Michigan Young Farmers Win Titles

Roger Bloss is AFBF "Outstanding Young Farmer"

Michigan Farm Bureau's representative in the national "Outstanding Young Farmers and Ranchers" competition took top honors at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 60th annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida. Roger and Linda Bloss of Swartz Creek received national recognition during ceremonies January 16, along with young farm couples from Illinois and North Dakota. The three couples were picked from a field of 35 applicants from as many states.

Steve Gazdag Named Michigan Jaycees Top Farmer

In the meantime, back in Michigan, Steven Gazdag of Kalamazoo, who serves on the state Young Farmer Committee, was named "Outstanding Young Farmer" by the Jaycees. Gazdag, who operates a 1,000-acre cash crop farm, will represent Michigan in the Jaycees' national contest in Burlington, Vermont February 23-26.

Nominees for the Michigan Jaycees' Outstanding Young Farmer title are judged on the financial progress of the farming operation, soil and water conservation, and the individual's community service. The program is supported by the Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

The national contest is sponsored by John Deere.

Gazdag has been active in the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau as member-to-member citrus sale chairman, Local Affairs Committee chairman, Young Farmer Committee member and serves on the county board of directors. He also serves on his church deacon board, is a member of the Comstock Township Planning Commission and is a 4-H leader.

The young farmer's plans for the future include expanding his small hog operation to around 50 sows and feed out some of his feeder pigs, while maintaining 800 to 1,000 acres in cash crops.

Michigan Farm Bureau's Federation's 60th annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida. Roger and Linda Bloss receive congratulations following announcement of their selection as "Outstanding Young Farmers" at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida.

Steve Gazdag of Kalamazoo has been selected by the Michigan Jaycees as the "Outstanding Young Farmer" for 1979. He will represent Michigan in the national contest in Vermont in February. Steve is shown here as a contestant in the Discussion Meet held at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting last November.

The young dairy farmer, who farms in partnership with his father, presently milks 140 registered Holsteins and raises all his herd replacements from registered young cattle. He is a member of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative and also serves as an officer for Central Genetics, an organization which he helped organize for the purpose of developing high potential bulls into outstanding sires.

Gazdag has served as chairman of the Genesee County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee, as a delegate to the state annual meeting, and attended the Michigan Farm Bureau legislative seminar in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Jaycees, the Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Ag Advisory Committee for the Swartz Creek Community Schools.

The national title provided the young Michigan farm couple with some unusual experiences - an interview with a Libyan journalist, as well as long-distance calls from the news media back home and personal congratulations from AFBF President Allan Grant. (Continued on Page 7)
Delegates at both the Michigan Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation annual meetings listed enactment of national agricultural bargaining legislation as a top priority activity for their organization. They believed strongly that it was essential to the development of net farm incomes.

When such legislation was introduced last year, it had the broad support of not only Farm Bureau, but also the Grange, Farmers Union, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and numerous commodity groups and bargaining associations. With priority status given to the effort by the nation's largest farm organization and with the cooperation of other commodity groups, passage of such legislation would seem a "sure thing." Such assumption, however, could create dangerous apathy and we should be aware of some of the challenges we face so we can be prepared to meet them knowledgeably and effectively.

Here in Michigan, we are fortunate to have the experience of operating under state agricultural marketing and bargaining legislation; we know it is workable and is a feasible approach to giving farmers equity of bargaining and makes sense to date. Our state legislation has been limited to producers of fruits and vegetables, leaving some segments of Michigan agriculture without adequate understanding of how a national farm bargaining act would benefit them. We need to work for their understanding and support.

There are also some farmers to whom the word "bargaining" is synonymous with labor unions and that's enough to "turn them off." We have the challenge of explaining to them that farm bargaining does not threaten our private enterprise system; it makes it work better! Parties sit down with each other; they negotiate the terms and terms of trade, considering supply and demand and market factors, and this creates a competitive enterprise system.

Farm bargaining legislation not only fits our needs as farmers, it also fits our philosophy as Farm Bureau members. It is self-help legislation which would allow farmers to enhance their incomes through the marketplace. This is far preferable to some of the proposals being considered that would make us dependent upon the government! Pat Groggins, publisher of the WESTERN LIVESTOCK REPORTER, presented a very articulate argument against government intervention in the agricultural industry in a recent editorial: "When someone tells you or indicates to you that the way of life you can take better care of than you can you should plant one right on the end of their nose. For us as a free enterprise society to attempt to have a 'controlled' agriculture where we are guaranteed an amount or guaranteed a profit is not a good idea. They have talked about it happening ... and it shouldn't because behind this so-called guarantee, which can only come when the farm comes food control or control of that business. Then, it is no longer a free enterprise and, therefore, the type of guarantees are never very good then. "To attempt to assure people in the cow business in or in the vegetable business in the grain business a guaranteed profit every year is foolishly. That's not what America is about..."

There's another group we must not forget when we are gathering support for national farm bargaining - the consumers. Their immediate reaction to legislation which will eliminate farm incomes may be fear of increased food prices. We must explain to them how very little impact a control of farm incomes in real terms has on the price they pay - that it is labor, taxes, energy and transportation that have the biggest effect on prices - not the raw farm product.

We must tell them that they will benefit from farm bargaining legislation through a stable supply of food - that, simply, low prices discouragement production, profitable prices encourage production. Agricultural bargaining legislation will give the industry stability when in turn will surely benefit consumers.

Last, but not least, we must contact our congressmen, once this legislation is introduced again, and urge them to support and aggressively work toward enactment of the bill. They will be getting pressures from many sides. They will be pressured into "doing something" for the farmer. They will be pressured by taxpayers and the administration to hold the line on spending. Explain to these congressmen that by supporting agricultural bargaining legislation, they'll be doing something to help the farmer help himself - and it won't cost the taxpayers anything.

That's a combination that has to be hard to beat! Elton R. Smith

**Farm Bargaining Legislation: It "Fits"**

Even this hard-nosed defender of the press gets riled by some of the "too many news reporters" comments that make the rounds. It's a member benefit that comes with Farm Bureau's dues.

The organization's most beneficial functions - not only to those groups who take advantage of Farm Bureau's multitude of leadership development opportunities - are the cooperative state or state on nation they serve. It's a member benefit that shouldn't be left off the list during the membership campaign. Have you noticed that once a member has used the organization to build his or her leadership capabilities, you seldom have to remind them to pay their dues?

Speaking of membership... the Farm Bureau in Pennsylvania recently compared the annual dues of other occupation-related organizations (unions and professions) with Farm Bureau's dues. If the list of benefits you already have won't convince a farmer that joining Farm Bureau is a real bargain, perhaps a look at this sampling will help:

- **Doctors** $515
- **Typesetters** $486
- **Printing Press Operators** $479
- **Optometrists** $457
- **Electricians** $462
- **Ironworkers** $471
- ** Plumbers** $404
- **Roofer's** $336
- **Carpenters** $315
- **Auto Workers** $200
- **Local Government Workers** $168
- **Letter Carriers** $120
- **Railway Workers** $110
- **Retail Clerks** $100
- **City Bus Drivers** $100
- **Bakers** $108

I'm also a hard-nosed defender of the Community Group program, but I also get riled by some of the "too many news reporters" comments that come from the groups. For example, one group recently wrote: "We should find some way to limit the press on the amount of news they can publish, like shortage of fuel and hamburger taking a big raise in the prices the public pays."

America is based on the public's right to know. The misuse of political power, crime in the city streets and in the rural communities, upswings and downturns in the economy - could be classed as "bad news" - but these things affect people's daily lives and they have a right to know so they can do something constructive about them. And we should remind communities where the press is controlled, most of the news is good - but the way of living is sometimes killing our country.

An alert, inquiring, articulate press is the dictator's nightmare; it is a free people's salvation. I hope that Community Group will consider that truth. I hope, too, that they realize for every one reporter who seems dedicated to so-called sensationalism, there are thousands of other hard-working, dedicated journalists whose goals are right wrongs and make their communities better places to live.

If that's "killing our country," then I am one of those "too many news reporters" who would clean up the junk work in a controlled press.

**DONNA**

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

The Michigan FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the 1st day of each month, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division Publication and Editorial offices at 1737 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48922. Second-class postage paid at Lansing, MI. and at additional mailing offices.

*From the Desk of the President*

**FARM NEWS**

Planning to move? Let us know eight weeks in advance so you won't miss a single issue of the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS. Address change and print new address in space provided. Mail to MICHIGAN FARM NEWS, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909.
Dr. Edgar Harden, president of Michigan State University, was honored January 10 by the Michigan Agricultural Conference for his distinguished service to agriculture and the people of Michigan. The MSU president received a standing ovation from the nearly 1,000 farmers, agricultural leaders, agri-business representatives and legislators attending the 31st Michigan Agricultural Conference legislative dinner at Kellogg Center, East Lansing.

In presenting the award, Frank Merriman, past president of the MAC and former MSU trustee, said farmers are pleased that Dr. Harden has "been able to regain a sense of direction for Michigan State University" and expressed the hope that the board would appoint a successor who would "build on the foundation he has built."

"Michigan State University is the only university that sees us in agriculture can look to for assistance in producing the food and fibre our citizens need," said Merriman. He said Harden's ability to work with the governor and the Legislature to gain funds for agricultural research has been "highly appreciated by the farming community."

In accepting the award, Dr. Harden said, "I accept this in the knowledge that I had the greatest teacher ever at Michigan State University - John Hannah - and I share with him what it represents."

Governor William G. Milliken introduced the new director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Dean Pridgeon, who was recently appointed to succeed retiring B. Dale Ball.

The Michigan Agricultural Conference legislative dinner is an annual affair, coinciding with the opening of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the governor's address to the Legislature and features 'lot bags' of Michigan agricultural products. The MAC is a federation of agriculturally-oriented groups (including Michigan Farm Bureau). It serves as a sounding board and advisory association, especially in regard to the Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

The agricultural industry will pay tribute to B. Dale Ball, recently-retired director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, on March 15 at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Farmers and agricultural leaders from throughout the state and nation are expected to be on hand to pay tribute to Ball for his many years of service to Michigan agriculture. A limited amount of tickets are available for the event at a charge of $10 per person, which will include dinner and a contribution toward a gift. A hospitality hour, with cash bar, will begin at 5 p.m. and dinner served at 7 p.m., followed by a brief program.

Use the form below to make your reservations. Make checks payable to the Michigan Agricultural Conference. Reservations will be taken on a "first come-first served" basis. Reservations must be received by March 1.

Send to: Michigan Agricultural Conference 921 N. Washington Lansing, Michigan 48903

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Gateways to World Markets

FBS Joins Farmers Export Company

By Paula Mohr

Foreign marketing doors will be opening for Michigan-produced grains with Farm Bureau Services, Inc., announcing membership in Farmers Export Company (FEC), a rapidly expanding marketing cooperative located in Overland Park, Kansas. The announcement was made by Elton R. Smith, president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., and James A. Layton, president and chief executive officer of FEC.

In addition, the FEC has recently finished negotiations for their first East Coast grain terminal in Philadelphia, equipped with ocean-export facilities. The export company also has terminals located in Alma, Louisiana and Galveston, Texas. The three terminals will push total annual shipping capacity to 560 million bushels.

For Michigan grain exporters, this integration into world markets will increase grain sales, encourage competitive farm prices and increase farm investment values, said Donn Kunz, manager of the Grain Department of Michigan Elevator Exchange, a division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

When farm producers first began marketing their produce nation-wide, they soon learned the middlemen who transported and sold their goods were interested in personal profits, and not in seeking true crop values. This spurred farmers to band together, forming cooperatives. But when foreign exporting markets opened, similar obstacles were encountered: only big corporations operated facilities for overseas trade. Individual cooperatives lacked financial strength to compete with these corporate giants.

This time, cooperatives united and pooled their resources, and in 1966, the Farmers Export Company was born, opening doors for direct producer grain exports.

This brings Michigan grain producers into the picture.

"The Michigan Elevator Exchange is always trying to find better markets and prices for grain producers," Kunz said. "By consolidating with other states, it is possible to penetrate and directly export grain to world markets." With facilities offered coast to coast, world buyers will be able to purchase the quantity and quality of grain desired, he pointed out.

The FEC realized the importance of an efficient East Coast ocean-loading facility for the Midwestern states of Michigan and Ohio and agreed to arrange for the three-million bushel terminal, which is currently being renovated, he said.

The major U.S. agricultural marketing cooperative includes two other new members, Landmark of Ohio and Ohio Farmers Grain Corporation. The twelve-member co-op forecasts bulk grain shipments to the new Pennsylvania terminal to originate from Ohio and Michigan.

Other members include Far-Mar-Co., Inc. of Kansas, Farmers Grain Dealers Associated of Minnesota, Illinois Grain Corporation, Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, Inc., Kansas City Terminal Elevator Company, Mississippi Federated Cooperatives, St. Louis (Missouri) Grain Corporation and Missouri Farmers Association.

Elton R. Smith and Edward R. Powell, vice presidents of Michigan Elevator Exchange Division, Farm Bureau Services, were appointed FEC board directors.

Expansion of Mid-States Adds Market Power

Fall of 79 Target
Date for Completion

Adding to the marketing power of Michigan grain producers will be expansion of Mid-States Grain Terminal at Toledo, Ohio. Already the largest grain-loading facility on the Maumee River at the Port of Toledo, the terminal is owned jointly by Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Landmark of Ohio, Ohio Farmers Grain Cooperative and Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association.

The expansion calls for nearly doubling its storage capacity and will allow for two boats to load simultaneously instead of the one it can currently handle.

This will be the fifth expansion of the terminal since its acquisition in 1959, the same time as the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. These constant expansions have been warranted by grain movement increases over the years, explained Edward R. Powell, vice president of Mid-State Elevator Exchange, a division of Farm Bureau Services. Boat loadings for 1978 were 109, setting a new record. Total export sales, exceeding $250 million in 1978, also set new records.

The current expansion plans call for 32 additional storage tanks, bringing total capacity to nine million bushels; one additional boat-loading facility; six high-speed truck unloading dumpers and improved railroad car hauling. It is expected that grain trucks can be unloaded in less than four minutes. The target date for completion is fall of 1979.

Mid-States shipped more than 22 million bushels of soybeans last year, making it the largest exporter of that commodity on the Great Lakes. The elevator operation also shipped more than five million bushels of wheat and 25 million bushels of corn.
Open to Michigan Farmers

Latest Market Penetration Allows Co-ops to Make Competition--Not Just Meet it

Membership by Farm Bureau Services, Inc. in the Farmers Export Company is the latest in a continuing series of efforts by farmer cooperatives to penetrate various levels of the grain marketing system.

There was a time when the only place farmers could sell their grain was to local, privately-owned elevators. There was no expanded marketing system and therefore farmers had to take what they could get for their product. So they pooled their capital and built or bought their own facilities. Soon there were farmer-owned grain elevators in nearly every county.

As the years went by, earnings were plowed back into better services and facilities and the net worth of the local co-op grew. The farmer who patronized his co-op ended up with his money back in a shared ownership worth many times his original investment.

Despite these local cooperatives' efforts to keep abreast of farmers' needs, the farmer modernized faster than the country elevators, demanding services and facilities the locals could not supply fast enough. Michigan Elevator Exchange had entered the picture by this time, acting as the farmers' marketing agent. MEE improved marketing techniques, found new buyers and gathered enough capital to expand its marketing clout.

Grain terminals at Ottawa Lake, Saginaw and Marysville, and the Quincy Flour Mill became a part of MEE's marketing system, serving over 100 country elevators in Michigan.

Despite this continuing, aggressive expansion program, MEE still faced the problem of having to sell its grain to five international grain companies whose major interest was not a good return for farmers. So, farmers, through MEE, decided to tackle the next penetration through consolidation. Two co-ops in Ohio, one in Indiana, and Michigan Elevator Exchange, purchased the Mid-States Terminal at Toledo, providing direct access to world markets via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

This latest step gives MEE's total storage capacity to 17.5 million bushels, enabling it to become Michigan's largest handler of grain and beans.

Still faced with the inability to compete with the major international grain companies which have very wealthy backing, farmer cooperatives took yet another step toward penetration of world markets -- formation of Farmers Export Company, owned by 12 major agricultural regional co-ops with ocean-loading facilities in Louisiana, Texas and Philadelphia.

This latest step gives Michigan farmers an entry into the world markets which will enhance their ownership, give increased value back to farmers in the form of patronage refunds, or investment of earnings into even greater penetration of world markets -- all of which serves to elevate farm prices.

Most important, it puts farmer cooperatives in the position of MAKING competition -- not just meeting it.

Expanded Market System

Topic at "Open Line"

Gasohol Also on Agenda

Farm Bureau Services' expanded grain marketing "muscle" will be reviewed during a series of "Open Line" meetings in February, according to Executive Vice President Donald R. Armstrong.

Meetings are scheduled for February 13 at McGuire's in Cadillac, February 20 at Countryside Inn, east of Battle Creek, and February 23 at Zehnders, Frankenmuth. Coffee and rolls will be served at 9:00 a.m., with each meeting starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. A complimentary "farmers' luncheon" will be served at noon and adjournment is set for 3:30 p.m.

Also on the agenda will be a discussion on energy and the economics of gasohol, presented by Professor Bill Stout of Michigan State University's Agricultural Engineering Department.

All Farm Bureau members are invited to attend the "Open Line" meetings in their area. (See advertisement in this issue.)
**Michigan is Well-Represented**

**MFB'S Rural Crime Program Reviewed**

The president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, John Junior Armstrong, urged county Farm Bureau leaders to get "vocal on the local" and have more impact on local governmental affairs. Armstrong presided over the local governmental affairs conference held at the 60th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Miami Beach. "Farm Bureau members are concerned about the need for more involvement in local governmental affairs. We must get our message across to local governments," Armstrong said. "And the leadership must come from local county Farm Bureaus."

He said the state Farm Bureau must work at the state level; the American Farm Bureau must work at the national level; and the county Farm Bureau must become more active at the local level of government.

"Farmers and ranchers can no longer sit by without inputting into local governmental affairs," Armstrong said.

Ken Cheatham, director of local governmental affairs for AFBF, told the conference participants that becoming more active in local government is a good way for a county Farm Bureau to provide more direct service for members at the county level.

"Can you sell a Farm Bureau membership based on what your county is now doing?" Cheatham asked.

"Farm Bureau is opposed to the centralization of the federal government but for the last decade we in Farm Bureau have been guilty of becoming more centralized. We must return emphasis to the county level. We must identify our county Farm Bureau as a problem solving organization at that level of government," Cheatham added.

Ron Nelson, who heads Michigan Farm Bureau’s Local Affairs program, took part in a panel discussion on "Successful Programs and How They Work," and reported on Michigan’s successful Rural Crime Prevention program.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Allan Grant plainly outlined the challenges to agriculture and the U.S. economy in his remarks before the Farm Bureau Women’s delegates and members January 16 at the AFBF Women’s Conference in Miami Beach.

Grant warned "... the concerns we face are such things as the continually rising national debt, the cheapening of our dollar through deficit financing, growing consumer and environmentalist pressures and the future apportionment of Congress."

He also told the women that 1979 would be a crucial year for the Carter administration, farmers and ranchers and the Farm Bureau. Carter is beginning to learn to work with the Congress, Grant said. "He (Carter) is getting set for the 1980 presidential election and he has some outstanding political debts to pay, particularly to organized labor," he advised.

In a brief outline of political education and communications activities for the year ahead, Grant urged the women to work with other farm and non-farm groups to oppose national health insurance, and to share the farmers’ viewpoint regarding nutrition programs, world hunger and the inflationary impact of unchecked government spending.

A total of 229 voting delegates attended the AFBF Women’s Conference in Miami Beach. Representing the Michigan Farm Bureau Women were Mrs. Vivian Lott, Ingham County; Mrs. Claudine Jackson, Livingston; Mrs. Kay Wagner, "Northwest Michigan."
Announcement of their award came as a “complete surprise” to the Blosses, who looked upon their trip to Miami Beach as an opportunity to talk with other farmers from throughout the nation and to see their organization in action at the national level.

Before the afterglow of sudden fame had faded, the young farm couple was already making plans to go home and continue their farming business. “After all,” they said, “our goal was not winning a national title. Our goal was a good farming operation.” And a successful farming operation that commands national recognition needs the attention of those who made it successful.

Candidates for the “Outstanding Young Farmers and Ranchers” title are judged on farming management abilities and the amount of progress made in the farm operation from the point at which the individual started farming. Consideration is also given to the applicants’ demonstrated leadership abilities, both in Farm Bureau and in their local community.

The couples sharing the title with the Blosses are Steven and Pamela Wentworth of Oregon, Illinois, and David and Karen Hager of Emerado, North Dakota.

RONALD REAGAN

“Government is Not Answer”

Ronald Reagan addressed the general session of the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 60th annual meeting and called for a restoration of the balance between the levels of government, one of the great issues of our time.

The former California governor said it is time for Washington to turn back to the state and local governments “the programs which it has usurped and which it is inadequate to administer.”

He cited massive federal welfare programs as an example, then warned that federal aid to education has now turned into federal control of education.

He told the 7,500 Farm Bureau members that “government is not the answer. It is the problem.” He said the bureaucracy, which he characterized as “permanent employees of the government,” actually makes more decisions about our daily lives than our elected representatives.

Reagan said government “now costs the average family more than food, housing and clothing all put together,” and he pointed out that various governmental bodies take 44 cents out of every dollar earned by Americans... which prices out to $9,000 for every family in the country.

“Inflation,” he said, “has one cause, and it isn’t prices and wages. It is caused by government spending more than government takes in.”

ALAN GRANT

Condemns National Health Care Plans

American Farm Bureau President Allan Grant condemned nationalized health care plans, called for constitutionally imposed spending limitations and urged deregulation of the transportation industry.

“Now costs the average family of this country suffer from a tremendous gap in health care which only the government can bridge is a political fraud,” Grant said.

The opportunity for waste and outright fraud within a national system of compulsory health care would surely produce scandals to make those of Medicaid and Medicare seem mild by comparison,” he said.

In calling for spending limitations, Grant labeled them “a force to be reckoned with and an idea whose time has come.”

Grant suggested that the best way to accomplish spending limitation goals would be by an amendment to the Constitution. “Limiting the spending authority of Congress to a realistic percentage of the national product.”

The amendment should be initiated by Congress, ratified by the states and contain a clear-cut commitment for the orderly reduction of the national debt, he added.

Charging that railroad, airline, bus and trucking industries have been severely damaged by excessive, long-time regulation, Grant said, “The best thing that could happen to the entire transportation industry would be to allow competition back in by turning the government out.”

ROBERT STRAUSS

Reports on Trade Talk

The administration’s trade package was described as “a real step forward, instead of backward, and no closing of markets or erection of more trade barriers,” by Robert Strauss, the President’s special representative for trade negotiations, who addressed delegates at the AFBF annual meeting.

Ambassador Strauss said we stand at a time of “unusual peril and unusual prospect for improvement of our international trading system.” He warned that “pressures to close borders here as well as abroad have never been so strong.”
Farmer Cooperative Growth Threatened

By Paula Mohr

Farmers may be facing legislation this year designed to limit cooperative mergers and cooperative marketing agencies in competition for agricultural crops.

The Consumer, Food and Home Economics Committee, which recently held hearings on antitrust laws and procedures, has specified the three following recommendations:

1) Although organization of agricultural cooperatives is favored, criteria for judging the antitrust treatment, with regard to mergers and marketing agents in common, should be the same as if it is for other companies (this means limited cooperative mergers and limited sales volume of cooperative members).

2) The office of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which is responsible for enforcing antitrust regulations, should be separate from the office responsible for enforcing antitrust regulations. The USDA presently promotes and enforces its antitrust regulations. The commission has also requested that the statement "undue price enhancement," in the Cooper-Volstead Act be defined more clearly.

Host Families Needed for Scandinavians

American host families are being sought for 500 Scandinavian high school students from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland, for the 1979-80 school year, in a program sponsored by the American Scandinavian Student Exchange (ASSE).

The ASSE is also seeking American students, age 16-18, who would like to spend a high school year with a Scandinavian family or participate in a five-week family stay in the summer of 1979.

The Scandinavian students, age 16 and 17, will arrive in the U.S. in late August, 1979, attend the local high school, and return home in late June, 1980. The students, all fluent in English, have been screened by their school representatives in Scandinavia and have pocket money and medical insurance.

Persons or families interested in either of these programs should contact Beth Beeker, 1136 N. Miller Rd., Saginaw, Michigan 48603. Telephone (517) 781-0323. Letters should contain the writer's phone number.

Retha Hankey Appointed Beef Commission V. P.

The Michigan Beef Industry Commission has announced the appointment of Miss Retha Hankey of Lansing as executive vice president of its nine-member council. Hankey, the first woman to head a Michigan commodity organization, succeeds Richard Posthumus of Lowell, who has served as executive vice president since the commission was created in 1972.

Posthumus has been appointed by the Minority Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, William Bryant, Jr., to be the director of Program Development and Legislative Research for the House Republicans.

Hankey, who served as Consumer Information specialist for the commission, will continue her role in consumer services until a new specialist is appointed, while also undertaking administrative and legislative duties.

With her strong background in consumer education, and established contacts in the area, Hankey said she is looking forward to the challenges her new position will bring in beef promotion.

"I am very pleased with the commission's continuing program to build a positive image of the beef industry," she said. "I look forward to continuing promotional work and to developing new ideas to assure producer support."

She said the commission continues to build a positive program in the consumer information area by reaching consumers through print and broadcast media. The commission bases its information on well-founded, documented research, she said.

Strong promotional activities will also continue in retail marketing, she said, adding she would like to increase beef promotion in food service areas.

Beef Producers Referendum Set

Michigan beef producers will be given the opportunity to vote on whether the Michigan Beef Industry Commission (MBIC) should continue to operate promotional, informational, and research activities for its producers.

The council was created in 1972 as a result of beef producers. It is required by law that a referendum be held after the first five full calendar years of operation, to assure producer support.

Any individual who sold cattle in the 1978 calendar year and in turn, paid an MBIC assessment, can vote.

Ballots will be made available by mail to Michigan beef and dairy producers. They will also be available through livestock marketing agencies, local cooperative Extension offices, and by request from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Beef Industry Commission.

Ballots will be available in late February and early March. They must be mailed to the Michigan Department of Agriculture by March 15, 1979.

DALE A. DEAN'S
1) Auctions Unlimited (R)
2) Selling Holstein Dairy Cattle
3) Farm Machinery and Farm Real Estate
4) Top Dollar at Auction
5) Anywhere in Michigan
6) Phone 517-279-9748
7) Coldwater, Michigan

For 52 years Dale has proven he knows the way to do it better!! Phone or write for free appraisal or List your farm with Dean's P.O. Dale A. Dean, President
Crop Reporting Service Changes Name

Michigan Crop Reporting service has changed its name to Michigan Agricultural Reporting service, effective January 1, according to Dr. Ralph Morrow, Michigan Department of Agriculture deputy director, Bureau of Agriculture Development.

"The change was made to better associate the livestock industry and to include economic activity, which is a significant part of our total agricultural data service," explained Dr. Morrow.

Don Fedewa, statistician-in-charge of the reporting service, reported that, since development in 1917 of the original state-federal cooperative agreement for a reporting service, the division has become involved in many reporting activities. "Our primary concern is that the title more accurately and completely describes the entire state and county agricultural data base," Fedewa said.

"However, the title has been used since 1919 and crop reporting service has been in existence for over 100 years, so we don't expect the new name will be instantly recognized and used." In addition to the name change, Michigan Agricultural Reporting service will be publishing a consolidated statistical release twice a month instead of the average 12 single sheet releases now issued.

"Our consolidated statistical releases will have compiled data, with more information interpreting charts and graphs. We will minimize tabular materials except in annual reports," Fedewa explained. "We will be going to the electronic media for its time value, doing more radio broadcasts to try to get information to farmers faster," he added.

Dr. Hoefer
Appointed

Gov. William G. Milliken has announced the appointment of Dr. Jacob A. Hoefer, assistant dean of two colleges at Michigan State University (MSU), to the Natural Resources Commission. He replaces Dean Pridgion who resigned to become director of the Department of Agriculture.

Milliken also announced the reappointments of E. M. (Matt) Laitala of Hancock and Charles G. Younglove of Trenton to the commission.

Hoefer, 63, is assistant dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, assistant dean of the College of Natural Science, associate director of the Agriculture Experimental Station, director of the Kellogg Biological Station and professor of animal husbandry.

The governor said, "Dr. Hoefer is ideally qualified to serve on this commission which has been taking on increasingly complex environmental responsibilities. He has an outstanding background in agricultural and environmental research. He brings a new dimension as well as a broad outlook and understanding of the interdependence of various outlooks of our environment."

"Having been born and reared on a farm, and being a leader in agricultural research and education, he is well-suited to help the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) relate to Michigan agriculture," Milliken said.

"And as a leader in the development of many natural science and natural resources programs, he will bring to the commission a new perspective on many aspects of ecology and environmental protection."

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Open Line

Open Line Meeting Looks at Farming in '79

Be more productive; and get the most up-to-date information on the 1979 growing and marketing seasons. Join the Farm Bureau folks at the 1979 Open Line meetings. The meetings are free with a complimentary lunch served. Spend the day learning useful information that could help you in the coming year. Farm Bureau's new direct world-wide grain marketing... the expansion of the Mid-State terminal in Toledo... rising fuel cost and what's being done about it... and a lot more.

Agricultural leaders... Co-op presidents, Board Members, leaders in farm supply and County Farm Bureau members... are encouraged to attend these meetings and pass along the information to their local farm groups.

All Open Line sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Come at 9:00 and enjoy coffee and doughnuts. Find out what the 1979 outlook is for you and your farm... from the Farm Bureau people.
Ground Beef Popularity Grows Despite Price Increase

By Jack Anderson

Economics contributed earlier in the rise in ground beef popularity. Recently, however, ground beef has continued to increase in price and, during this same time, it has continued to increase in popularity. This trend is not common with steaks and roast. The patrons of three leading hamburger chains are consuming the equivalent of two million head-plus of cattle each year and the figure is continuing to increase.

It is predicted that the popularity of ground meat will continue. Consumers have reacted positively to buying proportionately more of this nutritious and convenient meat and there is no indication that we will see a turnaround in the amount of ground meat being consumed by the U.S. population. Per capita consumption of ground meat is definitely on the increase, due in part at least to the rapid growth of our food service industry, especially the fast food outlets. Approximately 14 percent of the consumer's food budget is spent on ground meat. In addition, as consumers' incomes increase, per capita ground meat consumption trends upward, in addition to the exception of the very highest income groups.

It is estimated that 40 to 45 percent of our beef supply reaches the consumer in a ground form, as either cooked and/or served in a variety of fast food outlets. As one of the exception to the very highest income groups.

(Continued on Page 11)
Cattlemen Get Views on Consumer Attitudes

National Paranoia is Big Business

Consumers and cattlemen can at least agree on one issue: good nutrition, said Charles E. Ball, executive vice president of the Texas Cattle Feeders' Association, at the Michigan Cattlemen's Association Thirteenth Annual Convention and Trade Show January 19 at Long's Convention in Lansing.

But from there, issues on beef prices, food additives and meat's nutritional value divide the two groups.

"Consumer movements with their regulations and government interventions are alarming the meat industry," said Ball.

He proposed working with consumer groups on nutritional research and education programs to inform the public about the nutritional values of beef.

"We must be objective and aggressive in giving information to the consumer," he added.

"We learned what a minority can accomplish when we stick together against opposition," he said, in reference to his own state's organization, and urged Michigan cattlemen to vote for the Michigan Beef Industry Commission in the upcoming March referendum.

National paranoia is big business, Barbara Keating, president of Consumer Alert, told the beef producers and pointed out that $500 is paid annually per person for consumer-oriented regulations enacted by Congress.

The consumer advocate urged the reversal of growing government intervention and regulations.

"In 1977 alone, Congress enacted 223 laws to protect us against ourselves," Keating said. "It makes you wonder how we've come this far."

"Consumers want to see their choices expanded, not dictated by government," she said, and emphasized the need for further consumer education groups.

Ground Beef Popular

(Continued from Page 10) sausage or ground beef, sold by retailers or by the food service industry.

IMPLICATIONS TO BEEF PRODUCERS

The trend towards greater usage of ground meat indicates that we should be taking a look at some possible new directions in terms of production and marketing practices. These might include the feeding of greater numbers of bulls rather than steers or heifers and changing the genetic type being fed through feedlot situations.

This all adds up to one thing: the need to make changes. Basically, it indicates that producers and feeders individually and through their organizations need to develop close working relationships with packers and all others in the meat chain so the problems and needs of the industry can be understood by all. Through the combined efforts of all the industry, we can work toward what the consumer is demanding, knowing what is wanted is fundamental to good marketing. No successful big producer for consumer market today produces anything until he has researched the market and learned what is needed and wanted.

Jack H. Anderson
Commodity Specialist
Commodity Activities and Research Division

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan on Wednesday, February 28, 1979, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1979
W.S. WILKINSON
Elton Smith
Secretary
President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Tuesday February 27, 1979, beginning at 1:30 p.m., and for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1979
W.S. WILKINSON
ELTON R. SMITH
Secretary
President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
COMMUNITY SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Community Service Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, February 28, 1979, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1979
W.S. WILKINSON
Elton R. Smith
Secretary
President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.
THE NO-SHORTCUT ATRAZINE

There are a lot of ways to make atrazine. But only one way to make the AAtrex® brand.

Because AAtrex is the no-shortcut atrazine. No shortcuts in testing. No shortcuts in quality control.

No shortcuts. It's what makes AAtrex the premium quality brand of atrazine. So, AAtrex mixes fast, sprays uniformly and gives you dependable weed control.

Remember this when you order your atrazine.

AAtrex. The no-shortcut atrazine.

Ciba-Geigy, Ag. Div., P.O. Box 11422, Greensboro, NC, 27409
Governor Delivers State of the State

On January 19, 1979, Michigan's Legislature convened for the 80th session. The Legislature continues to be dominated by Democratic freshmen. In the House of Representatives there are 70 Democrats and 40 Republicans; 15 new seats are needed to pass a bill. In the Senate there are 24 Democrats and 14 Republicans; seven new seats are needed to pass a bill. Because of this majority, Republicans will have their representatives serve on important committees.

For example, the House Appropriations Committee (the most powerful) will have 13 Democrats and five Republicans, the Taxation Committee, 11 Democrats and 13 Republicans, and the Appropriations Committee, nine Democrats and five Republicans.

STATE OF THE STATE - Governor Milliken delivered his 11th annual State of the State address on Thursday, January 11. The total address is in a 76-page booklet in small print with over 150 recommendations either for legislation, study, or departmental action. He pointed out that this year, due to the Constitutional Amendment passed in November, the Legislature must work within limitations on taxes and on spending. He said that the state is now in an "age of limits" but it need not be an "age without hope." He said that Michigan is recognized nationally for many achievements including an equitable tax structure with the nation's largest property tax rebate system; environmental clean-up; educational finance changes, revenue sharing with local government, etc., but that much remains to be done. He said that it was his observation that the "flow of power in recent years has been to the states and away from the federal government." The address was in 16 broad categories including:

- AGRICULTURE - It is requested the Department of Agriculture together with the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Management Services evaluate the current state programs that are designed to preserve agricultural land. He pointed out that the state has passed developmental rights for threatened agricultural land and that the state is responsible for development programs for teachers and administrators. He also suggested financial incentives for rural school districts to consolidate. He quoted H.G. Wells by saying that "civilization is a race between education and catastrophe."

- TAXATION - He said that he would not ask for any increase in taxes unless he would ask for any lowering of taxes, however, it is possible to make the tax system more equitable. The state surplus this year will be $2 billion. He will again urge passage of a proposal to permit local voters the option to switch a portion of their local school support from the property tax to the income tax. When recommended last year, the proposal required that property taxes be cut by 22 mills if the State Fair to the income tax is voted. He further recommended that residential property tax payers be permitted to make tax payments in six monthly installments and that the number of assessing districts should be reduced. He also urged that the numerous recommendations of the Task Force on Property Tax Revision study of two years ago be considered and carried out. He further recommended that government pensions be taxed the same as private pensions as a matter of equity. He said that out-of-state truckers should be taxed on the number of miles driven within Michigan the same as in many other states and that referred to Michigani's problems with Michigan companies engaged in interstate hauling for mileage traveled outside the state. The Budget Stabilization Fund that was created a year or two ago and the importance of having money in hand for a "rainy day."

Cushingberry to Head House AG Committee

George Cushingberry, Jr. (D-Detroit), newly appointed chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, is the youngest man in history ever to be elected to the House of Representatives. He is serving his 3rd term.

His education includes graduating from Cass Technical High School and attending Wayne State University. He has won innumerable awards ranging from a Cadet Lt. Colonel in the Junior ROTC Program to the Outstanding Young Man of the Year Award by the Jaycees. He is a party leader and has served on several other House committees including Taxation.

Other Democratic members on the House Agriculture Committee are Rep. Dodak, Alley, Dowdyville and Trimm, Republicans are Reps. Hoffman, Kennedy, Nick Smith and Van Singel.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs has not yet been appointed. As in previous years, the chairman is expected to be from the metropolitan area, Smith predicted.
Farmers in 10 Michigan counties may apply for emergency loans through the Farmers Home Administration to cover losses caused by adverse weather. Robert L. Mitchell, state director, announced today that loan applications may be received in the Farmers Home Administration County Offices for the following counties:

GLADWIN - Drought 6/1 - 9-15-78
HURON - Drought 6/1 - 9-15-78
ALCONA - Drought 6/1 - 9-15-78
OSCOSA - Drought 6/1 - 9-15-78
JACKSON - Drought 6/1 - 9-15-78
OTTAWA - Excessive rainfall 8/15 - 9-30-78
MARQUETTE - Excessive rainfall 8/15 - 9-30-78
MUSKEGON - Excessive rainfall 8/25 - 8/31. Excessive rainfall 8/16 - 9-30-78
CHIPPENWA - Excessive rainfall 8/15 - 9-30-78

Farmers Home Administration Emergency Loans are available to help farmers to re-establish farming operations, and pay operating expenses. Loans based on actual losses are repayable in their entirety with three percent interest if incurred before October 1, 1978, and five percent interest if incurred after October 1, 1978. Additional loans are available at higher rates for restoration of land that has been lost and for re-establishment of farm production. All loan applicants must be unable to get sufficient credit from commercial sources.

Applications for emergency loan assistance are filed in the FHA County Office. Check the local telephone directory listing under U.S. Government. Applications for physical losses are authorized until September 28, 1979, and for production losses until December 31, 1979.

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A Day in the Life
of a Regional Representative

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MARCIA DITCHIE

Like all of Michigan, the Thumb Region is the aftermath of the Ice Age from the southward movement of glaciers nearly one million years ago. As a result, today the Thumb is part of the fourth richest farming area in the world.

Agriculture in the region centers around dairy, with Sanilac County hailed as the number one dairy county in the state. Other prominent commodities are beef and grain.

The region, which also includes the counties of Huron, Tuscola, Lapeer and St. Clair, claims the largest number of Farm Bureau members.

The Thumb area is different than much of Michigan in that there are not many major cities in the region. Agriculture is the major industry and everything is hinged on its success. Kevin Kirk, who served as regional representative for two and a half years before transferring to the state office last September, talked about how the success of agriculture in the Thumb is attributed to the positive attitude the people in the region have for their occupation.

"They just seem to have a good positive attitude because agriculture has always been their lifeblood. You see a lot of family farm operations in the Thumb generation after generation remaining in agriculture. They're geared to the soil."

Farm Bureau plays a key role in the lives of the people and Kirk explained why Farm Bureau activities have been so successful. "The Thumb's success in past years has been mainly due to the number of people involved. They are unique in involving many people in their activities and they do it with the idea that it's a family participation, and that's where we go back to Farm Bureau being a family organization."

From his experiences working in the region, Kirk expressed his impressions of the people. "The people are very friendly and easy to work with. In the Thumb, farmers are very happy with what they're doing. I really enjoyed working with the Thumb Region."

One of the success stories in the region was the special five dollar dues assessment on the membership in Sanilac County for renovation of the county office. Membership dues in the county were, therefore, $40 for 1978, the highest in the state in history, and the county still achieved 1978 membership goal.

Wayne Wood, Sanilac County president, explained why the county decided on the special dues assessment. "The county board of directors had discussed for many years the possibility of remodeling the county office and prior to the 1977 county annual meeting had discussed several ways to finance it. They decided the best way would be with a five dollar dues assessment for one year only. At the county annual meeting this resolution was presented and passed by the members of the county and was assessed on the membership for 1978. We now have the building remodeled and paid for with no borrowed funds."

Another of the success stories in the region has been the District 6 Women's Rallies. (District 6 includes all of the counties in the region plus Macomb County.) Faye Adam, District 6 Women's chairman and first vice chairman of the State Women's Committee, explained why their rallies have been so successful in recent years and why more than 400 women attended the 1978 Spring Rally. "We used to have a spring and fall rally with small attendance, so the District Council decided to have just one rally a year and we chose Spring and focused our intention on involvement and a better quality program."

Plans for the 1979 Spring Rally began last October and Faye explains their procedure. "Plans for our April Spring Rally started in October and we meet approximately once a month, with at least two officers from each county and the district officers comprising the committee. We encourage two different people from the counties to be on this committee each year and we try to get two different age ranges to order to stimulate interest. We have a challenge each year from now on to try to improve our rally from the previous year," stated Faye.

Membership in Farm Bureau not only fulfills a specific interest, but also provides a unity for farmers as Lorry Domagalski, St. Clair County, relates. "I started in Farm Bureau because I liked the political education angle, but then once I became involved, I found out that wasn't the only thing they had. I feel that you're a lot stronger if you're united with people that have the same interests you have and the same problems and this is where Farm Bureau helps a lot," stated Lorry.

Farm Bureau's policy development process has proved to be a mechanism through which farmers have found the unity they need in helping to solve many of their problems. Elwood Kirkpatrick, Huron County president and District 6 representative on the 1978 state Policy Development Committee, talked about the process.

"I'm impressed with the process," he said. "I think it's the only way it can work in a farm organization. We had quite a campaign last year in Huron County to get good county resolutions of interest and concern to the members in the county. But, what I feel is a true reason for Farm Bureau, is commodity pricing and last year we had a county resolution for Farm Bureau to study ways of benefiting the farmer price-wise."

In addition to working with fellow farmers who have similar interests and problems, reaching the urban audience has always been a concern, and St. Clair County's Carol and Dick Lauwers have been bridging that gap. During 1978 the Lauwers recorded a monthly tape that was aired over radio on Detroit's WJR 'Point of View.' Stated Carol, "We are getting an agricultural point (Continued on Page 21)
By Paula Mohr

Michigan’s “bottle bill” might make people think twice before feeding road- sides with returnable beer and soft drink bottles. But what about those thin aluminum cans and glass containers and cans already devaluing the countryside?

Don’t worry. The organization responsible for the “bottle bill,” the Michigan United Conservation Club, is scheduling April 14-May 14 to be “Operation Cleansweep,” the state’s largest litter clean-up.

According to MUCC executive director, L. Washington, Michigan residents and tourists will not have to wait hundreds and millions of bottles to disappear from their own fields and yards litter-free, since inconsiderate individuals sometimes use fields and ditches as “convenient” dumping grounds, said Nelson.

“Operation Cleansweep is a good opportunity for farmers to continue such aesthetic practices,” he said.

If community groups would like to become a part of Clean sweep, an organizer kit is available. The kit contains tips on how to organize litter pickup points, coordinate publicity and promote safety considerations. Volunteers would also work with local governments, especially in need of cleanup and to ensure that the numerous groups do not duplicate efforts, to keep trash out of roads and waterways.

This cleanup is the perfect opportunity for those who supported the bottle bill in 1976 to pitch in so we can see immediate results from the bottle bill,” he said.

A state-wide coordinating committee has been planning since July for Operation Cleansweep. Members of the committee include Mrs. William Milliken, and representatives from Michigan Farm Bureau, United Auto Workers, 4-H Youth Programs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Jaycees, Michigan Agricultural Education Association, County Road Association of Michigan and the Michigan Nemicon.

Promotion materials, trash bags and organizational kits will be provided by Operation Cleansweep for participating groups.

“We would like to encourage Farm Bureau members to work as community groups and clean up their own property,” said Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau representative.

Farmers have always been responsible for keeping their own fields and yards litter-free, since inconsiderate individuals sometimes use fields and ditches as “convenient” dumping grounds, said Nelson.

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If community groups would like to become a part of Operation Cleansweep, an organizer kit is available. The kit contains tips on how to organize litter pickup points, coordinate publicity and promote safety considerations.

“It’s a good way to promote conservation and environmental awareness,” said Nelson.

Monies collected from the recycled goods will help defray the $70,000 cost of Operation Cleansweep. Or, if groups transport and recycle their own litter, they can keep the funds, said Nelson.

Don’t worry. The “bottle bill” sponsored the bottle bill in 1976 to pitch in so we can see immediate results from the bottle bill,” he said.

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Good Farm Records

Important at Tax Time

The Internal Revenue Service has a variety of materials available to assist farmers in understanding and meeting their federal tax responsibilities. One of the most useful is the "Farmer's Tax Guide" (IRS Publication 225) available from any IRS office, free of charge.

Written especially for farmers, it explains how the tax laws apply to farming situations and gives examples and illustrations of how different items should be reported. "In a farm situation, the partial-payment plans and interest rates are much the same," advises Dr. Paul Kindinger, Michigan Farm Bureau's agricultural economist. "So are many other reasons why farmers should have an efficient recordkeeping system, because it shows what the farmer need not work alone. Farmers may be able to get the help they need from their children or from the IRS itself. For example, the IRS has a variety of materials and services available to farmers, including the "Farmers' Tax Guide," which is designed for road use makes the use of these converted vehicles must be registered with the Secretary of State. Simply because they were originally designed for road use makes the use of these converted vehicles susceptible to the No-Fault law, according to state statutes.

Typical of the vehicles in question are trucks that have been converted into forklifts, cherry shakers and other agricultural equipment. Pointing to the limited usage of these converted vehicles, Farm Bureau delegates at the 1978 annual meeting requested that Farm Bureau Insurance Group develop a program to provide liability coverage at a low cost. In response, FBIG has begun work on the development of a policy provision that will meet the need for low cost coverage in these cases. Currently, these converted vehicles must be charged the same rates as other motor vehicles, despite their specialized use.

The provision, which will be available in late spring, will be offered as an option on the farmer's auto insurance policy and will provide the required coverage for just a small additional fee. In another example: A youngster visiting a neighboring farm may be seriously injured by a piece of machinery due to the farmer's negligence. The resulting liability could total hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The nature of the farming operation often leaves the farmer vulnerable to possible liability situations. Simply hauling farm equipment down a road at night may open the farmer to liability if, through his negligence, an accident with a auto should occur.

For more information on Farmowners Umbrella Liability protection, see your Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

Do You Pay Too Much INCOME TAX??

Of course you do! Your goal should be: "Pay what I owe, but pay NO MORE!!"

That goal can be attained by practicing good, sound tax management on a year-round basis. Good farm records are part of good tax management.

That's where the FARM BUREAU RECORDS PROGRAM can help! If you are interested in learning more about this Farm Bureau service, use the coupon below or call (517) 323-7000, Extension 547.

SEND TO: FARM RECORDS PROGRAM
Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, Michigan 48909

I would like more information about saving tax dollars with Farm Bureau's FARM RECORDS PROGRAM.

Name
Address

April 15 1979
MFB Nears Goal
Cheboygan First Again

For the second consecutive year, Cheboygan County Farm Bureau is the first county to report membership goal, reporting 1979 quota on January 5. In addition, Kalkaska reported goal on January 15 and Iosco on January 17.

Membership chairman for the first three counties to report goal and their member categories are: Cheboygan, Stan and Anna Marie Stempky (351-550 members); Kalkaska, Foster McCool (4-350 members); and Iosco, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Robinson (1-350 members). By being the first counties in their respective membership categories, each of the three counties is a member of the prestigious “Fabulous Fifteen.”

The 1978-79 membership campaign began on September 1, 1978 and as of January 19 Michigan Farm Bureau was at 90.01% of goal.

Michigan Farm Bureau will be attempting to attain membership goal for the twelfth consecutive year during the 1979 campaign.

AFBF Over Three Million

A Farm Bureau membership record of 3,076,867 member families has been reported by Richard W. Owens, chief administrator and secretary of the world's largest farm organization. The 1976 increase of 181,310 families is the second largest in Farm Bureau history. The largest gain was 219,098 families in 1977. This is the third consecutive year that the organization has gained more than 170,000 members in a single membership year.

It also marks the eighth consecutive year that membership has increased in excess of 100,000 members, and is the 16th consecutive year of Farm Bureau growth.

Silverdome Tractor Pull Set for March 10

The Fourth Annual Silverdome Tractor Pull will be held Saturday, March 10 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Pontiac Silverdome. Tickets will be sold at J.L. Hudson stores and the Pontiac Stadium Box Office.

Information regarding tickets and the tractor pull may be obtained by calling (313) 335-3900 or writing the American Tractor Pullers Association, 1200 Featherstone Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48057.

Saturday evening, March 24 will feature the second Silverdome Country Music Show. The performance will begin at 8 p.m. Mini-dome seating will be utilized providing close seating to the stars, all seats are reserved. Ticket prices for the show are $6, $8 and $10, and may be obtained at J.L. Hudson stores and the Pontiac Stadium Box Office.

Further details on both the tractor pull and country music show will be in the March issue of MICHIGAN FARM NEWS.

Huron Community Group Celebrates 40th Anniversary

A Huron County Farm Bureau Community Group, which strives each month for 100 percent attendance, recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. The West Side Group, organized in 1938, was originally known as West Huron. The group met at a Legion hall to accommodate its over 100 members, many of whom had to drive long distances for their monthly meetings.

It was then decided that, to enable more activity and more member participation, we should organize more groups in different localities and meet in members' homes," explained Mrs. Gertrude Engelhardt Gaeth, group secretary. "This set up more officers and more members became active. Getting these new groups started was a good step ahead."

The celebration was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Gueth of Sebewaing.

FBIG Offers Valuable Animal Policy

An insurance policy to cover valuable animals, developed by Farm Bureau Insurance Group with assistance from Michigan State University's School of Veterinary Medicine, is now widely available from Farm Bureau Insurance agents throughout the state.

Veterinarians at MSU assisted in much of the research and worked closely with FBIG in the development of the policy.

The specialized policy covers valuable horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine and dogs in case of death from natural causes, illness, disease or accident, including fire, lightning and theft. Coverage also extends to death by necessary destruction, as in cases of the animal becoming crippled or maimed.

Called the Animal Mortality Policy Program, this policy is one of the few of its kind available anywhere in the nation. Its features include protection for your prize and valuable animals anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, even while they are being transported or exhibited under the owner's care.

And a provision covering theft is extended without charge to members of 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America (FFA). Chapters in Michigan at no additional cost, chapter members may have their policies endorsed to include protection against the peril of theft (excluding straying and mysterious disappearance).

According to Farm Bureau Insurance Group researchers, Michigan has long been in need of such a policy to specifically cover prize and valuable animals for their full worth. Michigan, for example, is one of the leading states in the nation in the number of horses being raised there.

Members of the West Side Community Farm Bureau Group recently got together to celebrate their 40th anniversary.
Saginaw County Woman Named 1979 Michigan Apple Queen

Heidi Bints of Freeland was named Michigan Apple Queen for 1979 at the recent Michigan Horticultural Society convention in Grand Rapids. The new queen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bints, Saginaw County Farm Bureau members, is a sophomore at Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. During 1979, she will appear in many parades, beginning with the Apple Blossom parade in Berrien County in May, and next fall, she will travel to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to represent Michigan for the title of U.S. Apple Queen.

Foreign Students Tour Lott Farm

Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Chairman Vivian Lott explains the family dairy farm operation near Mason to students participating in the "Adventures in World Understanding" program. Eighteen of the students from foreign countries had spent the morning visiting Farm Bureau Center prior to the farm visit.

Regional Cabinet Meetings Held Throughout State

Frank McCaig, Ingham County, makes a statement at the Southeast Cabinet meeting for Farm Bureau leaders in Ann Arbor. The leaders discussed legislative issues, Farm Bureau finances and other items.

Former Saginaw County Presidents Recognized

The Saginaw County Farm Bureau recently gave special recognition to its former county presidents. Those recognized were (left to right): Rudy Reinbold, Ivan Sparks, Bob Fulton, Ed Hebeler, Harvey Goosen, Howard Ebenhoch, Harvey Leuenberger, Clifton Compton, Elmer Rusch and Harold Engels.

Clarence King Appointed FPC Transportation Supervisor

Clarence King was appointed Transportation Supervisor for Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, effective January 2. The announcement was made by William Rockey, director of the Energy and Hardware Department, who stated, "Clarence's expertise and operating experience in the Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau families makes him well qualified to direct this important phase of the FPC wholesale operations."

FBS Among Exhibitors at Cattlemen's Meeting

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. was among the exhibitors at the Michigan Cattlemen's Association annual convention and trade show held at Lansing's Convention Center, Lansing, on January 18-19-20. Herb Garman, Mrs. Garman, and Manny Zellus manned the exhibit.
Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Radio Network

The Farmer of the Week Award, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau News and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, recognizes Michigan farmers for their contributions to agriculture and the community. Recipients are selected for the quality of their farming operation and their community involvement.

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for December 1978 were —

Flynn Township Zoning Board, and member and past president of the Omard Community Club. He and his wife, Janice, have two children.

Week of Dec. 4 - Clayton Leaders, 53, a dairy farmer from Hillsdale who farms 450 acres and manages a herd that includes 80 head of dairy cattle. He is a member of the School Board of Reading Community Schools, a post he has held for the past 15 years. He is also a member of the Hillsdale County Farm Bureau, serves on the Cambria Township ASCS Committee, and is a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsdale. Leaders and his wife, Mary, have five children.

Week of Dec. 18 - Lawrence Anderson, who farms 370 acres and manages a herd of 33 dairy cows and 24 hogs near Engadine in Mackinac County. Anderson, 44, serves on the School Board of Engadine Consolidated Schools, the church council of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and the local Soil Conservation Board. He also serves on the local ASCS board, the local board of the Michigan Artificial Breeders Association, and is a member of the county Farm Bureau. Anderson also served six years on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board. He and his wife, Shirley, have three children.

Week of Dec. 25 - Albert Hass, a 34-year-old beef farmer from Bad Axe in Huron County. He currently farms over 600 acres and is raising more than 1,000 head of beef cattle. Because of Hass' modern and innovative beef operation, his farm is the subject of tours by beef farmers. He is a member of the Bad Axe Lions Club, board member of the Huron County Sheltered Workshop, member of the Michigan Beef Producers Council and member of the Huron County Farm Bureau. Hass and his wife, Daris, have three children.

BC-BS Open Enrollment Set for March 1-15

Over 80 percent of Farm Bureau members have trusted in Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage for many good reasons.

One of these reasons is the group protection and rates available through Farm Bureau membership. When you purchase coverage as an individual you can't get the same type of extensive protection that you get with group coverage. Master Medical, for instance, is not available to the individual subscriber.

Another major advantage is that you can never be cancelled because of health conditions or age. Also, you don't have to have a physical examination to join. Your coverage with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan will last as long as you live in Michigan. Even when you retire, you can continue to have similar coverage with Blue Cross and Blue Shield Complementary Coverage which combines with Medicare to give you complete protection.

Perhaps you may have more specific coverage needs. Chances are these needs are also covered benefits. Discuss this with your Farm Bureau secretary during the Blue Cross and Blue Shield open enrollment period, March 1 to March 15. If you are part of that 20 percent of Farm Bureau members without Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection, why not reconsider and join at this time. Being without health care coverage can be an expensive mistake.

There's something special in the wind just for pork producers.

Only $17.95 with proof of purchase.

Regional Feature (Continued from Page 16) across to many more people than we realize."

Helping to provide the cohesiveness in the region is Bernie Bishop, who replaced Kevin Kirk as regional representative. Sharing his impressions of the region thus far, Bernie stated, "I really like the region. The people seem to be very professional when they do something and they're well prepared."

One of the programs Bernie has found of particular interest in the region is Local Affairs. Members are taking part in local decisions that are being made, especially with county roads. "The counties are becoming more aware of their responsibilities and goals," stated Bernie.

For the people in the Thumb, the pride in their way of life and enthusiasm toward their organization is as rich as the land from which they earn their livelihood.
Highways and Bridges

Without exception, most citizens complain about the rapid deterioration of Michigan's road system, especially county and local roads and streets. Counties have fallen behind in road maintenance and replacement because they have been victims of spiraling costs and, in some instances, declining revenues.

While millions of dollars of federal funds come to the state, only a small percentage is available for county roads.

Traffic Volume

Since 1974, traffic on county roads in Michigan has steadily risen. Within the next ten years, traffic is expected to increase at a rate of 5.4 percent each year. The traffic increase is expected because of population growth, longer commuting distances and the continued growth of industry in the suburbs. However, this increase in traffic should result in only a moderate increase in total fuel consumption. This is because of wider use of smaller cars, smaller engines which are more fuel-efficient and enforcement of the 55 mile per hour speed limit.

As a result, motor-fuel taxes are generating proportionately less revenue for the mileage driven than in the past, leaving the state and counties short of highway revenue for road repair and maintenance. Increasing construction costs are aggravating the problem because tax dollars will not buy as much road improvement as in the past.

Safety Factors

It has been estimated that nearly 70 percent of the paved county roads are hazardous to drive because of narrow clearances, broken pavement and poor road surface. Most of these roads and streets were built 40-50 years ago for smaller vehicles, slower speeds and lighter traffic volume. Much of the deteriorated county mileage in Michigan involves farm roads important to the state's agricultural economy. Rough, rutted pavement on farm-to-market routes slows farm shipments and increases vehicle operating costs. Also, ruts, bumps and broken pavement damage farm goods in transit, increase driving time and cause excessive brake, steering and suspension wear and damage. These factors inflate farm-to-market shipping costs. Improving county farm roads could help reduce agricultural trucking costs.

Many of the same rural roads that are important to the state's agricultural economy also are essential to tourist travel. Although narrow, winding roads are considered quaint and picturesque, tourists and travelers are concerned about the safety of these roads. So upgrading county roads in tourist areas could be an incentive to increase tourist travel.

Bridge System

Forty percent of the bridges in Michigan are maintained by the Department of State Highways and Transportation. Sixty percent of the total number of bridges are maintained by 83 counties and 531 are maintained by incorporated cities and villages. A total of 27 percent of Michigan's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, according to projections based on data in the National Bridge Inventory conducted by the Federal Highway Administration.

Michigan bridge deficiency is in the following two categories:

b. "Functional obsolete" by federal standards: These bridges are narrow crossings, poor deck surfaces and roadway approaches that do not provide easy, efficient passage of traffic. Most of these bridges are more than 40 years old. In addition to these seriously deficient bridges, many other bridges are considered "minor structural deficient" by government engineering standards. These bridges can handle all traffic on connecting roads but need repairs to prevent major structural deterioration such as painting, deck renewal and super structural work.

Bridge Safety

To guard against structural failure because of vehicle load, federal and state regulations require the rated structural strength of bridges to be well above the maximum allowable vehicle weights on connecting roads. Bridges that have become weakened with age and use are posted for reduced vehicle weight limits. There is virtually no danger of collapse providing these limits are observed by drivers.

A far more prevalent safety hazard exists where old, narrow bridges in the state provide insufficient passing room for bulky vehicles such as utility trucks, school buses and fire engines - contributing to the danger of collisions.

Other common safety hazards are steep and winding roadway approaches, short sight distances, uneven and broken roadway deck surface and lack of adequate lighting.

Maintenance

Most of the deficient bridges in Michigan were designed and engineered for the lower traffic volume and lighter vehicles in the 1930's. Fortunately, it is standard engineering practice in Michigan to build bridges with a generous margin of excess structural strength as a safety factor. Had the State Highway Commission and local road agencies not followed this far-sighted policy, many deficient bridges in Michigan would have to be replaced or rebuilt much sooner.

However, on many older bridges, this margin of excess structural strength has been reduced with decades of heavy use and rapidly increasing traffic. This fact is reflected in the progressive lowering of vehicle weight limits as a safety precaution.

The lowering of vehicle load limits on many bridges and the closing of a few results in miles of extra driving, lost time and higher fuel consumption by road users. Those most affected include local residents, farmers hauling their goods to market, truckers making local deliveries, tourists with bulky camping vehicles and school bus riders.

Outmoded bridges not only increase vehicle operating cost, but also are more expensive to maintain than structures which meet modern design and engineering standards.

Transportation Funding

For many years, Farm Bureau policy has strongly supported "user taxes," such as gasoline and weight taxes, to be used for the construction and maintenance of highways. When originally passed, this concept removed a tremendous burden from the property tax. There are few people today who do not feel that the cost of highways should be borne by those who use them and not by the already overburdened taxpayer.

In more lucrative years, a township could improve a highway - by entering into an agreement with county highway departments on a 50-50 share cost basis. Now, due to increasing revenues from the gas and weight tax, and the ever increasing cost of building, maintaining and the overhead of the County Highway Department, this share balance is no longer possible.

In October, the Michigan Legislature passed a transportation bill which changes the distribution of road monies derived from gasoline-diesel fuel tax and license plate fees. Now the Department of Transportation will get 46.7 percent of the funds, the county road commission will get 34.3 percent and city and village road agencies will get 19 percent.

It has been 11 years since an increase in diesel fuel taxes has been made since the weight (license tax) was increased. Five years ago there was an increase in back gasoline taxes - this was followed immediately by the energy shortage and the 55 mile per hour speed limits. The level of income expected to maintain highways was never fully realized.

EPA standards have been established as a mile per gallon for cars. The fleet averages for auto manufacturing companies this year is 19 miles, and by 1985 is expected to be about 27 miles per gallon. Also, the auto is now more compact and weighs less due to more aluminum and plastic components. This results in less revenue from weight taxes. In the meantime the cost of road repairs, equipment and labor has gone ever upward. As fuel economy increases and autos continue to weigh less, we will pay less each succeeding year, not more.
FARM BUREAU MARKETPLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership. Additional words: 10 cents each. Figures such as $12 or $12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 13 cents per word per edition. Five or more editions. 10 cents per word per copy.

deadline: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 3061, Lansing, MI 48909. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

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NEW FORD TRACTOR MOTOS, 5000 series, complete with Kohler engine and 105 hp. Ready to run. (313) 229-2277, 7788 Chillicothe Rd., N. St. Clair Shores, MI.


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FOR SALE: 3730 7777 farm tractor, 110 HP, runs good, complete with moisure proofer and grain box. (313) 361-4141, 12364 8 Mile Rd., Clawson, MI.

FOR SALE: 3040 Case, 110 HP, runs good. Complete with moisure proofer and grain box. (313) 623-1890, 8 Mile Rd., Livonia, MI.

FOR SALE: New Holland 4040, 110 HP, 10 speed, runs good, complete with moisure proofer and grain box. (313) 672-8808, 4032 Joy Rd., Kalamazoo, MI.

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Begin your estate planning now. Call your professional Farm Bureau Life agent and ask about Estate Protector.