It is maintained and operated on the policies adopted by them.

A most important working principle of Farm Bureau is that the power of the organization rests in the individual members. It is here that ideas originate. It is here that decisions are carried out. It is here that the organization operates - in the power rests in a staff who executes plans by utilizing the volunteer time and efforts of its members. In other organizations, power lies mainly in a national or state board of directors and officers. In these types of organizations the members are carrying out the directives of the few in whom power is vested.

Another principle of Farm Bureau's strength lies in its belief in adherences to policies which guarantee equal opportunities to each member. Farm Bureau is based on the same philosophy as our Republic - a philosophy of equal individual opportunity to propose measures, to discuss, and to decide them.

These are some of the significant procedures which are distinctive to Farm Bureau - the initiation of recommendations for policies by individual members and the community groups, instead of by the state or national organizations; the right of each member to speak and vote for or against a recommendation or a plan before it is sent to a state or national group; the opportunity for member participation, and leadership open to every member; the expert aid, advice, and education available to every member by officers and staff, it's publication and it's radio programs; the facts and the information available to every member before he is asked to make a discussion.

A fundamental principle of Farm Bureau's structure is the decision by majority vote. Up to the time that a decision by vote is made, every member has the right to oppose the recommendation or plan before it is sent to a state or national group; the opportunity for member participation, and leadership open to every member; the expert aid, advice, and education available to every member by officers and staff, it's publication and it's radio programs; the facts and the information available to every member before he is asked to make a discussion.

Farm Bureau has an original and highly effective system for developing its plans in carrying out its work. It has been tested by time, and achievements over the years are proof of its success.

Farm Bureau operates through policies developed and carried out by it's members. A policy is the statement of an idea, a belief, a method, or a plan. Added together, these policies are Farm Bureau's goals for the year. They may be philosophical statements of ideas, or they may be concrete blueprints for action. They may be problems of farmers or problems of all citizens. They may be community problems or international problems. They may be goals or methods of reaching them. Policies express Farm Bureau's fundamental ideals on community, county, state, or national issues.

The basic policies state the philosophy of Farm Bureau - these principles which the members hold fundamental to the welfare of their country and of Farm Bureau. They are the principles of the Christian Faith, Bill of Rights, the Constitution of the United States and the right of a competitive market system. These are the yardsticks by which lesser proposed policies are measured.

The members originate and develop Farm Bureau policies. Often a need gives birth to a policy. The subject may be one of community concern, but often the originator of a policy looks beyond his fence rows to the needs of his county, state, or even the world. Farm Bureau members are citizens as well as farmers, and are concerned with all of the problems of a citizen.

Tom Hamme, Assistant Director, AF&PA Washington, discussed national and international farm issues at the AF&PA Policy Development Conference, August 16.

During the course of the year, many community groups as well as individual members have ideas which become the basics of policy recommendations. Talking an idea over with others helps to eliminate the bugs. The sponsor is in a better position to prepare a good, sound policy recommendation if the idea has been thought out and the recommendation based on facts, figures, or proof.

After a policy recommendation has been prepared by an individual or a community group, it is forwarded to the County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee. The Policy Development Committee studies it, searches for more facts, and compares it with policies already adopted and with similar recommendations which may have been sent in by another community group or individual. The committee may combine recommendations which differ only slightly, may modify the recommendations or make changes in it. It often consults with well-informed persons and accepts technical people.

If the County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee approves the recommendation, it may present it to the County Annual Meeting as a policy recommendation.

The Farm Bureau members at the County Annual Meeting may amend the recommendation during discussion. If they adopt it and if it covers a subject which is of concern to the county only, it then becomes an official adopted county policy. Recommendations adopted which concern state, national, or international issues are forwarded to the State Policy Development Committee.

The State Policy Development Committee is appointed by the state president. The twenty-member committee is composed of one member from each of the eleven districts, plus three representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women, three representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers, and three members at large.

The State Policy Development Committee undertakes more study, investigates, and compares all policy recommendations which have been received from the counties. The Committee may amend, clarify or oppose recommendations and may combine the best features of several similar recommendations into one. More facts and statistics are sought. If similar recommendations are made by a number of counties, this indicates wide backing for the idea, and the chances of approval are good.

If the State Policy Development Committee approves the recommendation, it is presented as a recommendation to the voting delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. There the delegates may debate, amend or reject any proposed resolutions as well as introduce new resolutions from the floor in accordance with established rules. If the recommendation concerns only the state, it becomes an adopted policy of the Michigan Farm Bureau when approved by a majority of the voting delegates. It is then entitled to the support of all Farm Bureau members in the state.

If, however, the recommendation is of concern to several states, or to the whole country, is forwarded as a recommendation to the Policy Development Committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The policy recommendations which come to the Policy Development Committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation, are again carefully considered, those which are similar, yet overlapping, are combined. Those which conflict only slightly are harmonized. Their legal interpretations are analyzed. Their wording is revised. Their meaning is carefully tested. Those which are approved by the Policy Development Committee go to the voting delegates as recommendations at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting.

Those recommendations which receive a majority vote of the voting delegates become Farm Bureau's official policies with regard to national and international issues, to be supported by every Farm Bureau member. These policies, together with those reaffirmed from the previous year, make up the Farm Bureau's policies and program of work for the coming year. They continue in effect unless they are modified by the voting delegates of the member states at a future annual meeting. They are the policies covering national issues concerning all Farm Bureau members everywhere. They are established at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are carried into the policy development process in which hundreds of thousands of farm folks in communities, state, regional, and state meetings throughout the nation participate.

This process charts a clear course in well-defined objects for the year. It assures members that Farm Bureau will march forward toward well-considered, carefully chosen objectives - outlined by policies which the members themselves have initiated, studied and decided.

Discussion Topic

by KEN WILES
Manager Member Relations
Sunny Florida
Site of
AFBF
Annual Meeting

It's Time to Make Your Reservations

Options galore are featured for winter pleasure as Michigan members prepare to enjoy the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation to be held January 14 to 18, 1979 at Miami Beach, Florida. Any one who attends must have a package arrangement in order to obtain a hotel. This includes those who drive to Miami Beach or go by any means whatsoever.

HOTEL PACKAGE

One hotel has been assigned to Michigan, the Holiday Inn - Convention Center. Since the convention is being held during prime time at this resort area, the hotel requires pre-payment. Therefore, a package arrangement is planned which includes hotel room (based on two people sharing a twin room), tips to bellboys, a ticket to the Michigan Breakfast and one to a special opening night performance of Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus on January 16.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Space has been reserved for Michigan Farm Bureau members and families to fly at a reduced group rate to Miami and back. Flights are scheduled to leave January 14 and return Thursday, January 18.

Rates are based on a minimum of 40 people traveling together. Transfers from airport to hotel and return and tips for baggage handling at the airport are included.

Reservations will be accepted on a space available basis and must be made no later than November 22. A $200.00 per person deposit is required to hold a reservation, with the balance payable at least six weeks prior to departure. A full refund will be made if written request for cancellation is received at least 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation less than 30 days prior to departure will be subject to a cancellation fee of 25 percent of airline ticket assessed by carriers. For those providing their own transportation but desiring to room at the Holiday Inn, a $50.00 per person deposit is required to hold the room, with the balance payable at least six weeks prior to arrival.

POST CONVENTION FLORIDA TOUR

A special Florida tour has been arranged for Michigan Farm Bureau members with something different to do every day, on the following itinerary:


Monday, January 15 - Tuesday, January 16 - AFBF Convention plans and time for Miami sightseeing on your own.

Wednesday, January 17 - Depart from your Convention Hotel this afternoon by special bus for Orlando, staying at the Sheraton Towers Hotel for five nights. No plans for this evening.

Thursday, January 18 - Today there will be an all day tour taking the group to Tampa on the west side of Florida, and a stop at the world famous Busch Gardens. After approximately two hours at the Busch Gardens, continue to an area south of Barto to visit the potash mines where much of the potash used in Michigan fertilizers is mined. Then, it is on to Cypress Gardens for approximately two hours. View the Gardens and see the water show. Return to your Orlando hotel late in the afternoon.

Friday, January 19 - Today an all day tour has been planned to visit the citrus producers and processors, as well as other interesting activities in the agricultural field.

Saturday, January 20 - At last! A day for Disney World. An attraction plus admission ticket will be provided for each tourist participant. A free shuttle bus operates from your hotel to Disney World and you're on your own today.

Sunday, January 21 - Protestant and Catholic services are held at the hotel this morning. Late morning, board special buses for a trip to the east coast of Florida, visiting the Cape Kennedy Space Center. Return to your hotel in late afternoon.

Monday, January 22 - Transfer to the Orlando airport for your return flight home.

COST

Convention Only
Depart Michigan January 14, 1979 and return January 18, 1979. Not included in cost are personal expenses, telephone calls or meals.
Cost based on Group 40 airfares and two persons sharing a room: boarding at Chicago $335.26 per person, boarding at Grand Rapids $330.76 per person, boarding at Lansing $341.26 per person, boarding at Detroit $351.11 per person.

Convention and Post-convention Tour
Cost based on Group 40 airfares and two persons sharing a room: boarding at Chicago $524.11 per person, boarding at Grand Rapids $519.61 per person, boarding at Lansing $531.11 per person, boarding at Detroit $519.61 per person.

Lodging Only

For those who will provide their own transportation to Miami Beach, but desire to stay with the Michigan delegation.
Cost $116.76 per person (4 nights lodging based on two persons sharing a room).

Reservation Request Form

Please reserve __ spaces on the Michigan Farm Bureau tour checked below. Enclosed is check No. __ made payable to "Michigan Farm Bureau" in the amount of $ __. Balance due six weeks prior to departure.

NAME(S): ____________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________

ZIP ______ TELEPHONE ______

Member of the __________ County Farm Bureau

(Convention only) ____________________________

Boarding at ____________________________

(Convention and Post-convention tour) ____________________________

Boarding at ____________________________

(Lodging only) ____________________________


Mail complete reservation form with check or money order payable to "Michigan Farm Bureau" to: Kenneth Wiles, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909.
**FARM NEWS**

**FARM BUREAU MARKETPLACE**

**SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS:** One free 35 word ad per month on membership, additional 4 cents per word. Figures such as 12, 13 cents as printed are 12, 13 cents per ad. Non-member advertisers: 1 cents per word one advertisement, two or more 15 cents per ad. Copy deadlines: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 3064, Lansing, MI 48820. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

**FARM EQUIPMENT**

- **FOR SALE:** W.D. d Almers Trailers, 2 hitch, 7 x 14, 3 x 10 Hay Bodies, 4x8 18x32 4x5... Phone (517) 849-4297.
- **FOR SALE:** 2 Four Farmhand 350 Best Mower & Rake, 2390 144 HP... Phone (517) 849-4297.
- **FOR SALE:** 31 New Holland 160, 1960, 43, 000 hours, 137 HP, All New Rims... Phone (517) 849-4297.
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By Bonnie Carpenter

MFB Outstanding Young Farm Woman

There is so much being said today about rural-urban communication that it is becoming an art that all farmers are beginning to cultivate. But even though it's become a very serious issue, let's face it - sometimes it is almost humorous.

A recent episode comes to mind. This farmer friend was approached by the local utility company and informed that he would be paid a few thousand dollars for the privilege of having power lines strung across his farm land. The utility official fully expected the farmer to jump up and down for joy:

"The American Deal." Not only was the coming to the house with a company going to allow the farmer to put a few poles in his land. The utility official fully visualized the hired man strung across his farm privilege of having power that he would be paid a few dollars for putting a few poles in his mind. This farmer friend was almost humorous.

The farmer, however, is translating this deal differently. He's jumping but it is not for joy! The few thousand he's being paid is less than it costs to have the power of an eight row straight rows? Circling utility crops are generally planted in prime farm land for urban development does to the community that would in turn feed the people of this country. However, Carol Foreman sees the Department of Agriculture was created to promote a new agricultural community that would in turn.

Another new form of poor interpretation is developing among top level administrators in the Department of Agriculture. A recent interview with Carol Foreman in the August issue of "Successful Farming" clearly points to a new translation of the role the U.S.D.A. I always was under the impression that the Department of Agriculture was created to promote a new agricultural community that would in turn feed the people of this county. However, Carol Foreman sees the Department's role as furnishing food for the people of this country and hopes the by-product of these actions will keep agricultural businesses alive!

To me that's like buying a luxurious carriage before you buy the horse. You are nice and comfortable till you realize there is no way to get to your destination.

In summary, the point is that we need farm-oriented, educated people to make sure our translation of agricultural policies is understood.

— Larry J. Connor, Michigan State University professor of agricultural economics is the new chairman of the MSU Department of Agricultural Economics. He succeeds Harold M. Riley, who had been chairman since 1973.

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— Philip Shade, Plymouth, Connecticut

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"The American Deal." Not only was the coming to the house with a company going to allow the farmer to farm under those wires and around those poles! Surely the farmer had nothing to complain about in this deal!

The farmer, however, is translating this deal differently. He's jumping but it is not for joy! The few thousand he's being paid is less than it costs to have the fields cleared of obstacles in the first place. Also, he can visualize the hired man coming to the house with a utility pole or guide wire stuck on the front of the combine. And even if the
you can afford more life insurance than you thought

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