



The Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee (AgriPac) launched its 1979-80 fundraising efforts on September 1, 1979. Larry DeVuyst, chairman of the AgriPac (left), presented Committee Treasurer Robert E. Braden

with the first contribution. DeVuyst also announced plans for an AgriPac Breakfast fundraiser at the MFB Annual Meeting, which will be open to all AgriPac contributors. AgriPac contribution details appear on page 15.

## 1979-80 Activities Announced

# MFB AgriPac is Back!

Members of the 1979 AgriPac Committee recently announced plans to hold an AgriPac fundraising breakfast at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Kalamazoo next month. According to Larry DeVuyst, chairman of the Political Action Committee, the breakfast is the first of several activities planned for 1979-80.

"We will be scheduling fundraising and informational activities throughout the coming election year," says DeVuyst. "These activities and the contributions we receive will be used exclusively for the purpose of helping to elect candidates in the 1980 elections who will be supportive of agriculture, in general, and Farm Bureau policy specifically."

AgriPac, established in 1978 following action by voting delegates to the 1977 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, was one of over 300 independent political action committees registered in Michigan during the 1978 election year. As a registered political action committee, AgriPac endorsed candidates as "Friends of Agriculture" in the Michigan August primary and the November general elections in 1978.

Preceding the 1978 elections, AgriPac analyzed the performance of incumbent Michigan congressmen and members of the Michigan Legislature. In addition, candidates for key statewide offices, such as U.S. senator and governor, were analyzed.

The analysis included voting

records, overall support of Farm Bureau policy, help in passing or opposing legislation of interest to agriculture and recognition of the importance of agriculture. Those incumbent candidates who had established a satisfactory record on behalf of agriculture were designated "Friends of Agriculture" and endorsed for re-election. In certain instances where the incumbent was not seeking re-election a non-incumbent was endorsed based upon input from county Farm Bureau leaders. In addition to the endorsements, approximately \$13,000 in voluntary contributions from members was effectively used to help elect over 90% of the designated "Friends of Agriculture."

Farm Bureau members will

be provided opportunities to make tax deductible contributions to AgriPac in 1979 and 1980.

Members of the 1979 AgriPac are Larry DeVuyst, chairman, Gratiot County; Robert Lamoreaux, vice chairman, Kent County; Robert Braden, treasurer; Al Almy, secretary; Myra Hand,

Cheboygan County; Gordon Porter, Branch County; Al Prillwitz, Berrien County; and Ronald Wood, Mason County.

Braden and Almy are employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and serve as ex-officio members without a vote. The others are voting members and full-time farmers.

(See page 15 for Details)

### Inside:

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**Ingham County Members Produce Homegrown TV Farm Show-- Page 17**



### From the Desk of the President

## Intensified Effort Needed on Bargaining Bill

American Farm Bureau Federation, said:

**"The farmers and ranchers of America today stand united on an issue that is vital to every farm and ranch family in the United States. That issue is the right of farmers and ranchers to bargain effectively for the sale of their products to food processors and other middlemen. For too long, this basic right enjoyed by millions of other Americans has been denied to farmers and ranchers."**

We were optimistic. Not only were the four leading farm organizations together on this issue, but a number of congressmen, who believed enactment of H.R. 3535 would provide a climate of improved income for farmers, stabilized prices and assured supplies for consumers, joined a growing list of co-sponsors.

The bill's sponsor, Congressman Leon Panetta (D-California), requested field hearings to give producers an opportunity to testify to the need for the legislation. The hearing in which Michigan farmers would have been involved was requested for October 6 at Lafayette, Indiana. We were certain that farmer testimony at these hearings

would strengthen the bill's position.

However, we have now received word that the tentative field hearings have been postponed indefinitely.

It would be easy to blame this latest development on the bill's opponents, who are powerful and determined in their lobbying efforts. But I think we also have to consider that perhaps farmers have gotten too busy or too complacent to do their homework as well as they should. It could well be that the hearings were postponed because the House Agriculture Committee has not been convinced that there is sufficient interest, or need, to warrant the investment of time and money on the field hearings.

Compared to other states,

Michigan has done well, as evidenced by the eight Michigan congressmen who are among the co-sponsors of H.R. 3535, and both of our senators co-sponsoring S. 1193, the Senate bill identical to the House bill. We have achieved this record because our farmers have had experience with bargaining legislation and have called upon that experience to cite, "chapter and verse," hard evidence of its need.

**But we cannot afford to say: "We've done our part; now it's up to others." If we do, there will be little hope for farmers to gain equity — and that is the key objective in this legislation — in the marketplace. Because of our experience, we have an obligation to express —**

**as no others can — our support of the National Agricultural Bargaining Act.**

I would hope that many of you will recapture some of the zeal and dedication you exhibited when we worked for passage of P.A. 344, aiming that same kind of effort toward national bargaining legislation. Here are some things you can do:

1. If your congressman is among the co-sponsors of H.R. 3535, write to him expressing your appreciation. Write to Senators Reigle and Levin thanking them for co-sponsoring S. 1193.

2. If your congressman is not among the co-sponsors, write urging his support of H.R. 3535.

3. Write to Congressman Tom Foley, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, urging him to grant field hearings on the need for H.R. 3535.

4. Send a copy of your letters to Congressman Leon Panetta, chief sponsor of the bill.

Michigan is in a leadership position on this vital issue. Your efforts will have an impact on its outcome.

Elton R. Smith

### NABA "Honor Roll"

#### H.R. 3535 Co-Sponsors

**Congressman Don Albosta (D-St. Charles)**  
**Congressman Bob Davis (R-Gaylord)**  
**Congressman Dale Kildee (D-Flint)**  
**Congressman Bob Traxler (D-Bay City)**  
**Congressman Howard Wolpe (D-Kalamazoo)**  
**Congressman David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens)**  
**Congressman Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth)**  
**Congressman Hal Sawyer (R-Grand Rapids)**

#### S. 1193 Co-Sponsors

**Senator Donald Reigle, Jr. (D-Flint)**  
**Senator Carl Levin (D-Detroit)**

## For "Old" 4-H'ers Only. . . .

Funny how incredibly indelible are our self-images! For as long as I can remember, my self-image of the physical me could be summed up in three

words: Tall, Flexible, Young. I was Tall because through the 7th grade, all of the boys and most of the girls were shorter than I was. I was Flexible

because I could wrap my legs around my neck, a feat that awed my slumber party pals. And I was Young simply because I hadn't received

notice of a cut-off date.

With most people, I suppose, changes in self-image come gradually and painlessly. With me, well . . . I guess I just never paused long enough to check whether I still was . . . Tall, Flexible and Young, that is. So, each revelation that my self-image was slightly askew came as a jolt . . .

"O.K. Everybody line up behind the bowling ball rack. . . tallest one first, shortest on the end." Dumb photographer! Imagine him putting Tall me on the end . . . Wait until the picture develops —OOPS! What happened? Am I on my knees? No . . . scratch Tall.

"Nonny, I can't do a somersault. Show me," asks grandson. "Sure, it's easy. Just watch! (Creak! Groan! Crash!) Uh, honey, go tell Mommy Nonny needs help." Scratch Flexible.

"Are any of you familiar with Kettenun Center?" asked Don Yost, executive director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation at a recent editorial conference. "You mean Camp Kett? Sure, the Farm Bureau Women sold buttons to help build one of the dormitories. I remember, it was back about 20 years ago."



Geez! Most of the other writers there were barely out of their training pants then! Scratch Young.

Other than having that third and final dimension of my self-image smashed, meeting with Don Yost and 4-H Foundation President Jack Barnes was enjoyable and informative. It brought back some fond memories of my own 4-H days.

The two years I spent in the 4-H sewing club were filled with character-building experiences . . . For my mom, an accomplished seamstress, who couldn't understand why I hadn't inherited her skill; for my long-suffering sewing instructor who insisted the gathering at the waist had to be

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Back in 1960, Walter Wightman, who was then president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, bought the first of 50,000 Camp Kett buttons sold by Farm Bureau Women's Committees and the Farm Bureau Young People to raise funds for the Camp Kett training center. Mrs. Esther Kennedy was state chairman of Farm Bureau Women then and David Glel represented the Young People on the MFB board.

## Guest Editorial

## COOPERATIVES



By Kenneth D. Naden,  
President  
National Council of  
Farmer Cooperatives

Even though the spirit of independence was the force that impelled early settlers on the East Coast of the United States to move westward to homestead and farm the land, there was also a strong spirit of cooperation among them. They banded together in covered wagon caravans to achieve greater strength and defense against Indian tribes and the hazards of hunger and thirst as they traveled west. They organized husking bees and barn building bees to bring together greater strength to help settlers harvest their crops and raise buildings before commercial contractors were available.

Early travelers from Europe to the United States described the country as one in which the spirit of organization and cooperation to meet common problems was a paramount characteristic of the people.

It is with this kind of philosophy in American citizens' minds that farmers have organized business cooperatives to market their products, to furnish them farm supplies, to furnish them credit for their business operations, and to furnish other services they need. The common characteristic of all these efforts has been that by creating a joint effort among 2, or 20, or 200, or 2000 farmers with a common interest, they could create benefits and improve profits from their farming operations in a way they could not do by themselves.

Even though the commitment to cooperative action is in continuous conflict with the desire of the farmer to go it alone and to attempt to outdo his neighbor, the spirit of cooperation in the United States is great, so that at the present time five out of six farmers belongs to one or more cooperatives. Furthermore, even though only 28 percent of the total farm production moves through cooperatives and only about 23 percent of farm production supplies are furnished to farms through cooperatives, their influence is far wider than the figures imply, and benefits go to all farmers of the nation through the competition injected by these efforts.

The main reason these cooperatives are good for all Americans is that they help support the family farm system of food production in this country. This system depends upon the incentive for full output to give all Americans the abundant supply of wholesome food

(Continued on Page 19)

# New Location for MFB's 60th Annual

## Kalamazoo Convention Center

### November 27-30



DR. DENIS WAITLEY

Michigan Farm Bureau will mark its 60th year at a new annual meeting location — the Kalamazoo Convention Center — on November 27-30. Several new program highlights have also been added to the agenda.

The four-day session will begin with the annual meetings of two Farm Bureau affiliates, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and Farm Bureau Services, on Tuesday, November 27, at 10 a.m. The meeting convenes in the Civic Center, about two blocks from the Kalamazoo Convention Center. These annual meetings will adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

That evening, the Michigan Farm Bureau convention gets underway with an awards program that will include professional entertainment. Farm Bureau members from the surrounding area are invited to attend this evening program and to visit the annual meeting during any of the sessions.

Wednesday will be an action-packed day. The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association annual meeting gets underway at 9:30 a.m. At the same time, there will be a "Commodity Day" program with discussions of interest to all agricultural producers.

Farm Bureau Women will also be meeting on Wednesday morning. They will hear a report from State Chairman Vivian Lott, as well as conduct their regular business. Featured speaker will be The Honorable Betty Ann Weaver, Leelanau County probate judge, on the topic, "Juvenile Justice and the Family."

Also on Wednesday, at the Holiday Inn-Expressway, the Young Farmers will host their annual contests. They include the Discussion Meet preliminaries and the Outstanding Young Farm Woman contest.

At noon, the groups will assemble for the kick-off luncheon where President Elton R. Smith will deliver his annual address.

Following the Discussion Meet finals, the annual meeting of the delegate body will convene for the discussion and adoption of policies for 1980.

The delegates and guests will spend Wednesday evening at the popular Jamboree. This year, two bands will provide continuous music for square dancing and modern dancing.

Thursday starts with another new feature, an AgriPac breakfast. This activity is to raise funds for the operation of the Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPac, a program which supports political candidates who are designated as "Friends of Agriculture."

Delegates will reconvene for a full day of policy-setting, with a break in early afternoon for an address by Lt. Governor James Brickley.

At the annual banquet on Thursday evening, Michigan Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award will be presented. Those in attendance will also hear "The Psychology of Winning" by Dr. Denis Waitley. Dr. Waitley is a psychologist who worked with the astronauts in America's space program, as well as counseled returning Vietnam veterans.

Friday will conclude the annual meeting with the setting of policies and the election of persons to the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

"The annual meeting is always a work session," said Elton R. Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau. "Members are encouraged to visit the meeting to see delegates putting the ACTION into their organization."

## By-Law Change Calls for County Presidents' Caucuses

County Farm Bureau presidents in Michigan Farm Bureau odd-numbered districts will be meeting prior to the MFB annual meeting to draft a slate of candidates for the position of director in their respective districts. The district county presidents' caucuses were instituted through an amendment to the MFB by-laws adopted by voting delegates at the 1978 annual meeting.

According to the by-law change, the slate of candidates and any other nominations for the district director position, accompanied by appropriate biographical information, will be presented to voting delegates from the district during their annual meeting caucus.

The district county presidents' caucuses will include the following counties, listed by county: District 1 — Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties; District 3 — Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties; District 5

— Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham and Shiawassee counties; District 7 — Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola counties; District 9

— Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford counties; and District 11 which encompasses all of the Upper Peninsula counties.



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### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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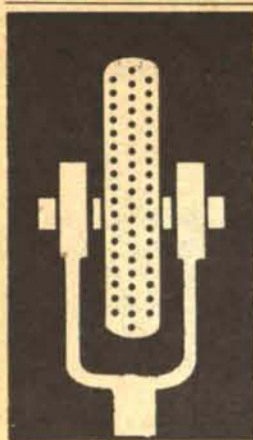
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## INTERVIEW

WITH ROBERT BRADEN  
AND MAX DEAN

## A Look at MFB's Program for Financial Growth

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Inflation, the number one problem in America today, affects all segments of our society. It especially hits those on fixed incomes. Farm Bureau is no exception. The organization is hard hit because its finances, too, are relatively fixed, tied to a dues structure. Because of inflation, \$35 (the current Farm Bureau dues) buys about one-third less than it did in 1975.

The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, which is charged with the responsibility of maintaining a strong Farm Bureau, recognized the need for adequate financing to keep the organization effective. In conjunction with county Farm Bureau presidents and executive committees, the board studied the current financial situation and developed the following recommended program for financial growth:

1. Increase dues from \$35 to \$40 per year effective in 1980-81 — the additional \$5 in dues to go to Michigan Farm Bureau, WITH COUNTIES HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE THEIR COUNTY DUES IN AN AMOUNT THEY DETERMINE NECESSARY.

2. Increase membership in 1979-80 by 3,000 members and increase membership in 1980-81 and succeeding years by 5,000 members.

3. Increase service rendered income from affiliates to a minimum of \$200,000 in 1979-80, with increases in subsequent years to reflect inflation and membership growth.

4. Hold expenses at an average increase of 7.5 percent per year for the next three to five years.

At the 1979 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting (November 27-30) at Kalamazoo Convention Center, voting delegates will take action on the proposed dues adjustment. Any member having questions regarding the financial growth plan should contact their representative on the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

In this interview, Robert E. Braden, Michigan Farm Bureau's administrative director, and Max Dean, chief financial officer, answer questions submitted by the Clinton County Farm Bureau Executive Committee.

**Is the proposed \$5 dues increase just to cover the cost of inflation or will it be used to increase services?**

Basically, it's going to take \$5 to cover inflationary costs and maintain essentially the same services we are now offering. This does not mean that we will remain "status quo" and not offer any new programs. It means that when we have new programs that are needed and offer obvious benefits to members, we will evaluate some of our current programs and perhaps eliminate some.

This would tie in to Part 4 of the plan (above) holding our expenditures at a 7½ percent level. With this level of expenditures and inflation, the \$5 means we will offer approximately the same amount of services, but perhaps with different, more effective programs.

**Why isn't the dues increase effective until 1981?**

First of all, we are already sending out 1980 dues notices to our members. The very carefully thought-out decision by our board of directors was that we did not need to have a special delegate session with all of the cost involved and that we could take action on the dues adjustment at our regular November 1979 annual meeting.

By putting the third and fourth parts of our plan — the adjustment in service rendered fees from affiliate companies and the strict control of expenses — into effect now, and do everything else we can to generate income from membership, we will not accelerate our deficit position. Although this will be a loss year, so far as expenses over revenue are concerned, reserves are adequate to absorb this loss.

**What is being done to attract new members to the extent of 3,000 to 5,000?**

We have had in operation for the past several months an intensive study of our current member services and how they can be improved, and new member services we can offer that will attract members — particularly farmers — but also rural residents who are non-farmers.

To be specific, we have, at the present time, some 35,000 member families enrolled in our Michigan Farm Bureau Blue Cross - Blue Shield program. This program is obviously very attractive to the membership and we're doing everything we can to make it even better and to promote it among other farmers and rural residents.

Also, the Farm Bureau Insurance Group came out this last June with a very strong, beneficial, attractive program in the area of Workers Compensation, in which the minimum premiums were reduced by some 40 percent. It's a member-only program, offered in conjunction with the regular Farmowners policy.

We're also working with Farm Bureau Insurance Group on an expanded estate planning program as a service to Farm Bureau members.

In the area of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, we are taking a fresh look at an expanded program somewhat similar to the \$5 certificate that was included with members' dues cards of the past several years. This year it will be possible for Farm Bureau members to earn a \$10 discount at a 5 percent discount rate through business they do with Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services.

Members have often expressed an interest in discount programs for cars and trucks. We're looking into this on a statewide basis with several major dealers and companies. These are just a few of the many programs we'll be looking at to attract members.

With a fully coordinated effort by county Farm Bureaus, our state Farm Bureau and our affiliate companies, a 3,000 member gain is very realistic for this year and by next year, with further member services, we can expect a 5,000 member gain.

**If membership does not increase substantially — 3,000 the first year and 5,000 the second — when is the next dues increase likely?**



MAX DEAN



ROBERT BRADEN

In determining the means of assuring the financial stability of Michigan Farm Bureau in the future, many financial analysis were made. If we remained with the present membership program, it would be necessary to increase dues approximately \$15. That would last from three and one half to five years, depending on how fast inflation eroded that increased revenue.

**Is the Farm Bureau board concerned at all that the funds realized from the increase in membership (mostly associates) would be eaten up by the demands for increased services and dilute the services for regular Farm Bureau members?**

The Michigan Farm Bureau board just is not going to let that happen. They're going to examine the various programs and make sure that they are strong and useful programs for regular Farm Bureau members. They're going to attempt, in every way possible, to make those extra services that are attractive to rural non-farm people self-financing. A saleable Blue Cross package will be self-financing. An attractive Workers Compensation and Farmers or Mutual Auto policy will be self-financing.

We may need another staff person to put greater emphasis on local affairs problems, such as schools and taxes, that would be beneficial to all of our members. In fact, right now, we recognize the fact that we have a greatly expanding workload in our Public Affairs Division to cover not only the legislative needs, but also the regulatory issues that keep mushrooming within the state and federal governments. It's very possible that we will shift an extra person into this area from another area. By shifting the areas of greatest need, we can stay within our 7½ percent expense increase.

**If Michigan Farm Bureau has a large associate membership, will it lose its image as a farm organization and consequently lose some of its clout in the legislative arena?**

As the farm population dwindles to a very small minority of the total population, it's a necessity for us to obtain friends from other segments of society. This provides an opportunity to do that. Many of the rural non-farm population have the same concerns and problems that we do.

And it is in line with policy adopted by Farm Bureau delegates, who said: "We should welcome the support of non-farm people who wish to join our farm organization and support the policies which are set forth by our farmer-members."

Our policy further indicates that authority and responsibility for classification of membership should remain with county Farm Bureaus. It also sets out the belief that only regular members should be allowed to vote and that delegates should be based on regular members only. These are safeguards for farmer control of the organization.

Also, with the sophistication in the membership records that we are developing, we can come up with reliable figures as to the percentage of dairy production, beef production, corn production, etc. that we have within our membership and present this as evidence to the legislators of our strength.

**Bergland in Michigan**

**Ag Secretary Talks about Farm Programs, Energy**



Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland, center, receives input from farmers at a pig roast at the farm of the late Richard Byrum of Onondaga in Ingham County. Bergland was the guest of Congressman Bob Carr at the fund raising event. During his three day visit in Michigan, the secretary also visited farms in the Saginaw Valley with Congressman Bob Traxler and in the Flint area with Congressman Dale Kildee.

**By Cary Blake**

While in Michigan in late August, United States Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland visited farms in central Michigan, the Saginaw Valley and the Thumb region as a guest of Congressmen Bob Carr and Bob Traxler.

Bergland said it's too early to tell with any real certainty if there will be any change in the 1980 farm program from the present one. Considering the

predicted record U.S. corn crop and good export demand, Bergland said that if there is a set-aside program at all for 1980, it will be very, very modest.

Bergland said USDA supports the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1979. He added that congressional consideration of the measure probably will be delayed until 1981 because "there is some division in the

farming community about its role and it's most likely one that's too politically sensitive to deal with in a sort of super charged political atmosphere."

Despite the removal of Special Rule Nine, which legally gave farmers first priority for diesel and gasoline for agricultural purposes during fuel emergencies, the Carter administration contends that farmers will continue to have the number one priority for fuel and that farmers should not confront shortages of fuel during harvest. If a shortage does develop, Bergland said, USDA has two authorities to furnish farmers with the needed fuel.

"One is administered by the Department of Energy and if we find that there is a shortage of crude that has shutdown or curtails a refinery that has a farming constituency, the Department of Energy can reallocate crude oil to keep that farm oriented refinery going."

Bergland said the second alternative is more informal. According to the secretary, USDA monitors farm needs through the ASCS Committee system. If there is a spot shortage developing within the state, he added, ASCS offices will report it to the state Department of Energy which will reallocate under the state reserve program. If the matter is too big for the reserve to handle, USDA will work informally

with petroleum suppliers to move oil or gasoline from one state to another. "That works very well. We need lead time though. We can't move quickly enough to satisfy a short term demand. If we get two or three weeks notice, we're pretty good at it though," Bergland said.

Pertaining to gasohol, Bergland thinks the alcohol/unleaded gasoline mixture has promise but the present technology is such that it's costly. "We're interested in our (USDA) financing, indirectly with the Department of Energy, some new experiments and new ways of producing alcohol more cheaply." Bergland thinks alcohol produced from livestock waste and cellulose material is an economic winner now, but that economical grain based alcohol is probably not very far in the future. "I'm listening to people who claim they have new systems of producing alcohol from grain and more power to them."

Secretary Bergland said the best way for a farmer to voice his opinion on agricultural matters is to "join a good hard hitting farm organization. That's the best advice I can give." He

said farm organizations do an excellent job at representing farmers' opinions in state legislatures, Congress and at USDA field hearings.

Secretary Bergland said farmers should not take the blame for sharp increases in food prices. "As a matter of fact, the farmer gets about one-third of the consumer food dollar. Workers and executive salaries in the food processing and distribution chain also get a third and that ratio is increasing. The rest of the cost is in packaging, energy and all the rest."

He said the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar has for a long time been declining. He pointed out that in the last four months cattle and pig prices have declined rather sharply but that there has been no proportionate decline at the retail end. There is a general understanding, Bergland said, that the farmer cannot be squeezed out of business and still satisfy the consumer.

"There needs to be a strong, productive and prosperous farming industry in order for the consumer to have the big variety of foods which are available in the system," Bergland concluded.

**Story of Agriculture Will be Told at Cobo Hall**

Detroit area manufacturers, businessmen, governmental and public service people will join representatives of the state's farming industry at Cobo Hall on October 12 for a glimpse at the importance of Michigan agriculture.

Called the "All Michigan Harvest-Time Dinner," the evening event will stress the mutual dependency between urban and rural dwellers in helping Michigan agriculture production remain strong.

The dinner, consisting of nearly all Michigan-grown products, precedes a 15-minute, computerized slide show tracing agriculture from the research laboratory through the retail market.

The event is being planned and sponsored by the Citizens Advisory Panel to the House Agriculture Committee with cooperation from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dr. James H. Anderson, dean of the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural

Resources, says there needs to be a greater understanding about Michigan food and fiber resources, the contributions of the agricultural industry and the interdependence of the rural and urban sectors.

"This understanding needs to encompass current and future needs of all of us. An immediate example is that of equitable energy distribution, as energy resources dwindle. How can we best assure the nonfarmer sufficient gasoline to heat the home and drive to work, yet make adequate energy supplies available to enable continued production of quality food and fiber at reasonable prices," says Anderson.

A long-range problem will be the assurance of adequate food supplies for world population. "Right now, the U.S. population increases at a rate of five persons per minute. The world population grows 60 times faster—five persons per second. Thus, there are 80 million more persons to feed each year," Anderson points out.

"Adequate production and

distribution of food and fiber will continue to be one of America's greatest challenges. The farmer cannot meet this alone. He is dependent on education, industry, government and others in responding to this challenge. We hope that this getting together in Detroit will be the start of a better two-way communication between the nonfarmer and agricultural producer," Anderson adds.

The educational presentation to be made in Cobo Hall will outline the current importance and some of the details of Michigan food production. Currently agriculture contributes \$8.5 billion to the state's economy by the time it reaches the consumer. Michigan ranks 21st among all states in total farm marketing receipts and leads the nation in production of six specific crops.

Tickets for the event must be ordered by October 5. They are available through Michigan Farm Bureau's administrative office, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909, at a cost of \$12.50 each. Checks should be made payable to the FOOD INDUSTRY COUNCIL.

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# Kissanes' Farm Family Shares a World of Love

Story by Connie Lawson, Photos by Marcia Ditchie

The squawking of chickens and the delighted squeals of toddlers in pursuit provokes comic images for "ex-children" who recall their own adventures, or misadventures, on the farm. But once the ruckus is over and the feathers have been smoothed, who can help but agree that raising kids on the farm is just about the best way?

Just such a backyard scene took place at the Kissane's Clinton County farm recently and you'd certainly get no argument from Bill and Judy Kissane that kids and farms just naturally go together.

Their own 325 acre farm and comfortable, remodeled farmhouse is home for seven scrambling, smiling children. There is truly a world of love in this home, for the Kissanes have adopted all seven children through agencies in Michigan and through international adoption agencies.

"We both wanted a big farm family," says Judy, "but we couldn't agree on exactly how big. Bill said four kids would be about right. I said six would be better."

It was Lelani Kissane who finally settled the question. Lelani, now two-and-a-half years old, rounded out the family at an even four — Kevin, Kathy, Tim and Lelani. "But she was so adorable," says Judy, "we knew we wanted to adopt again." So, while the family awaited the arrival of Ryan, four years old, and Rene, two years old, from Korea, Bill began calling Lelani "The Convincer." The affectionate nickname has stuck.

"She just convinced me that Judy was right," grins Bill. "Six kids would be better."

They were so convinced, in fact that the Kissanes adopted a seventh youngster, Jung Ho. Renamed John by his adoptive family, he was one of the hard to adopt children sponsored by an international agency. "I read about John in a 'children waiting' article in OURS magazine," explains Judy. "But I can't really say why I was so immediately interested in this child. I just knew I had to call the agency and find out if we could adopt him. I was sure that since we had just adopted Ryan and Rene, they would turn us down. I was amazed when they did not."

John is visually impaired and will require some extra attention and special educational opportunities, but Judy hopes that by the time he reaches school age, he can be mainstreamed into St. Johns

September through June, the schedule is more routine, but no less busy. There are school bus schedules to meet — morning, noon and afternoon. The three older children, Kevin — nine years, Kathy — seven years and Tim — five years, attend school in St. Johns. "On the plus side though," says Judy optimistically, "Bill says this is the first year I haven't moped around the house on the first day of school. I was just too busy!"

Judy still finds time to lend a hand at planting and harvest time with the help of willing grandmothers and a little farm-wife ingenuity.

This busy couple is also active in their church and in Farm Bureau, but Judy and Bill admit that it's sometimes a problem finding a babysitter with

*"...this is the first year I haven't moped around the house on the first day of school-- I was just too busy!" says Judy Kissane.*

schools. Special education classes in Lansing for visually impaired children are a regular part of John's weekly schedule and those classes will prepare him for a regular classroom environment.

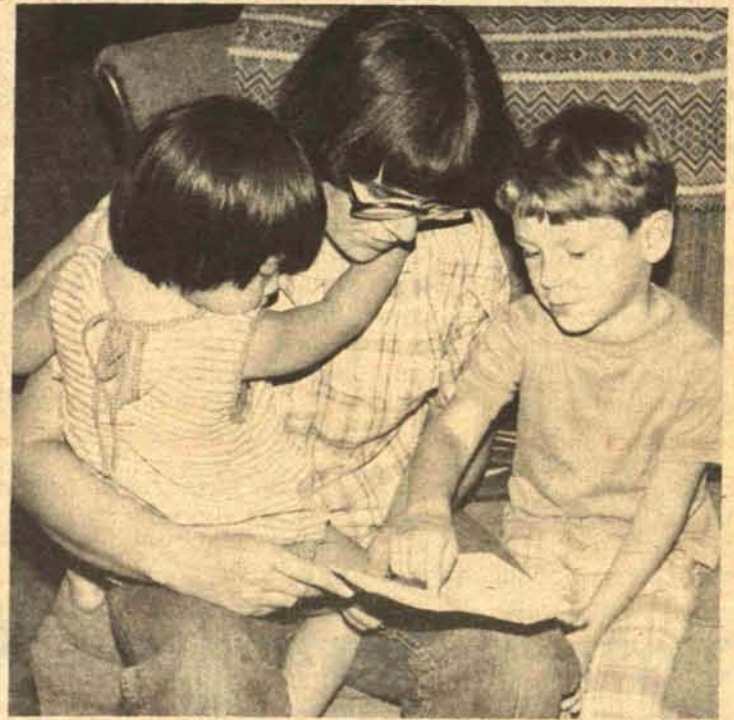
Four-year-olds, John and Ryan, also attend nursery school twice each week. "Nursery school is a real life saver," says Judy. "While the boys are at the nursery school, I stay in town and run errands and grocery shop. You should see us in the summer! There's me, seven kids and two shopping carts!" laughs Judy.

just the right temperament to take on seven children all at once. "We had one poor girl for the first time this summer. You know, I don't think she was quite ready. We haven't been able to get her since," jokes Bill.

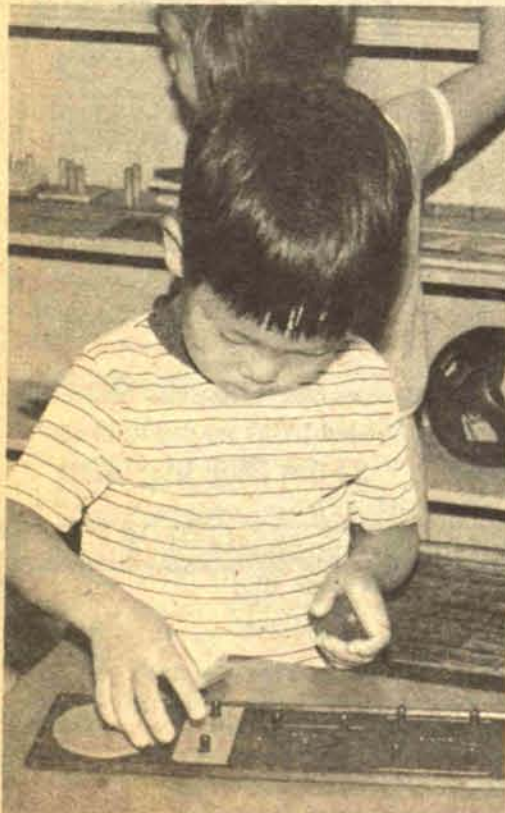
The couple's warm humor and easy acceptance of each child as an individual in his or her own right is the foundation of this closely knit farm family. Despite their varying backgrounds, the Kissanes and their children have become a family in the truest spirit of the word.



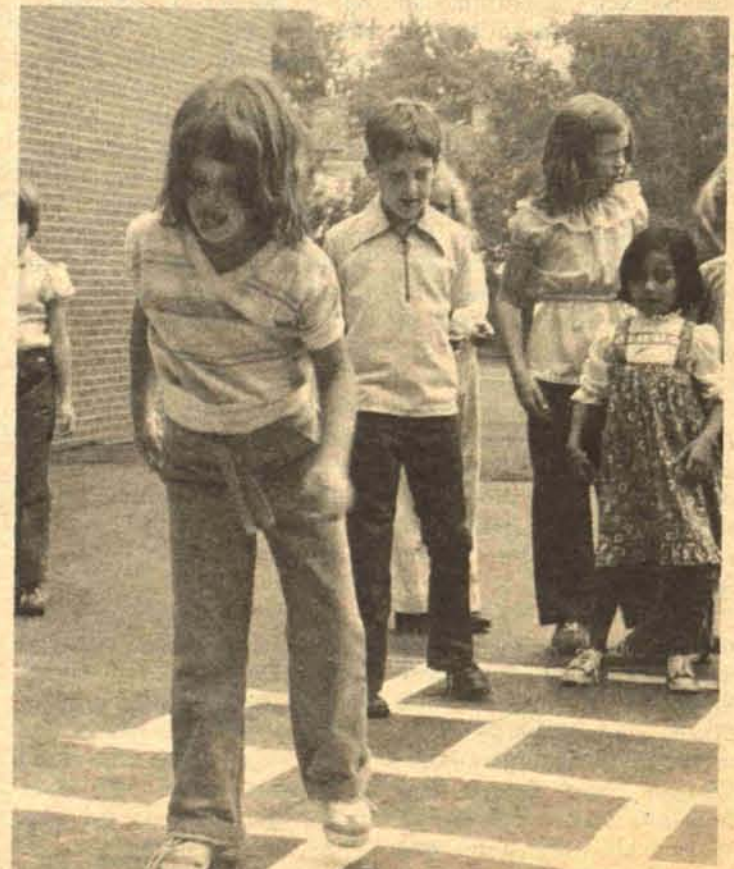
Too young, even for nursery school, two-year-olds Rene and Lelani Kissane find adventure closer to home. After a noisy introduction, Rene (left) and Lelani (right) get encouragement from Dad to smooth the ruffled feathers of a new barnyard field.



With Lelani on her knee, Judy takes a few minutes with five-year-old Tim to look over his class work. Kindergarten classes are "lots tougher" than nursery school reports Tim wearily.



Ryan (left) and John Kissane (far right) spend two mornings a week at nursery school. "It's a life saver," says Judy, "and the boys love it!"



Kathy and Kevin Kissane (foreground) take their turn at hopscotch during recess at St. Joseph's Catholic School in St. Johns.

## New MDA Division will be Trade Facilitator

Dr. Paul Kindinger, newly-appointed chief of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Marketing and International Trade Division, sees the MDA in the role of a facilitator of farm export activities rather than an actual seller of the state's agricultural products.

"First of all, we (the MDA) own no products. Secondly, we have no facilities in terms of dealing with customers on a very upfront kind of basis," explained Dr. Kindinger. "If you go overseas and make a promise to deliver something, you had better be able to deliver it. Without the product, without the facilities, you don't have those assurances . . . and so you better leave that to the people that do."

"We've got a lot of people in this state who are experts in the area of handling products and of dealing with export markets already. If they need any kind of assistance, we would be there to help facilitate and try to make their job easier," Kindinger said.

In addition to being a facilitator of farm export activities, he also sees MDA in the role of building confidence in Michigan products. "We have just a tremendous amount of diversity in our state's agriculture and the products — as far as I'm concerned — that we grow are second to none. That's the concept we need to get across to our foreign buyers . . . to distinguish to them the concept that Michigan has something really special to offer," he said.

Commodity promotion groups, farm cooperatives, and farmers, individually, will all be important factors in the promotion of farm exports, Kindinger believes.

## Thanks a Million!

Over 10,000 investors and stockholders recently were recipients of \$1,072,496, which represents Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. annual payment of interest on debentures and dividends on dividend bearing stock.

Of that amount, \$215,405 was paid to FPC stock and debenture holders and \$857,091 was mailed to FBS stock and debenture holders.

"We are pleased to make these annual payments, stated Max D. Dean, treasurer and chief financial officer of both FBS and FPC, "and we are grateful to all stock and debenture holders for their confidence and support."

FBS and FPC are both Michigan Farm Bureau affiliates.

"I think the farmer is contributing everyday to improving exports for Michigan," he said. "For one thing, he's producing very high quality products which is one of the first prerequisites. You have to have a good, reliable source of supply and the farmer is supplying that day after day. He's cooperating with promotional groups and hopefully, he will support the activities of the department in our efforts to also expand markets for him. So the farmer is a very important link in this whole chain of events that has to take place in getting products from Michigan to some port around the world."

## MACMA Service to Member Program Adds Nov. Sale

As a result of suggestions offered by county Farm Bureau secretaries and county leaders active in the Direct Marketing member to member program, the traditional December citrus sale has been restructured.

In the past, both citrus products and non-citrus products have been offered in December. Under the new structure, two winter sales will be conducted; one in November featuring non-citrus items, and one in December featuring only citrus products.

"I am pleased to see this change come about," says Dick

Westra, manager of the Direct Marketing Division. "It will give members the opportunity to use the non-citrus products such as peanuts, ham and cheese during the entire holiday season when they are most popular."

### New Products Offered

Two new items, gourmet popcorn and Farmer Peets' hickory sticks, are being introduced in the November sale.

Westra admits that having two sales will require additional effort for the county Farm

Bureau leaders, but he is confident that county people will continue to support the service to member program.

"The suggestion for two sales that came from the membership was a good one and I am sure that the Farm Bureau members who have been participating in the sales year-around will appreciate the convenience of these two holiday sales," says Westra.

Information regarding the December citrus sale will be available in October.

## ANNOUNCING THE FARM BUREAU "MEMBER TO MEMBER" FALL SALE

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO STOCK UP ON THESE DELICIOUS FOOD ITEMS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

- Boneless Vintage Ham, 4/4 lb. pkgs. per case
- Skinless, All-Meat Hot Dogs, 5 lb. box
- Thick-Cut Smoked Bacon, 8/1 1/2 lb. pkgs. per case
- Smoked Hickory Stick, 4 lb. stick
- Sharp Cheddar Cheese, 4/1 lb. pkgs. per case
- Medium Cheddar Cheese, 4/1 lb. pkgs. per case
- Caraway Cheese, 4/1 lb. pkgs. per case
- Colby Cheese, 4/1 lb. pkgs. per case
- Monterey Jack Cheese, 4/1 lb. pkgs. per case
- Gourmet Popcorn, 2 lb. bag [15 bags per case]
- Skinless Roasted Peanuts, 12/14 oz. boxes per case
- Redskin Roasted Peanuts, 12/14 oz. boxes per case
- Pecans, Extra Fancy Halves, 24/1 lb. bags per case
- Apple Cider Concentrate, 12/15 oz. jugs per case

Contact your county Farm Bureau secretary or member to member chairman for price information and order deadline.

NOTE: These products will not be offered in the December citrus sale, so stock up now for the holidays!



## 1980 MFB Membership Campaign Underway

The 1980 Michigan Farm Bureau membership campaign began on September 1 with the campaign theme again being "Growing with Agriculture."

"For Farm Bureau to continue to maintain its position of strength in the legislative arena as the spokesman for Michigan agriculture and to provide

significant member service programs, we must strive to meet the challenge of increasing membership," according to Don Currey, manager of the MFB Organization Department.

To meet that challenge, it will be necessary for every county to attain a five percent

increase in membership over year-end totals recorded on August 31. This year, the team approach will be utilized during the membership campaign according to Currey.

"Fifty-six counties achieved goal this year. We hope that every county will make goal next year and it will require a

team approach among members, county Farm Bureau secretaries and affiliate company personnel."

Michigan Farm Bureau attained 1979 goal on April 12, marking the 12th consecutive year of membership growth, and ended the 1979 year with 64,180 family members.

## Smith Visits Soviet Union



Top officials of the American Farm Bureau Federation were in the Soviet Union for a two-week visit as part of completing the first exchange of farm leaders between the farm organization and the USSR. The seven-member group returned to the U.S. on September 14.

Headed by Allan Grant, AFBF president, the group consisted of Robert Delano, AFBF vice president and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation president, and state Farm Bureau presidents Elton Smith of Michigan, Cecil Miller of Arizona, Richard McGuire of New York and James Graugnard of Louisiana—all members of the AFBF executive committee. Andrew Mair, AFBF exchange group coordinator, accompanied the group.

While in Moscow, the Farm Bureau leaders met with Ministry of Agriculture officials and members of ExportKleb of the USSR Ministry of Trade.

The Farm Bureau group traveled to Tselinograd in the New Lands area of Siberia, where they had an opportunity to visit wheat farms at the peak of the harvest season. They also visited Kiev, Rostov and Krasnodar—the major Ukrainian agricultural areas for the production of wheat, sunflowers, sugar beets and livestock. The last stop was the Baku region for visits to irrigation projects and to see cotton, fruit and vegetable production.

Before their August 31 departure, the group was briefed by Soviet specialists from the State Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In July, AFBF and state Farm Bureaus hosted a team of seven Soviet farm leaders on a tour of agricultural facilities in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

# Congratulations

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Agent  
Adrian

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JAMES WHELAN, CLU  
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Bill Frazier, CLU  
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Harold Grevnstuk, CLU  
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Elmer Phelps, CLU  
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Harris Seymour, CLU  
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Joe Siewruk, CLU  
Warren  
Harry Steele, CLU  
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Rosebush

#### Home office

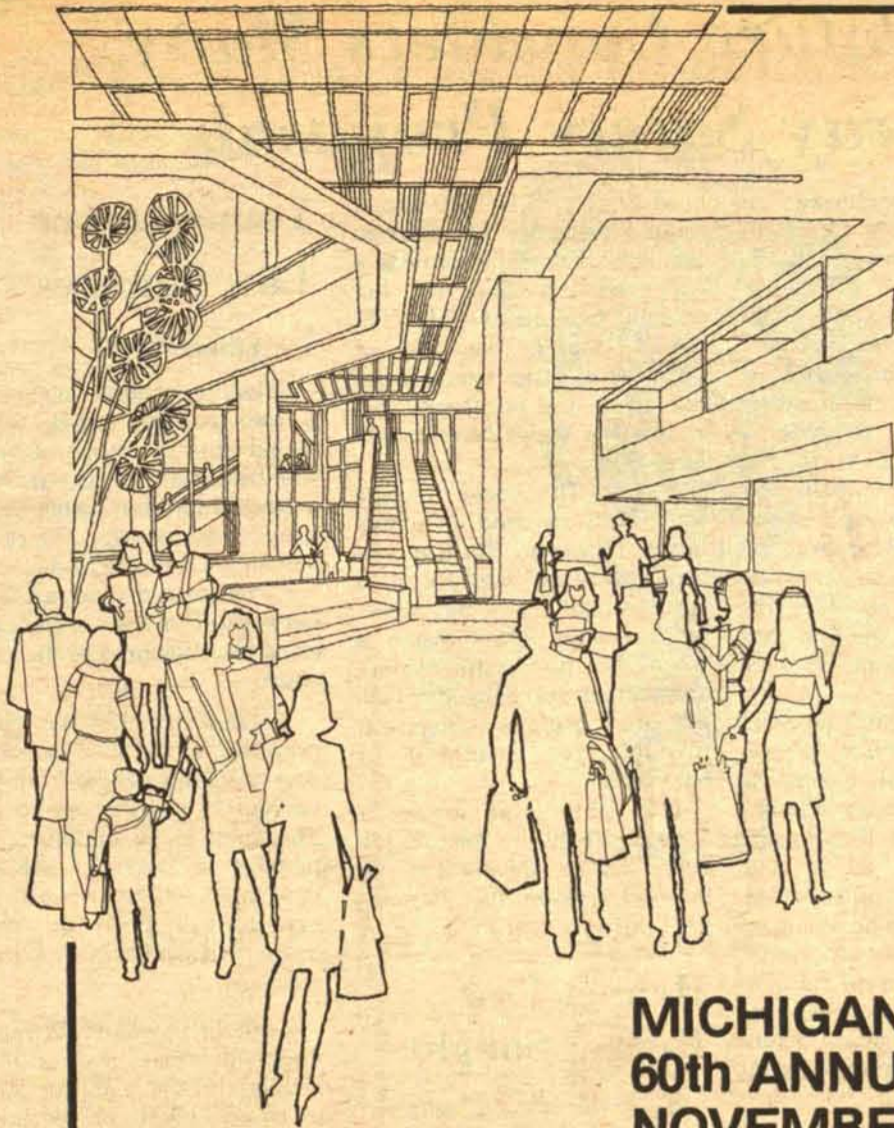
Gordon Amendt, CLU  
Lansing  
Leo Dahring, CLU  
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Walter Lander, CLU  
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David Scott, CLU  
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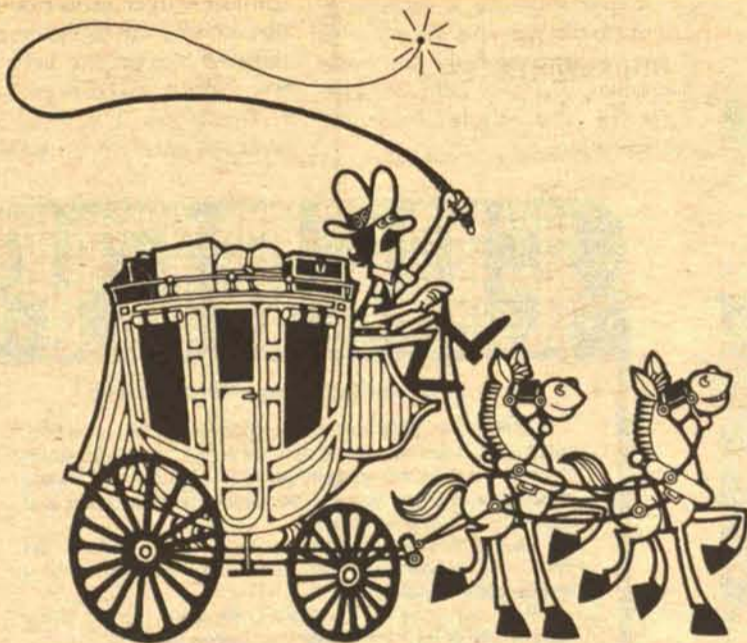
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## CAPITOL REPORT

By  
Robert E. Smith

### Make Views Known on Tax Issues

The House Taxation Committee will soon consider H.B. 4712, which would impose a 10¢ tax on every check that is cashed. For example, a person who cashes a check at a store or any other place, would have 10¢ deducted for the state tax. This would apply to paychecks and any other check the payee receives.

It is estimated that revenue would range anywhere from \$50 million to \$200 million or more depending on what other negotiable instruments would be taxed.

The bill includes taxation of other negotiable instruments such as drafts, cashier's checks, traveler's checks, money orders, share drafts, certificates of deposit and similar items, including such new ideas as electronic fund transfers to the payee.

One of the reasons for the "Negotiable Instrument Tax Act" is to use some of the money collected as a method of providing funds for the home heating assistance program. Another reason for the new proposed tax is to make it possible to remove the sales tax from home heating fuels and utility bills. This is similar to the removal of the sales tax on food and the increase in the income tax to replace the lost revenue.

Members having an opinion on whether a new state tax should be on checks when they are cashed, in order to increase sagging state revenues, subsidize heating bills for the elderly and low income people and eliminate the sales tax on heating fuel and utilities, should let his state senator or state representative know his views.

### DNR Head Meets with FB Committee



Dr. Howard Tanner, director of the Department of Natural Resources (center), and members of his executive staff met recently with the MFB Natural Resources Committee to discuss areas of mutual interest in agriculture and natural resources management. Listening to Tanner's presentation are Wally Huggett (left) of Marlette, and Mike Pridgeon (right), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

## Legislature Considers Many Highway Safety Proposals

There has been renewed interest in the safety legislation that is under consideration in the Legislature. This interest probably stems from the fact that the State Police are now enforcing the 55 mile per hour speed limit. The reason is that Michigan stands to lose a substantial part of its federal highway monies unless the energy saving 55 mph speed limit is enforced. It has been effective because fatal accidents have decreased by 227 this year, in spite of the fact that vehicle mileage is up 5% over last year.

One issue that will be considered is whether points should be issued against a driver going between 55 and the old speed limit. If the speed limit is adhered to by the general public, it is unlikely that the Legislature will be willing to assess points against a person's driving record because the new 55 mph speed limit is really an energy saving measure rather than a safety measure.

### "Restraints" Proposed

Other safety legislation includes at least four bills that would require restraints to be

used in cars. S.B. 400 would require restraints for children and S.B. 394 would provide a tax credit of \$50 for the restraint equipment. S.B. 399 would require the use of seatbelts or other restraints for the driver and occupants of a car. Some states have this in force now.

S.B. 401 would require seatbelts to be used on school buses. However, this is a controversial issue because it is claimed that there has never been a child killed inside a school bus during an accident and that the seat belts, if not used, can become dangerous through the swinging of buckles, etc.

S.B. 511 would require a "governor" to be placed on every car to prevent the car from going faster than 70 miles per hour.

### Helmet Law Repeal Sought

There are several bills regarding motorcycles and helmets. Four of them would repeal the present Michigan helmet law. It is generally agreed that requiring drivers of cycles to wear helmets has reduced serious accidents and fatalities.

Other motorcycle legislation would require the creation of an educational fund for cycle courses. Another bill would increase the cycle operator license fees.

### Young Driver Law Changes Considered

Driver education legislation is also pending. H.B. 4408 would allow the student driving with his parents to be permitted a driver education certificate. It would also increase the reimbursement for driver education per child over the present \$30 per pupil. This has not changed since the beginning of the program.

Another bill that has been proposed would raise the licensing of young people from the present 16 years of age to 17. This could be of serious consequence to farmers, because very often young people are expected to drive the farm truck, pick-up or car for farm business.

A serious problem that many school districts have is that dealers do not want to loan driver education cars because they lose money on them when they try to resell them. S.B. 571 would give a tax deduction on such cars.

S.B. 33 would raise the fees on what is known as county driver safety schools. These schools, used in some counties, result from judges ordering ticketed drivers to take additional driver education courses. These are a few of many highway safety proposals.



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# REMINDER:

**New PA 116 Applications Must be Submitted  
to DNR, Division of Land Resources  
Programs, by October 31 to Receive 1979  
Property Tax Credit**

## Levin Promises NABA Co-Sponsorship

Senator Carl Levin (D-Detroit) has announced his co-sponsorship of S.1193, the Senate bill identical to the House bill on the National Agricultural Bargaining Act of 1979.

Levin cited the effectiveness of P.A. 344, the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act as a reason for his co-sponsorship and indicated his support for farmers having the authority to effectively bargain with handlers of their commodities.

Michigan leads the list of co-sponsors for the legislation, with eight members of the House co-sponsoring the House version and both Senators Reigle and Levin co-sponsoring the Senate Bill.



SENATOR LEVIN

## Farmer Support Needed to Win Deregulation Battle

Farmers have an opportunity to support deregulation of federal trucking regulations. Farm Bureau has strongly supported these efforts for some time. It may now be possible to win this battle.

Federal regulations come from the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). That agency is now considering changing the rules to permit "back hauls" of regulated commodities by truckers who are exempt when

hauling fresh agricultural commodities. In order to qualify to back haul regulated commodities, the trucker would have to prove that one-half the tonnage hauled each year is exempt farm produce. There is presently a "trip lease" arrangement but few exempt haulers bother to use it because of the time consuming red tape.

The decision to deregulate will depend on trucker interest. Farm Bureaus throughout the

country are strongly supporting deregulation but letters from farmers are needed and must be in the ICC offices by October 16. The address is: Office of Proceedings, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D.C. 20423.

The docket number (Ex Parte MC-127) should be included in the letter to assure that it will reach the right department.

## Who Will Speak for Farmers?

By Allan Grant, President, American Farm Bureau

Farm and ranch people are understandably concerned about the public meetings announced by the secretary of agriculture at which citizens everywhere are invited to discuss the future of farming.

For some months, Secretary Bergland has been talking about the pressing need to review what he calls "the economic and social issues affecting the structure of agriculture and rural life." He says he's concerned about a broad range of issues — from land ownership to "quality of life."

To this end, he has called a series of public meetings in November and December to examine "the kind of agriculture and rural life Americans want for the future." The secretary will preside at each of the 10 meetings, where he will listen to "pre-scheduled speakers" representing "a wide range of interests."

Department employees are preparing nearly 40 position papers some of which examine the social and economic characteristics of farm owners and operators. Shaping new farm legislation is the plainly announced objective.

It is hard to be against public discussion or to oppose fact-

gathering about things as important as agriculture and rural life. At the same time farm and ranch families have every right to resent, and to resist, attempts by the executive branch of government to politically determine what is best for them, or to force an accounting of the social benefits we must contribute.

The old question — "Who shall speak for farmers?" — lies at the heart of the matter.

Secretary Bergland is an honorable man, and I do not wish to impugn his motives. Still, it is impossible to discount the political overtones of the meetings as we enter a presidential election year. And it is impossible to ignore past history.

Former secretaries of agriculture, Charles Brannan and Orville Freeman, both organized their versions of public dialogues to influence public farm opinion.

Brannan set up a series of "Family Farm Policy Review" meetings to help create public support for the so-called "Brannan Plan" of that time — a plan which had been soundly rejected by most farmers and ranchers.

Freeman called his series "Shirtsleeve Conferences" and used them in attempts to

bypass conservative farmers in generating liberal opinion about farm issues.

Why is agriculture singled out? Why is it so singularly important that the public be stirred to help direct the farming business?

Why, for example, is not the same public approach considered for such other important segments of the economy as labor?

Surely the structure and future direction of the labor movement in the United States is of great public importance.

Growing union monopoly power would be a proper topic. The power of a handful of unionized rail workers or grain handlers to completely halt the movement of grain from an entire region during peak harvest time, surely is of great public interest.

But can you imagine Secretary of Labor Marshall announcing a series of public forums to shape labor laws to the public benefit?

Can you visualize what labor union leaders and members would say and do?

The suggestion is politically ridiculous. It is just as ridiculous for officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to try to speak for farmers or to decide what is best for us.



## Farm Bureau on the NATIONAL SCENE

**Federal Crop Insurance Bill** — The Senate has passed S. 1125 and the House is expected to consider a companion bill, H.R. 4119, soon. **Farm Bureau will continue efforts to have the fire and hail coverage provisions deleted.** "A number of private insurance companies in several states have already developed a crop insurance package covering these perils," explained Al Almy, director of the Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau. "The provisions in the bill that the Senate passed would provide this same coverage to producers with the government subsidizing a share of the premium. This would put the government in direct competition with these private insurance carriers."

**National Agricultural Bargaining Act of 1979** — Cancellation of field hearings is a big disappointment to Farm Bureau and other supporters of H.R. 3535. (See President's Column, Page 2.) **There is vital need for intensified farmer interest in this issue.** Farm Bureau members are urged to write the House Agriculture Committee asking that field hearings be scheduled.

**Agricultural Appropriations** — Conferees of the Agricultural Appropriations Conference Committee met in mid-September to discuss P.L. 480 (Food for Peace). Farm commodities are exported under the act to expand international trade, to develop and expand export markets, to encourage economic development and to alleviate hunger. **Farm Bureau is concerned that the amount for P.L. 480 funding in the appropriations bill (H.R. 4387) is less than for 1979.** The lower budget for 1980, coupled with needed improvement in farm prices, would mean a lower export volume of food commodities and products for the above purposes in 1980 than in 1979.

**Separate Department of Education** — S. 210 would create a separate Department of Education. **In addition to the new bureaucracy being horribly inflationary, Farm Bureau fears loss of state and local control.** Conferees have sent the bill to the House and Senate floors. The House vote is expected to be extremely close, so Farm Bureau members are urged to ask their congressmen to oppose the conference report on S. 210.

**Export Administration Bill** — Farm Bureau vigorously opposed the Weaver Amendment to the Export Administration Bill (H.R. 4034) which would require that all export sales of wheat, corn and soybeans be licensed by the Department of Commerce and that the granting of an export license would be contingent upon an export sales price of at least 80 percent of parity.

In a letter to Congressman Foley, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, AFBF National Affairs Director Vernie Glasson said: **"Such an amendment would wreck our export markets for these commodities by driving our overseas customers to competing exporting countries and by raising a price umbrella over foreign grain and soybean production. We would indeed become a residual supplier if such unilateral action were taken."**

Glasson said it was regrettable that after Congress approved the Geneva Trade Negotiations by such an overwhelming vote that such trade restrictive amendments would now be offered.

**Carryover Basis Repeal** — Farm Bureau opposed the carryover basis rule when the Tax Reform Act was passed in 1976. Congress suspended the effective date of the controversial rule until January 1, 1980. **Farm Bureau has been making intensive efforts to have it repealed before it becomes effective.** Farm Bureau members are urged to write their senators, asking them to support efforts to repeal carryover basis and to contact their congressmen asking them to co-sponsor House bills providing for repeal of carryover basis.

# Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Farm Radio Network

Four Michigan farmers were recognized during the month of August for their contributions to the agricultural industry and their communities. All were recipients of the Farmer of the Week Award.

The award is sponsored by the Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Winners receive a plaque and a specially designed award buckle and leather belt from their local FBIG agent.

A list of the Farmers of the Week for August 1979 follows:



**GERALD DUCKERT**

**Week of Aug. 6** - Gerald Duckert, 34, a beef and cash crop farmer from Imlay City who farms in partnership with his brother and father. They farm 1900 acres and raise 300 head of beef cattle. Duckert is actively involved in the Imlay City School District, serving on the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the district; has been a member of the Tax Review Board of Imlay Township for the past three years; and serves as vice president of the Lapeer County Farm Bureau, a position he has held for the past three years. He and his wife, Cynthia, have three children.



**KENNETH VOGEL**

**Week of Aug. 13** - Kenneth Vogel, 34, a Weidman dairy farmer who farms 800 acres and milks 150 cows in partnership with his brother, Bill. He serves as vice president of the Mt. Pleasant local of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn.; is an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Beal City, serving as a lay

assistant, member of the Parish Council, and member of the St. Joseph School Committee; is a current member and past treasurer of the Beal City Knights of Columbus; and is a member and past officer of the Isabella County Farm Bureau. Vogel and his wife, Emily, have four children.



**LARRY FOSTER**

**Week of Aug. 20** - Larry Foster, a dairy farmer from Millersburg in Presque Isle County. Foster, 39, farms 255 acres and milks a herd of more than 60 cows in partnership with his father. He is president of the board of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ocqueoc; member of the church choir; president of the Presque Isle County Farm Bureau; past member of the state Potato Board; past alternate delegate for the Michigan Milk Producers Assn.; past 4-H leader; and past member of the Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee. Foster and his wife, Joyce, have two children.



**NEIL BRADEN**

**Week of Aug. 27** - Neil Braden, 29, whose 400-acre farming operation near Byron includes cash crops, feeder pigs, sheep and some beef cattle. He grows primarily corn and soybeans. Braden is a coach in the Byron Little League, member of the board of directors of the Genesee County Farm Bureau, vice president of the local Young Farmers Group, and active member of the Byron Methodist Church and the Byron Lions Club. He and his wife, JoAnn, have one child.

## DONNA

(Continued from Page 2)

even if we had to do it over 20 times; and for me, who would rather have been out in the barn playing Terry and the Pirates (scratch Young again!).

Back in those days, 4-H was strictly for "farm kids." Not so today, according to Foundation officials. Today, 4-H offers learning experiences to over a quarter-million young people in our state, including city kids and handicapped children (a personal Amen!). I realize the farming community has some possessive feelings about the 4-H program and we're going to address that concern in a later issue. In the meantime...

The main purpose of our meeting with Don and Jack was to spread the word that the 4-H Foundation needs contributions to continue and expand its programs. They'd like those contributions to come from 4-H "alumni" - that's you and me - whose lives have been positively impacted by our own involvement in the program.

The list of contributors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation reads like a Farm Bureau honor roll. There are few county Farm Bureaus and Farm Bureau Co-ops that are not on the list. Of these, many have designated their gifts to the Kettunen Center Improvement Project - sort of a follow-through on their original investments (somebody else "out there" is old enough to remember Camp Kett buttons!).

So, if Farm Bureau is doing all that well, what am I using this space for? Well, I think Don and Jack feel much the same as Jerry Lewis does during his Labor Day Telethon. Much as he appreciates those million dollar contributions from the big corporations, it's those individual people pledges - those \$5 and \$10 donations that are FELT by their donors - that get the drum roll and bring the lump to Jerry's throat. There's some special caring quality to those dollars.

In the 1977-78 annual report of the 4-H Foundation, it took four pages to list the contributors. I hope they'll have to add another four to accommodate the individual contributors who will respond to this column. All checks should be made payable to the Michigan 4-H Foundation and mailed to 220 Nisbet Building, 1407 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

It's been a jolt to have to revamp my Tall, Flexible, Young self-image. So if you'd put, in small print under the signature on your check, "I remember Camp Kett," it would prove that the Short, Rigid and Old can still have an impact.

## Comments from Edith

By Edith Humm  
MFB Outstanding Young Farm Woman



### Keeping What's Ours

I guess I just don't understand.

If a man owns his own business or farm and his wife wants a divorce, the courts say half of everything is automatically hers. But if a wife devotes her life to working side by side with her husband to build up the business and he dies, the same court says her labor counts for nothing and she must pay a "widow's tax."

Some farm women have pioneered the way for justice in estate tax court. Bessie Craig of South Dakota, Laura Otte of Indiana, Leona Nondley of Minnesota and Doris Kersten of Wisconsin have challenged these taxation rules in the courts. Bessie Craig fought the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and won. The other ladies fought in their state tax courts and won. In each state where these brave women have fought to keep what they considered rightfully theirs, they

have made it a little easier for the next woman.

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 allows a widow to exclude half of the property from the estate if she and her husband created a joint tenancy after December 31, 1976, but this could result in a gift tax liability and legal costs.

The IRS says the purpose of the estate tax is to "redistribute the wealth." But does it?

As far as many women are concerned, marriage is a partnership. Doris Royal of Springfield, Nebraska began a national campaign for reform of estate tax laws three years ago. The main aim is for no tax between spouses. I believe we should fight for this and settle for no less.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has courses to help with estate planning. For more information on when and where these are held, contact your county Farm Bureau.

## Dear Prospective Student,

We would like to have you know of a source of student loan funds available only to members of Michigan Farm Families.

Since January 1971, we have made student loans in 61 of Michigan's 83 counties.

Our loan limit is \$2500.00 per academic year with a maximum to any one student of \$7500.00. Repayment is to be made with simple interest at 7% per annum and payments and interest are required to start not later than 12 months after graduation, in most cases.

Write or call for further information:

Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corp.  
P.O. Box 188, Marshall, Mich. 49068  
Nyle L. Katz, Executive Director  
(616) 781-4646

OR

Any of the Directors listed below:

Joa Penzien, Pres.  
Mt. Clemens  
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Charlotte, Mich.  
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Elton B. Hill, Secy-Treas.  
East Lansing  
517-332-1776

Roy Howes  
Copemish, Mich.  
616-362-3636

George Robb  
Fowlerville, Mich.  
517-223-9462

Chester Johnson  
Lakeview, Mich.  
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Wallas Jones  
Norway, Mich.  
906-563-8669

Paul Porter  
Quincy, Mich.  
517-639-4126

Vernon Kretzschmer  
Bay Port, Mich.  
517-453-2503

# Accurate Ag-Labor Data Could Help Ease Workers Comp Burden

A farm labor expert blames inaccurate data for the soaring increases in rates and premiums for agricultural workers compensation insurance.

"One reason for the tremendous increases in agricultural workers compensation rates has to do with the fact that data on agricultural accidents and wages are not kept on an independent basis, apart from all other types of industry and manufacturing in Michigan," says Harold Scharp, operations manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA).

Scharp pointed to a recent decision of the Michigan Insurance Bureau which approved an average increase in agricultural workers compensation rates to 21.77% over the 1977 rates. Minimum rates, he

said, were raised an average 18.92%. The agricultural increases compare to a 14.6% increase in workers compensation rates for contractors and a 9.2% increase for manufacturing.

Scharp contends that workers compensation insurance rates and benefits should be based on accident rate and wages paid in agriculture, but he says that "the Workers Compensation Rating Bureau does not have the means to isolate the data on agriculture."

"Right now," says Scharp, "a benefit award decision is based on the average wage in Michigan rather than the agricultural average wage. It should be agriculture's work experience that determines the awards to agricultural employees."

Scharp says that workers compensation rates for some agricultural employers in Michigan have increased over 100% since 1976.

## Surveys Seek

### Ag-Labor Info

As a reader of Michigan Farm News, you can help Farm Bureau provide information to legislators on the effect of workers compensation on farmer employees.

Printed on this page is a copy of a survey sheet that has been sent to all community groups and MASA members. Surveys have also been sent to farmers by some legislators. If you receive more than one survey, please answer both.

The special legislative task force, composed of five senators, five representatives

and the directors of the Departments of Labor and Commerce, met several times during the legislative recess. It is questionable whether enough progress was made to result in workers comp reform.

One problem in agriculture is the lack of sufficient data on workers compensation's effect on farmer employers. In addition to returning the questionnaire, communication with your state senator and representative on your views concerning workers comp, would be helpful.

## COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FARM LABOR SURVEY BELOW BY OCT. 15

### SPECIAL REQUEST FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION INFORMATION FROM MICHIGAN'S FARMERS

Farmer employers in the state were brought under the workers compensation law by a 1972 Supreme Court decision.

The Legislature is presently considering the reform of this law; however, good information is lacking on workers compensation's effect on agriculture and other small businesses.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would take a few minutes to answer the following questions. It will be very helpful in our efforts to reform the law. It is not necessary to sign your name, unless you wish.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

1. Kind of farm (circle): dairy - livestock - cash crop - fruit - vegetable - poultry - potato - nursery - turf - tree - other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Number of acres: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Number of full-time employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Average weekly wage: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Number of part-time employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of weeks of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Average hourly or weekly wage: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Number of temporary or seasonal employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days or weeks of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Average hourly or weekly wage: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(If piece rates are used, please estimate.)

6. Do you hire three or more employees at any one time during the year?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

7. If you employ less than three employees at any one time, is at least one employee hired for 35 or more hours per week for 13 weeks or longer during the year? (Weeks need not be consecutive.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

8. Do you have a workers compensation policy?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

What is the premium rate per \$100? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total premium? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you provide any other health and accident or hospital policy for employees?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what kind? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you provide any other benefits to employees? (housing, retirement program, food, fuel, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what kind and approximate value: \_\_\_\_\_

11. If you have workers compensation, please list any claims you have had during the last three years. Please include kind of injury or illness, length of time employee was disabled, and the amount of the claim.

12. Were any claims appealed?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

COMMENTS: Please provide any other information or opinion that you have on this issue:

Thank you for your help. Please return to:

Michigan Farm Bureau  
Public Affairs Division  
P.O. Box 30960  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

## Milliken Asks for SBA Disaster Declaration

Gov. William G. Milliken has asked for a Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster declaration for 10 Michigan counties in which severe winter weather caused \$51.6 million in crop damage for fruit growers and nursery operators.

In a letter to SBA Regional Director Donna Harrigan, Milliken asked the declaration for Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Van Buren counties.

"Persistent extreme cold temperatures during winter and early spring, coupled with other natural disasters, caused severe crop damage, especially to fruit and nursery operations in 10 Michigan counties, totaling \$51.6 million," Milliken said in his letter to Harrigan. "The unanticipated fruit and nursery stock losses were not determined until very recently.

"The United States Department of Agriculture has already designated the 10 counties for emergency loans and provided your office in Detroit with documentation regarding these crop losses," he added.

Because of the unpredictability of ultimate crop losses, Milliken asked the SBA to waive its usual 60-day limit for relief applications.

A disaster declaration would entitle eligible applicants to low-interest Disaster Recovery Loans and Economic Injury Loans.



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## Feed and Energy

# Interest in Alcohol's By-Products Increasing, too

By Tony Barcroft

Interest in producing alcohol and using it for fuels remains at a high level in Michigan. Most discussions of the economic feasibility of gasohol, a mixture of 90% unleaded gasoline and 10% ethanol alcohol, involve recognition of some value for the byproducts produced from the distillation process. Information is available regarding the nutritional value of the residues from the fermentation of corn.

In order to evaluate these residues it is helpful to recognize the different types of products that result. Unfermented grain, yeast and sugar is processed through a still which removes the alcohol. The material remaining is referred to as a whole stillage and is 90% liquid. Whole stillage can be fed to livestock but reduced performance often results due to the large amounts of water which must be consumed to obtain the desired nutrients. This byproduct is also difficult to store and handle.

Because of these problems whole stillage is usually passed through a screen and press or centrifuge which removes the coarse, unfermented grains.

Further processing of the remaining thin stillage through an evaporator produces condensed solubles which have a high phosphorous and nitrogen content. The four main products of alcohol production are condensed solubles (CDS), dried solubles (DDS), distillers dried grains (DDG) or distillers dried grains plus solubles (DDGS).

The overall effect of the distillation is the conversion of high energy feeds such as corn to protein supplements. Removal of the starch during distillation triples the percentage of fat, fiber and protein compared to the grain prior to fermentation.

The digestive system of ruminant animals utilizes microorganisms which digest fiber and other carbohydrates to produce energy and synthesize protein. Beef calves and lactating dairy cows must have very large amounts of protein in their diet. These animals require dietary sources of high quality protein. However, dietary sources of protein are often converted by microorganisms to ammonia which are often of lower nutritional quality.

Therefore, protein from distillers grain should be worth more than soybean meal because, unlike soybean meal, the protein in distillers grain resists break-down by rumen microorganisms. Tests have shown that rate of gain using distillers grains was a little better than urea, and feed efficiency was as good as soybean meal. This is one example of the possibilities which exist for improved livestock rations using byproducts of alcohol production.

This information indicates substantial economic savings could be made using the byproducts of alcohol production in a ration. The byproducts of alcohol production may prove to be a very valuable source of livestock feed.

## What's Happening

Oct. 11	District 3 Farm Bureau Women's Rally	Methodist Church Howell
Oct. 15	District 5 Farm Bureau Women's Rally	Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns
Oct. 18-20	Mall Display	Woodland Mall Grand Rapids
Oct. 23	District 10 Farm Bureau Women's Rally	Masonic Temple West Branch
Oct. 24	District 7 Farm Bureau Women's Rally	Cabin-by-the-Shore M-20 between Rodney and Mecosta
Oct. 26-28	Cherryland Mall Display	Traverse City
Oct. 29	District 9 Farm Bureau Women's Rally	Methodist Church Bear Lake
Oct. 31-	MFB Commodity Advisory Committee Meeting	Farm Bureau Center Lansing
Nov. 1	District 4 Farm Bureau Women's Rally	Church of the Saviour Coopersville
Nov. 2-3	Mall Display	Maple Hill Mall Kalamazoo
Nov. 27-30	Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting	Kalamazoo Convention Center, Kalamazoo
Jan. 6-10, 1980	American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting	Phoenix, Arizona

## The Heat's On

### Safety Precautions for Wood Heating

A brochure prepared by Farm Bureau Insurance Group, entitled "Wood Heat — The Safe Way," is gaining more and more recognition as an extremely reliable and valuable guide to the safe installation and operation of wood-burning stoves.

The guide has earned praise from fire departments in Michigan, colleges, energy groups, businesses, homeowners, and even the state of Delaware Energy Office, which called it "one of the best information pieces of its kind that we've ever seen."

So far, more than 22,000 of the wood heat guides have been distributed. The majority of requests for the guide have come from FBIG policyholders.

The guide tells you what kind of wood stove is best for you, where to locate it for maximum safety and efficiency, and the type of chimney you'll need. It provides tips on proper installation and operation and explains how to deal with the problems you'll encounter, such as creosote buildup.

For your free copy of the guide, fill out the coupon on this page (or put your request in writing) and send to: Wood Heat, Communications Dept., Farm Bureau Insurance Group, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909.

With the abundance of wood in rural areas, wood heat can be a very economical way to heat a home or farm building, but it can also be very dangerous. Following the tips in FBIG's wood heat guide will help you feel a lot more secure about using a wood stove.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy (copies) of "Wood Heat — The Safe Way."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Wood Heat, Communications Dept., Farm Bureau Insurance Group, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909.

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# Kent County FB Initiates "Operation Eyes"



OPERATION EYES was kicked off September 11 in Kent County at a press conference at Robinette Orchards in Grand Rapids. Displaying the OPERATION EYES sign and bumper sticker is fruit grower Jim Robinette. From left to right are Lieutenant Clayton Babcock, Rockford Post Commander, Michigan State Police; Phillip Heffron, sheriff, Kent County; Jim Robinette; Steve Carlson, Kent County Farm Bureau president; and David Sawyer, Kent County prosecuting attorney.

The Kent County Farm Bureau is hoping to keep an eye on crime by participating in OPERATION EYES, a rural crime awareness program being coordinated by the Michigan Rural Crime Prevention Council, the Kent County Prosecutor's Office, the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police.

"OPERATION EYES is designed to make the public aware that trespassing on farm property is a crime," says Ron Nelson, chairman of the Crime Prevention Council. "The other phase of the program is to make the farmer more watchful and aware of possible criminal activity."

Farms participating in the program are given distinctive bright yellow No Trespassing signs that have wide-open, watchful eyes peering from the background.

OPERATION EYES was kicked-off in May in Oceana County. Nelson says the pro-

ject there has been a success. "There have been 20 or 25 complaints this year about trespassing and fruit or vegetable larceny. There was only one complaint last year, so I think the community is much more aware and watchful."

The Oceana County Farm Bureau recently distributed bright yellow OPERATION EYES bumper stickers to help promote the program.



## Support the Friends of Agriculture

This support will be used to assist in electing Michigan congressmen and Michigan legislators and other elected state officials who are supportive to the needs of agriculture in Michigan. (Contributions are deductible per IRS regulations.)

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Make checks payable to MFB AgriPac.

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7373 W. Saginaw  
Lansing, MI 48909

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# People

## Armstrong New VP for Universal Cooperatives

Donald R. Armstrong resigned as executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. effective September 1 to accept a position with Universal Cooperatives, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota as group vice president of operations. Universal is an inter-regional cooperative owned by 38 regional farm supply cooperatives, including FBS and FPC.

Armstrong has over 30 years of service with Farm Bureau and has been executive vice president of FBS and FPC since October 1970. In addition, he has served on several cooperative affiliated boards such as the American Institute of Cooperation, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, CF Industries,



**DON ARMSTRONG**

and more recently as president of Universal Cooperatives, Inc.

## Governor Appoints Moore to Soil Conservation Committee

Gov. William G. Milliken has reappointed Clinton County Farm Bureau member Robert L. Moore of Elsie to the state Soil Conservation Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 1983.

Moore, a seed producer, was first appointed to the committee in 1967. He is chairman of the committee.

Moore has served as director of the Clinton County Soil Conservation District and is a member of the Michigan Foundation Seed Association. He is also treasurer of the Great Lakes Hybrids.

He farms approximately 500 acres of crops, all for seed production, in partnership with two sons.

## Grant Receives Medal of Honor from Japan



**ALLAN GRANT**

Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, recently received a Medal of Honor from the nation's foremost trading partner, Japan.

The Japanese government recognized Grant for his long interest and personal service in furthering Japanese agriculture and American-Japanese understanding. The recognition was particularly due to his leadership in the Japanese-U.S. farmer trainee exchange program.

Grant was presented the award at the Ministry of Agriculture on September 17 following a trade mission to Russia.

Japan purchased \$4.4 billion worth of farm products from the United States last year.

## Elenbaum Elected Chairman of Michigan Bean Commission

At the recent annual meeting of the Michigan Bean Commission, Gerald Elenbaum, Huron County Farm Bureau member from Owendale, was elected chairman of the commission, succeeding Donald Keinath of Caro, who will complete his six years on the commission at the end of 1979.

Elected vice chairman was Gratiot County member Kenneth Graham of Breckenridge, succeeding John Knoerr of Sandusky. Larry Sprague of Durand was elected treasurer, a post previously held by Graham.

Elenbaum and Graham are grower members of the commission and Sprague is a shipper representative.



Seated (left to right) are Gerald Elenbaum and James Byrum; standing, Kenneth Graham and Larry Sprague, newly-elected Bean Commission officers.

## Schroeder Appointed to CRF Board

Reg Schroeder, manager of the Animal Foods Department of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., has been appointed to the board of directors of Cooperative Research Farms (CRF). CRF, the largest feed research network in the world, provides FBS and 18 other regional cooperatives in North America with research on feeds, feeding programs and equipment for livestock and poultry. Research studies are conducted at six locations in the U.S.

One of the most innovative feeding concepts developed through CRF is a regulated protein soluble feed for dairy animals. According to Schroeder, many CRF member cooperatives have found that protein soluble feed improves milk production and is being well-accepted by dairy farmers. Average daily production increases of up to 13 pounds per cow/day have been recorded, reports Schroeder.

The feed, which was

patented in October 1978, is produced and distributed by the Battle Creek Animal Food Plant under the trademark name of NuPro with RPS (regulated protein solubility).

"Many of our Michigan dairymen have reported outstanding production increases with the NuPro feed," says Schroeder, "and I expect research developments through CRF studies to offer similar assistance to other Michigan livestock producers."

## Cheboygan Kicks Off Membership Campaign



Cheboygan County Farm Bureau insurance agents take over duties as "pit bosses" at the county's annual membership campaign Kick-Off Bar-B-Que on September 16.

## Bill Craig Transfers to SE Region

Don Currey, manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau Organization Department, has announced the transfer of Bill Craig, regional representative in the Northeast Region since November 1977, to regional representative in the Southeast.

Craig replaces Charles Buchholz who recently accepted the position of executive secretary of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.



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# First "Homegrown" TV Farm Show Produced by Ingham FB Members



Kathy Lott giving directions from control room.



Sue Oesterle adjusts lights.



Sue Oesterle interviews Vivian Lott for TV show premiere.



Farm wife Edna Awalt zooms in for shot.

## "Country Cornucopia" Introduced

In September, the Ingham County Farm Bureau premiered what is believed to be the first cable television program in the nation produced and directed entirely by farmers.

Titled "Country Cornucopia," the program will be aired each month over channel 36, the public access channel

of Continental Cablevision in the Lansing area.

The project relies on the volunteer assistance of young farm women in the Ingham County Farm Bureau organization to serve as the production crew. The project is being coordinated by two Mason farm wives, Sue Oesterle and Kathy Lott. Mrs. Lott will be involved in the actual production as program director, while

Mrs. Oesterle will be the hostess of the talk show program.

"The camera crew, switcher, video tape operator and I are all young farm women," says Mrs. Lott. "Although none of us had any previous experience in TV production, we felt that this project was so important that we've taken a couple of months to learn about camera work and TV production. It's been hard work, but fun, too!"

"Through the 'Cornucopia' program, we'll be talking to the general public about farming and food production," says Mrs. Oesterle. "Since farmers represent less than 3% of the total population, we think it's important to tell people what modern farming is really like — challenging, rewarding and a vitally important business."

Topics scheduled by the farm women include: the Ingham County Speakers' Bureau, fall harvest, estate planning, women's property rights, farming operations and centennial barns in Ingham County.

The program airs Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 10:00 p.m.

## '79 County Annual Meeting Schedule

County	Date	Location and Time
Alcona	October 15	Mikado Civic Center, Mikado
Allegan	October 9	Griswald Auditorium Allegan, 8:00 p.m.
Alpena	October 11	Long Rapids Hall Long Rapids, 8:00 p.m.
Antrim	October 11	Methodist Church Kewadin, 8:00 p.m.
Arenac	October 23	4-H Building Standish
Barry	October 30	Moose Lodge, Hastings 7:00 p.m.
Berrien	October 24	Youth Memorial Building Berrien Springs, 6:30 p.m.
Branch	October 8	Vo-Tech Center, Coldwater 7:00 p.m.
Cass	October 18	Gregarek Memorial Building Cassopolis, 6:30 p.m.
Charlevoix	October 3	Whiting Park, Boyne City 8:00 p.m.
Cheboygan	October 30	Wesleyan Church Hall Cheboygan, 7:30 p.m.
Clare	October 6	Mid Michigan College Clare, 7:30 p.m.
Clinton	October 9	School Cafeteria & Auditorium, St. Johns
Copper Country	October 4	Ottawa Sportsmans Club
Eaton	October 11	American Legion, Charlotte
Genesee	October 23	Mundy Township Hall Grand Blanc
Hiawathaland	October 20	Congregational Church Rapid River
Hillsdale	October 15	4-H Building, Fairgrounds Hillsdale, 7:00 p.m.
Huron	October 23	Huron County Farm Bureau Building, Bad Axe, 6:30 p.m.
Iosco	October 24	Masonic Hall, Tawas City, 7:30 p.m.
Iron Range	October 24	Mansfield Township Hall
Isabella	October 11	West Intermediate High School, Mt. Pleasant
Jackson	October 10	Western Middle School Jackson, 7:00 p.m.
Kalamazoo	October 16	County Center Building Kalamazoo, 7:00 p.m.
Kalkaska	October 11	Carol's Hall, Kalkaska, 7:00 p.m.
Kent	October 4	Sveden House, 28th Street Grand Rapids, 7:00 p.m.
Livingston	October 16	St. Agnus Catholic Church Fowlerville, 7:30 p.m.
Macomb	October 11	Emmanuel Lutheran Church 7:00 p.m.
Manistee	October 25	Farr Center, Onkewaw 6:30 p.m.
Mason	October 9	Scottville Bank, Scottville 7:30 p.m.
Menominee	October 11	Bob & Frankies, Menominee
Midland	October 30	Homer Township Hall Midland, 6:30 p.m.
Missaukee	October 4	Cadillac State Bank Falmouth Branch, 8:00 p.m.
Montcalm	October 10	Middle School, Stanton 6:30 p.m.
Montmorency	October 18	Library, Hillman High School Hillman, 7:00 p.m.
Newaygo	October 11	Fremont Christian School Fremont, 7:30 p.m.
Oakland	October 18	Clarkston Methodist Church Clarkston, 7:15 p.m.
Oceana	October 15	Shelby High School, 7:30 p.m.
Ogemaw	October 25	Masonic Temple, West Branch
Osceola	October 16	Marion Bank, Marion, 8:15 p.m.
Otsego	October 23	Methodist Church Hall Gaylord, 7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	October 11	Christian School, Allendale 7:45 p.m.
Presque Isle	October 9	Belknap Town Hall Belknap, 8:00 p.m.
Saginaw	October 18	Knights of Columbus Hall Saginaw
St. Joseph	October 8	Community Building Centreville, 7:00 p.m.
Sanilac	October 4	Sandusky High School Sandusky, 7:00 p.m.
Shiawassee	October 8	Dog & Gun Club Corunna
Van Buren	October 27	Van Buren County Farm Bureau Paw Paw, 6:30 p.m.

(Continued on Page 19)

### NORTHERN MICHIGAN COOPERATIVE FEEDER SALES 8,850 HEAD

These are all native Cattle sired by registered bulls and out of predominantly beef type cows. All sales guarantee heifer calves open and male calves properly castrated. All calves dehorned.

- October 8 - Paulding ..... 1250 yearlings and calves
- October 9 - Rapid River ..... 1150 yearlings and calves
- October 11 - Gaylord ..... 3000 yearlings and calves
- October 16 - Alpena ..... 900 yearlings and calves
- October 17 - West Branch ..... 1800 yearlings and calves
- October 19 - Baldwin ..... 750 yearlings and calves

All sales start at 12:00 Noon.

Cattle are graded to U.S.D.A. Standards and will be sold in lots of uniform grade, weight, sex and breed.

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# Inflation Fighters Bark up Wrong Tree

## Real "Enemy" Unrecognized

The war against inflation, as waged by the United States government, is in reality a war against the forces of supply and demand. The identity of the enemy is missed by Washington. Hence, it is not surprising that no ground is being gained.

Inflation is the over-supply of money in relation to the demand for money; it is not the rise of prices. For this reason, the wage and price guidelines, which are directed at the rising prices of goods and services, are irrelevant. They call to mind a coon dog barking up the wrong tree. And mandatory price controls, which Alfred Kahn keeps telling us are undesirable, but may become necessary, would also miss the mark, for the same reason.

Prices have not risen uniformly. The price of farm products rose an average 40% in early 1979. In the same period, the price of coffee beans fell. If inflation is a rise of prices, why did not the price of soybeans and of coffee beans rise at the same rate?

The answer is that the forces of supply and demand reacted differently on soybeans and on coffee. This may have been due to weather, war, different degrees of government meddling with the markets in the U.S. and in Brazil, or to a multitude of other causes, special to each commodity. The combination of market forces, in the case of soybeans, pushed the price upward, while in the case of coffee the opposite occurred. Every individual good and service faces its own forces of demand and supply and, these being the determinants of price, its own pattern of price changes. This is normal and healthy.

Inflation, on the other hand, is neither normal or healthy. It is a disease, specifically a disease of money. It is not the effect on price of changes in demand and supply of this and that good. In truth, it is totally unrelated to these fluctuating market forces. Inflation affects all goods alike — all goods for which the inflated money is exchanged.

That inflation is tied to money, not the goods, is indicated by the fact that each nation has its own unit of money - dollar, franc, yen - and each nation likewise has its own rate of inflation. These differ widely; while the United States has inflation of maybe 9% per year, Britain has 18%, Brazil 30%.

But a stable commodity such as wheat or cotton, has a world market price, which is virtually the same - adjusted for varying cost such as transportation - in all countries. This world market price is a result of the world market forces of supply and demand, not of the inflation force which prevails if any one country mismanages its money.

Admittedly, inflation pushes prices up - this is why rising prices and inflation are so often equated - but it is a quite different push from that exerted by demand and supply. Drought may affect the demand and supply equation, but drought surely is not the cause of inflation.

## A "Cork in the Ocean"

A useful analogy is that of the tide and the waves. Throw a cork into the ocean. The cork will rise and fall as a result of two entirely distinct forces: the tide, which is a rise in the general level of the ocean over a vast dimension - a rise caused by the gravitational pull of the moon; and the waves, which are rises of varying degrees at various points on the ocean's surface, caused by the winds as they react on those points.

Inflation may be likened to the tide, while the varying changes in prices of individual goods and services are the waves, kicked up by the winds, which are local in nature and fickle in force in direction. Our cork may run into a gale and be hoisted accordingly, or it may encounter the calm, its level changing little. In either case, the tide will be operating under it, causing it to rise gradually but inexorably as the tide comes in.

Although the tide and the waves both affect the cork, they are totally unrelated to one another. So also are inflation and the demand-supply force. They are as little related as deficit financing is to drought.

# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager Member Relations

To continue the analogy: it is possible to calm the ocean's waves at any one point by pouring oil on the water. Now the cork will not rise on a comber because there would be no comber. But the oil would not have the slightest effect on the tide. That would come rolling in as usual.

Price and wage guidelines are a typical oil-on-water exercise, using enough oil - including a generous portion of bear oil - one might smooth out a few waves, temporarily, thus modifying the rise of this or that cork, but all the oil in Saudia Arabia would not smooth out the tide.

The same would be true of mandatory control. Here and there they would modify a price or wage change, but they would have as little effect on inflation as oil on the ocean would have on the gravity of the moon.

Inflation is dillution of the nation's money, as a result of over-production of money units. Each unit, because of its excessive supply, loses value.

The dillution, in turn, is a result of the desire of government functionaries to spend more money than the taxpayers provide.

Congress has again raised the limit to which the national debt may legally climb. This is to accommodate the ever-present desire to spend more dollars than are in the treasury. That more will be created, generating more inflation.

But the Carter administration dislikes having the American people realize that the government itself is causing the inflation, so it spreads the notion that the rising prices constitute the inflation. People conclude that the Arabs are to blame because they have hiked the price of petroleum; the weather is at fault because it did not grow more fodder and consequently farm prices rose; the businessmen especially are responsible because in their greed they have jacked up the prices of manufactured goods.

## Government's Theories

Never is the relation of the money supply to inflation acknowledged by a Washington bureaucrat, seldom by a journalist, and only occasionally - sad to say - by an economist.

The fundamental assumption of the government's theory is that competitive market forces have little or nothing to do with the determination of prices and wages. They believe that firms can set whatever prices they want, and in conjunction with the unions, whatever wages they want. The notion that large firms and unions possess sufficient power to resist competitive market pressure is known to economists as the administrative-price theory.

From the administrative-price theory of price and wage determination, it is but a short step to the cost-push theory of inflation. The government economists have taken this step. In this year's Report of the Council of Economic Advisors, one finds repeated assertions that during the current expansion of the economy, even in 1978, has not yet experienced excessive aggregate demand for its output. Idle plant and labor, it is said, have been able to accommodate increases in the economy's rate of output. Rather than the pressure of excess demand driving up prices, the government economists see cost increases, particularly increased cost of labor, pushing prices up.

The wage-price spiral, the government's accepted view of the basic inflationary process, is complemented by the basic conceptions of two auxiliary theories of inflation: the exogenous shock theory and the self-sustaining expectations theory.

The exogenous shock theory has been especially popular recently. In his economic report to the Congress this year, the President relied on it almost exclusively to explain the recent increases in the rate of inflation: Cold winter weather affected food supplies and prices. Depreciation of the dollar in foreign exchange markets added to prices of imports and to prices of goods produced by U.S. firms that compete with imported products. Cost of land and building materials were driven up by exuberant demands for new homes, and the rise of mortgage interest rates added to the cost of buying a home. At the same time, the accumulative effects of government legislation and regulations over recent years have further impetus to cost pressures. A large part of the worsening of inflation last year, however, stemmed from poor productivity.

Of course, the most frequently sighted exogenous shock of all is the effect of fuel and related prices when the OPEC cartel rises the price of oil. All of these exogenous shocks are thought to be external to the normal functioning of the American economy but additive to its allegedly inherent wage-price spiral. They are seen as unfortunate accidents that make inflation even worse than it would be as a result of the internal wage-price spiral.

Finally, the self-sustaining expectations theory completes the government's overall conception of the inflationary process by suggesting that, once inflation has gone on for awhile, people expect it to continue; and these expectations, all by themselves, can then continue to push up prices year after year.

## In Summary. . . .

Inflation occurs, by definition, when the economy's aggregate volume of money expenditure grows faster than its aggregate real output. The excessive growth of money expenditures can have, again by definition, only two sources: either the velocity of monetary circulation grows excessively or the money stock itself grows excessively (or both). Our current inflation is attributable almost to entirety to excessive growth of the money stock.

Because the excessive growth of the money stock and the inflation it causes do not happen simultaneously, some people always fail to perceive the relationship. Increases in the money stock take some time before the effect on the volume of the expenditure become significant. But once the actual lag is recognized, the relationship is seen to be very close.

In short, inflation is not caused by cost-pushes, wage-price spirals, depreciation of the dollar on foreign exchange market, regulatory constraints, minimum wage laws or lagging productivity growth. Inflation is a purely monetary phenomenon: when the purchasing power of the dollar falls steadily and persistently over many years, it is because dollars have steadily and persistently become more abundant in relation to the total quantity of real goods and services for which they are exchanged. Inflation, in sum, is caused by excessive growth of the money stock. Period.

(Note: This article is based in part on remarks by Mr. Cooley, associate professor of economics emeritus, Ohio Northern University and Robert Higgs, professor of economics, University of Washington.)



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