

19th Annual Washington Legislative Seminar

Focus on Increased Farm Income

Congressional action that Farm Bureau members believe is vital to attaining higher net income for farmers will receive top priority attention by participants in the Washington Legislative Seminar, April 2-5. Over 100 Michigan farmers will be involved in this year's seminar, sponsored annually by the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

Fifty-two county Farm Bureaus will be represented in the nation's capital by designated "legislative leaders" who will discuss issues of concern with their congressmen. These issues will include:

—Effective implementation of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977.

—A constitutional amendment to restrict the spending authority of the federal government to a realistic percentage of the gross national product.

—Enactment of a comprehensive Federal Marketing and Bargaining Act.

—High priority on measures necessary to continue a high level of agricultural exports.

—A multi-peril crop insurance program. Legislative leaders will discuss these issues,

and others, during a breakfast with the Michigan congressional delegation and also in individual visits with their congressmen. Also on the agenda is a discussion with top personnel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on issues of concern to Michigan farmers. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the many historic sites in the Washington, D.C. area.

Press conferences have been scheduled for the Lansing and Detroit airports prior to departure. Michigan Farm Bureau legislative leaders will also meet with members of the Washington press corps.

From the Desk of the President

Farmers are Victims--Not Cause--of Inflation



best interest and the interest of all Americans.

Elton R. Smith

Inflation is one of the most talked about phenomenon of our time. Everyone of us is suffering from its strangling grip. We experience this fact every day.

Every month government statistics, called the Consumers' Price Index, are released showing the continuous escalation of inflation. Often increases in food prices are revealed, with the inference that farmers and the cost of food are the cause of inflation.

Increases in food prices are not the cause of inflation, they are a symptom of inflation.

For all the talk about inflation, there is little public understanding of the subject. There are three basic causes for inflation.

First, when increases in wages, or costs for services, are greater than the increase in productivity, more money is available to purchase a stable amount of goods.

Second, an excessive dependence on a basic raw material sends shock waves through the economy. For example, the industrial and commercial dependence upon petroleum resources controlled by foreign suppliers has triggered price increases throughout the world economy.

The third cause, and by far the most serious, is government action to drastically increase the supply of money through deficit spending. Through the Federal Reserve mechanism or simply printing new money, the federal government simply spends or causes new money to be created.

In the United States in 1940

there was \$63 billion in currency in circulation. In 1977, there was \$806 billion. This is a one thousand percent increase in money supply while there was an estimated fifty percent increase in goods and services for that money to buy.

Some economic theorists contend that a little inflation is good and desirable. The fallacy in that type of thinking is that there will be a "little" inflation. It doesn't go that way. Inflation doesn't stay small, it grows!

Another fallacy is that farmers benefit by inflation. The theory being that land prices keep going up at a rate similar to inflation so the farmer is always "hedged." That's not the way it works. We have seen land prices escalate far more rapidly than ability to pay for the land through normal agricultural production.

Certainly the farmer who owns land that is increasing in

value is keeping up somewhat with inflation, but he must sell the land and go out of farming, to benefit. That really doesn't help him. Meanwhile, he's paying ever increasing taxes on his property.

With all the talk about the bad effects of inflation, there seems to be fear of stopping it.

We must curb inflation. We must end government deficit spending.

Farm Bureau is actively involved in attempting to obtain an amendment to the United States Constitution which would require a balanced budget. Some politicians are supporting the approach. Others are giving it mere lip service.

Farm Bureau members should write their U.S. representatives and senators now, urging them to actively support an amendment calling for a balanced budget. It's in their



"We try to keep the place for sentimental reasons — I've got two hundred thousand smackers sunk in it!"

Pete Hively Gets "Brickbats"



Mr. Pete Hively American Farm Bureau Federation Washington, D.C. Re: Your report in the Farm News publication Dear Mr. Hively:

What an excellent piece of journalism! Your editorial in the Farm News reeks of ignorance on an issue that you, above all others, should have the most knowledge. You know for a fact that the damage that you reported in your article supposedly by the farmers did not in fact happen. I for one, know this due to the fact that a number of my neighbors were on that particular visit. Even the police will refute your statements on the damage done in your offices. But I must admit, for sensationalism it certainly sounds good...

Would you also like to mention the fact that many

former Farm Bureau members destroyed their membership cards on your premises?

It is just too darn bad that Farm Bureau did not stick to the business at hand in the helping of farmers within their organization instead of going into the business of selling everything from insurance to fuel.

In passing, for the first time in thirty years our local community did not have Farm Bureau meetings. I, for one, won't miss them.

Sincerely, Sharon K. Pagels Coloma

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Hively's editorial opinion has been strengthened by a report to the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Appropriations which estimates that the farmers' protest will cost taxpayers about \$3.6 million — \$2.57 million for District agencies, \$333,000 for buses used in the blockade, \$500,000 for Park Service patrol and \$745,000 for mall repair.)

Dear Sirs:

I was shocked at the action taken by farmers in the AFBF Washington office. As a farm wife, I refuse to be associated with violent acts in the name of the American farmer. However, I also do not condone what I consider revenge journalism.

You and Mr. Hively's article claim that these protests are only media events. The object being free publicity. The American farmer would not need publicity if there

wasn't a problem. If we could see a reasonable profit on the amount of capital it takes to sustain a successful farming operation, I'm sure most of the farmers involved in the demonstration would have been at home.

As for the "good guy" image that Mr. Hively reports is slipping, who does it benefit? True, everyone would rather be known as the good guy versus the bad; but if it comes down to being the good guy or changing things so that we can feed our families, I'll take change.

Another point I would like to add is that since the American Agriculture Movement started, the American farmers plight has never been so widely known. Our federal and state legislatures now know that we are not contented with their programs and half-hearted attempts to appease us. Even though we are only 3 percent of the population we are a very important part of the whole.

We cannot afford the expense of year-around lobbyists. The tractorcade was expensive in terms of dollars and cents. Mr. Hively states that the taxpayer will have to foot the bill. Who does he think that is? Have you and Mr. Hively forgotten that the American farmer is a taxpayer, too? All the pollsters and behavior experts in the world will not pay for new machinery and labor needed to feed a hungry world. These people are also very expensive. Who's paying for their services?

It is a shame when two good organizations, both founded to help the farmer, cannot co-exist with respect for each other.

Please, Mr. Hively, do not take revenge on the whole organization because of the actions of a few.

Sincerely, Mrs. Virginia English Breckenridge

We Get Letters



Farm Bureau

Farmers and consumers have plenty to agree about. Farmers need markets and consumers must have farm products for daily living.

That's the beginning of rural-urban understanding. To learn how you can do more for ag understanding, contact the Farm Bureau Women's Committee in your county.

APRIL / Ag Understanding 30th / Day

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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Senate Wetlands Bill Supported



Bill Byrum, Michigan Cattlemen's Association; Dr. Howard Tanner, DNR; Dean Pridgeon, MDA; Elton Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau, and Senator John Hertel answer questions at a press conference regarding S.B. 3.

By Paula Mohr

Environmental legislation protecting Michigan wetlands has faced long, frustrated battles in the House and Senate chambers. But the recent Senate wetlands bill (S.B. 3), as reported by the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee, has found allies in three major agricultural organizations and the Department of Natural Resources.

The bill would provide necessary protection for major wetlands while maintaining the opportunity for reasonable use of wetlands for agricultural production.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, the Michigan Farm Bureau and the DNR endorse S.B. 3. The announcement was made March 9 at a press conference held at the state Capitol.

Panel participants included Dean Pridgeon, director of the MDA; Sen. John Hertel, chairperson of the environmental Affairs Committee; Elton Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau; Bill Byrum, president of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association; and Dr. Howard Tanner, director of the DNR.

"Never before has the agriculture community and the DNR ever been able to agree on a major piece of environmental legislation," Sen. Hertel said.

Specifically, S.B. 3 will allow farmers to use wetlands to graze livestock; grow crops with minor drainage, which includes ditching and tiling; maintain dikes; construct farm roads; and maintain, operate or improve private agricultural drains, as well as county drains constructed or improved under existing drain codes.

In addition, the bill will allow major drainage of wetlands without a permit, by a person who is engaged in commercial farming so long as the land is used for agricultural production and is

not contiguous to a lake or stream, or that the DNR has not proven to be in the public interest.

MDA Director Dean Pridgeon commended the bill and said he believes the entire agricultural community can support the measure wholeheartedly. Not only does it provide the environmental protection needed for Michigan wetlands, but, "The bill . . . preserves the right to maintain and improve 26,000 miles of drains that are so essential to Michigan agriculture," he added.

Michigan Cattlemen's Association president, Bill Byrum, also applauded Sen. Hertel and the members of his committee in responding to agriculture's need for sound cropping practices as they relate to proper ditching, tiling and crop management.

"We support the concept that improved lands should be maintained only for agricultural use — not for commercial or residential development," Byrum said.

Elton Smith, MFB president, emphasized that draining, dredging, constructing or stocking ponds and irrigation do not require a permit, and can be justified because agriculture does not permanently destroy a wetland.

"A drained wetland will quickly revert back to a swamp if the ditch or tile is plugged," he said.

Sen. Hertel concluded the press conference by commenting on uncontrolled wetland development.

"Uncontrolled development of wetlands lead to increased flooding, loss of critical habitat and an overall reduction of water quality. I think it is a major accomplishment to agree on a bill that will prevent this devastation and still provide for the orderly use of land for the public good," Hertel said.

The House Conservation Committee also approved

wetland protection legislation. However, the House version prohibits landowners from draining, dredging or filling a wetland without a state permit.

Federal law already prohibits the filling of wetlands adjacent to rivers, lakes and streams, but the House committee bill extends that prohibition to dredging and draining.

Member Action Needed

S.B. 3 is consistent with Farm Bureau policy. Members are urged to contact their senators in Lansing and indicate their support for S.B. 3 with the agricultural provisions as reported by the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee. Ask your senator to oppose sending the bill to another committee for further debate.

Farm Bureau members are also requested to contact their representatives in Lansing, indicating their support for S.B. 3 rather than H.B. 4049, which does not adequately provide for maintenance of county or intercounty drains.

Kramer Marsh Case Will Go to Trial

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources won a temporary injunction blocking further dredging and filling of 100 acres of a 600-acre Kalamazoo County marsh February 27.

In a suit filed by the attorney general and the DNR, the state claims the development of Kramer Marsh would violate the state's 1972 Inland Lakes and Stream Act.

DNR Director Howard Tanner labeled the marsh "a significant Michigan wetland."

Kramer Marsh was originally surveyed as a lake. "So protecting it is a matter of public interest," he said.

Officials say wetlands are important to the environment, contributing to flood control and water purification, and providing wildlife habitat.

The owners of the southern edge of the marsh, Ralph, Nina, John and Dorothy Balkema, wanted to drain their section of the marsh to raise corn.

But Tanner said agricultural purposes in wetland battles would not always prevail as in the Balkema's case.

The Kramer Marsh injunction will prevent any further development of the marsh until a full trial can be held, which would not be until early next year.



Straight talk about financing farm equipment



Farming is everybody's bread & butter.

Financing plans for farm equipment vary a lot among lenders in how much they take of your time, patience and money.

Look for a lender who understands agriculture and a farmer's needs.

Look for a lender who'll listen carefully to your plans.

Look for a lender who offers simple-interest rates with no prepayment penalty.

Look to Production Credit Association.

Michigan Production Credit Associations

Alma / Bay City / Grand Rapids / S.E. Michigan (Adrian) / Kalamazoo / Lansing / Sandusky / Traverse City

City Dwellers Will Learn About Farming on WJR

Michigan farmers will "cultivate" the airwaves this spring when WJR radio in Detroit and the Michigan Farm Bureau kick off a year-long publicity project designed to tell city people about farming.

The project involves popular WJR radio personality J.P. McCarthy and Michigan Farm Bureau members from across the eastern half of the state. These designated farmers agreed to symbolically donate to WJR a portion of one of four different commodities—wheat, dry beans, hogs or apples. McCarthy will put these farmers on the radio throughout the year and ask them about planting, tilling, fertilizing, marketing, taxation, regulations, inflation ... all the various factors involved in the production of the commodity.

At harvest time McCarthy will symbolically sell the donated commodity, with the selling price being met by donations from MFB members. For example, McCarthy will call a farmer who donated a hog and will ask that the hog be sold that day. Whatever that hog sells for will be the basis of the donation from MFB members. Some of the farmers participating in the project have already agreed to provide the donation that re-



WJR's executive producer Hal Youngblood, farm editor Scott Killgore, news director Dave White and MFB's Mike Rogers discuss farm publicity project.

sults from the sale of their commodity.

"Each of these commodities is grown, harvested and marketed in different ways," says Mike Rogers, manager of the Broadcast Services Department of Michigan Farm Bureau. "Consumers should get a good idea of the wide diversification of Michigan agriculture."

Larry Ewing, director of MFB's Information and Public Relations Division, says "This

project gives Michigan farmers an unprecedented opportunity to tell city dwellers just what it takes to produce food. By hearing a live farmer talking on the radio about the rewards and frustrations of farming, consumers should gain a much better understanding of the agricultural process."

The project will start on April 30, designated "Agriculture Understanding Day" by the

Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

Scott Killgore, farm editor for WJR and MFB's "Agricul-

tural Communicator of the Year" for 1978, will be assisting McCarthy throughout the project.

Crop Hail Coverage Available Through Farm Bureau Insurance

During the past 10 years, the number of Michigan farmers recognizing the need for crop hail insurance has increased substantially. In fact, Michigan farmers paid approximately \$2 million for crop hail insurance in 1978, compared to just \$500,000 in sales recorded for the state 10 years before.

Farm Bureau Insurance Group, the state's largest insurer of farm property, is helping to meet this increased demand for crop hail insurance with a competitive program available through FBIG agents.

FBIG's crop hail coverage is provided through the Rain and Hail Insurance Bureau of Bloomington, Ill., a pool of several major insurance companies that is the number one crop hail writing organization in the U.S. and Canada.

Through the facilities of the Rain and Hail Insurance

Bureau, FBIG agents can provide coverage for nearly 20 crops, including corn, wheat, soybeans, oats, sugar beets, beans, hay, potatoes, barley, rye and a number of others. Coverage is not available for fruits, vine crops, vegetables or tomatoes.

The Rain and Hail Insurance Bureau, which has been in the hail insurance business since 1919, has adjusters strategically located throughout the state to provide ready service when losses occur.

The crop hail coverage available through FBIG will cover up to the full value of the crop at the time the policy is written, or a percentage selected by the farmer.

For full information on the crop hail insurance available through Farm Bureau Insurance Group, contact your FBIG agent.

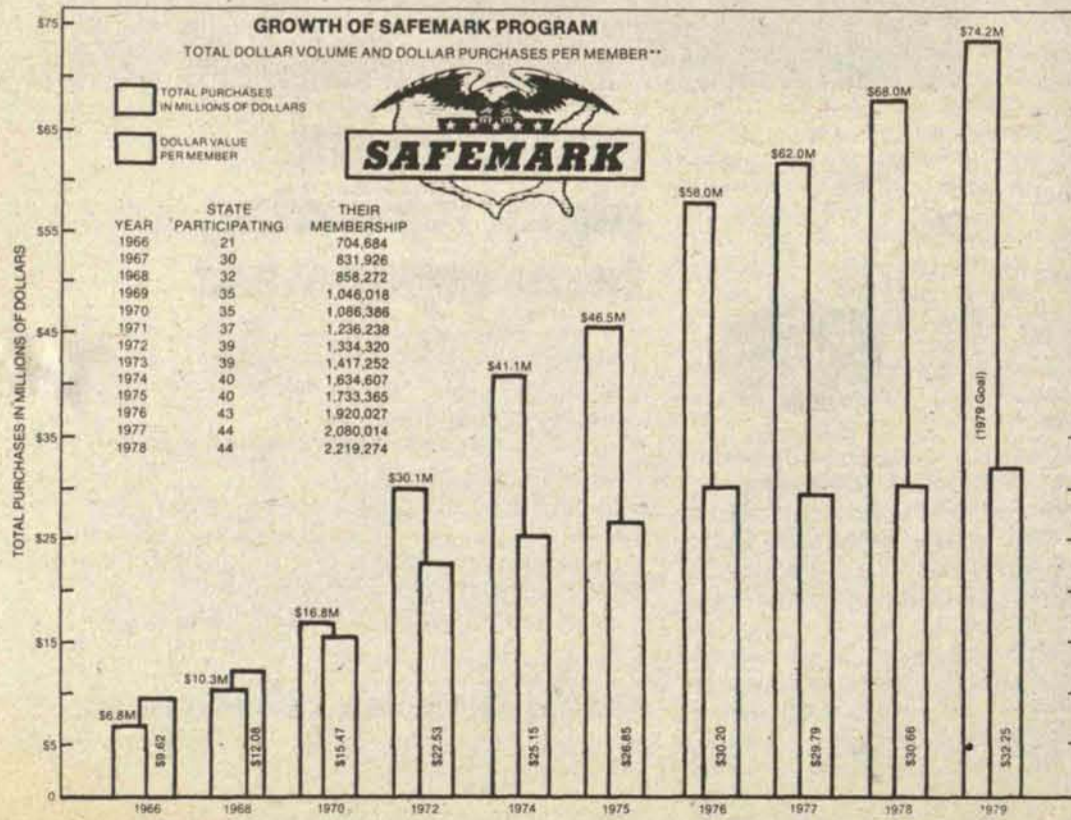
FARM BUREAU CUTS PRODUCTION COSTS

\$SAVE WITH \$AFEMARK

Reducing production costs is an important part of managing today's farms. How well it is done determines the amount of net income and at times whether there is a profit or a loss.

Built on a solid foundation and offering savings with quality to members, the program is a phenomenon story of growth and success.

Best price for the quality is the key to the Safemark program. It is achieved by group purchase - directly with manufacturer when possible, quality checking, payment by cash only, local involvement in administration, and avoidance of high capital investments in plants, warehouses and equipment.



MULTI-ANGLE

Size	Price
15.5-38/6	\$206.58
16.9-38/6	284.13
18.4-34/6	265.85
18.4-38/6	314.03
20.8-38/10	528.80

*Based on Manufacturer's Prices, F.O.B.

Conferees Examine Trade Growth, Market Strategies, Gasohol Potential

Farmers Need Open Trade Doors, AFBF President Says



PRESIDENT ALLAN GRANT

Farm markets, not federal money, pave the way for long-term improvements of net farm income, the American Farm Bureau Federation president told farmers at the Spring Commodity Advisory Committee Conference March 2.

"We've known all along that adopting farm programs which deliberately build commodity reserves is a dangerous business," AFBF President Allan Grant said. "We want less, not more government trade subsidization."

Grant addressed approximately 200 people on world market perspectives in

a joint session before the commodity committee conference and the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. - Farmers Petroleum Agri-Management Seminar.

Government storage bins are moderating consumer prices at the expense of the farmer, Grant said.

"We need an economic climate in which farmers can produce and market without the threat of government-controlled surpluses being used to manipulate prices to the consumer's benefit," he said.

Besides denouncing government trade subsidization, Grant advocated

growing trade potential in less developed countries like Africa and Red China.

"If Americans have any one single international weakness, it is that we are shortsighted," he said. "Far too little time and effort is spent in seeking and building new markets. We must get it through our heads that this is a big, hungry world. . . eager to make use of our farm commodities."

Trade doors should remain open along with open minds, despite ideological differences and changing political policies, he said.

"It is our hope that doors opened to trade will also allow the people a glimpse of the basic principles of American self-government, with emphasis upon the freedom and dignity of the individual and our private competitive system," he said.

Mexico and Canada also offer trade opportunities that should be further explored, Grant added.

"Mexico's promise is oil, but Mexico's problem is food," he surmised, since the country runs under government-controlled commodity prices and markets. Canada possesses excessive fuel reserves including uranium. Farm trade potential here is enormous, Grant pointed out, adding that Canada needs our fruit, vegetable and livestock commodities.

"For many of us, world markets have increasingly made the difference between profit or loss," he said.

With today's export sales putting more than one dollar out of every four in the farmer's pocket, world market expansion cannot be ignored, he said.



Martha Thuemmel of Huron County was called upon to assist "Banjo Virtuoso" Bob Thomas during an entertaining show following the evening banquet.

"Accordian Economics" Explained by Market Expert



JIM GILL

Director of Market Analysis for the Illinois Agricultural Association, Jim Gill, has noticed an economic trend which patterns its recession lows and inflation peaks after presidential election cycles.

Gill explained his theory to about 100 farmers participating in Michigan Farm Bureau's Spring Commodity Advisory Committee Conference in Lansing on March 2.

"Accordian economics," as Gill labels his observation, practices an economic slowdown half-way between presidential terms and economic expansion near presidential elections.

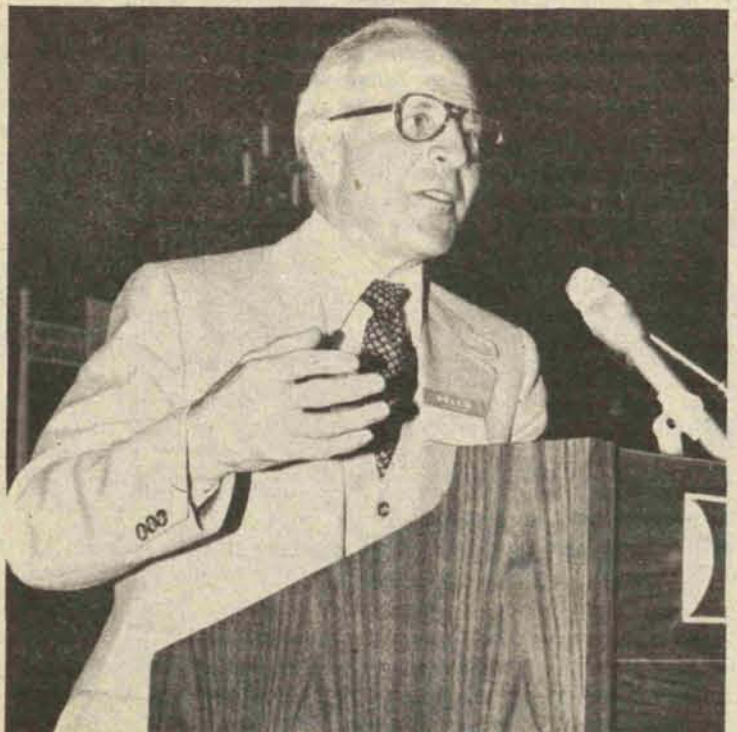
"There's a way to play the

market when you're a farmer," Gill said. During the time period between presidential elections, if the country is headed for recession, farmers should sell a higher percentage — up to two-thirds — of their inventories early in the selling season.

"They should do a lot of forward contracting," he said, "before harvesting, even before planting."

If the economy is coming out of the slowdown, or heading into a presidential election, Gill advises farmers to hang onto inventories.

"Hold forward contracting to a minimum," he said, "and make sales out of storage after harvest."



Dean Pridgeon, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture, addressed a joint banquet of the Agri-Business Seminar and Commodity Conference participants, reviewing what he believes are the challenges ahead for Michigan agriculture.



Gasohol has put Breckenridge on the map, manager Gene Felgenhauer told participants of the Agri-Business Seminar. Breckenridge Farmers Petroleum Cooperative was the first outlet to offer gasohol ("Agrihol") to its customers and has received widespread media coverage.

Shiawassee Young Farmers Promote Marking Program

Preventing agri-crime is the goal of a new program being sponsored by the Young Farmers' Committee of the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau.

The program utilizes an Operation Identification approach, consisting primarily of marking farm machinery and property with an indelible ink, using the owner's driver's license number preceded by the letters "MI." According to Ron Nelson, Local Affairs specialist for Michigan Farm Bureau and chairman of the Crime Prevention Council, the driver's license number is used because it's the only number unique to an individual that law enforcement agencies work with regularly.

Nelson adds, "The important part of the program is to increase the awareness of farmers. If they are more aware of their potential for loss, they will be more conscious of what they can do to



Trooper Jim Hostutler (left) of the Owosso State Police Crime Prevention Unit, shows Les Warren (center), Shiawassee County Farm Bureau President, where to mark hand tools, using the "Operation Identification" system. Otis Little of the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department Crime Prevention Unit looks on.

prevent the opportunity for loss."

The marking program for all farmers in Shiawassee County had its initial thrust in March, with a cooperative effort among the young

farmers, local FFA chapters, the Owosso State Police Post and the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department.

The program is being presented in cooperation with the Michigan Rural Crime Prevention Council.

36 Counties Attain Membership Goal

Since February 16, fourteen county Farm Bureaus have reported 1979 membership

goal, bringing the total to 36 counties that have achieved quota. Michigan Farm

Bureau was at 98.64 percent of state goal as of March 16.

Those counties and their membership chairmen who have reported goal during the last month in the 1-350 member category are Chippewa—Frank Schwiderson and Iron Range—Frank Tuchowski; in the 351-650 category: Newaygo—Robert Hollinger, Osceola—Larry Vanderhoef and Presque Isle—Larry Foster.

Four counties have reported goal since February 16 in the 651-1200 category, including Eaton—Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ritchie, Oceana—Roger Schmidt, St. Joseph—Connie Maystead, and Wayne—Mr. & Mrs. Glen Miller.

Additional counties over goal in the 1201-1500 member category are Allegan—Jack Sipple and Darl Evers, Macomb—Betty Brodacki, St. Clair—Gerald Opificus and Shiawassee—George Pardonnet and Donna Houghton; and Tuscola County—Margaret Boyne, has reported goal in the 1501-over category.

In addition, four regions have reported 1979 regional goal—Upper Peninsula, Thumb, West and West Central, respectively.

Correction

In the March issue of Michigan Farm News, the photo of Delbert Roberts, Huron County membership chairman, and member of the 1979 Michigan Farm Bureau Fabulous Fifteen was incorrectly identified. The editors wish to apologize to Mr. Roberts and Huron County for the error.



Rep. George Cushingberry (D-Detroit) receives congratulations from Wayne County President Richard Sharland, who presented him with a membership in the Wayne County Farm Bureau.



Monicalm County membership co-chairmen Terry Slocum and Audrey Quisenberry display the "Growing with Agriculture" thermometers commemorating Farm Bureau's 60th Anniversary. Monicalm was the 12th county in the state to attain 1979 membership goal and is a member of the 1979 Fabulous Fifteen. The county currently has the largest membership it has ever had.

Young Farmers-- Growing with Agriculture

One hundred and eighty young farmers from throughout Michigan attended the Young Farmer Leaders' Conference in Midland, March 7-9. Sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, the theme for the three-day conference was "Young Farmers Growing with Agriculture."

Conference participants were provided the opportunity to attend various leadership classes during the three days. Classes included "Your Legal Obligations and Rights," "Young Farmers in Action," "Marketing Trends," "Tax Breaks and Income Savers" and "Practical First Aid for Home and Farm."

Jim Mersberger, assistant director of Political Education and Young Farmers and Ranchers for the American Farm Bureau Federation, told the young farmers that Farm Bureau is a sleeping giant at their disposal. He strongly emphasized, "You can do anything you want through

Farm Bureau as a Young Farm Committee." Mersberger also related the top five problems he sees facing young farmers, which include inflation, marketing, credit and finance, government regulations and the cost-price squeeze.

The young farmers were also provided the opportunity to attend a class on practical first aid for the home and farm conducted by Curt VanHouten, Emergency Medical Technician in Wexford and Missaukee counties. Techniques in conducting cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and aiding a choking victim were the highlights of this class.

David Conklin, chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, stated the purpose of bringing young farmers from throughout the state together for the leadership conference. "They come as recognized leaders and the purpose of the leadership conference is to help develop those leadership skills and abilities."



One hundred and eighty young farmers attended the YF Leaders' Conference held in Midland in early March. Above, three participants listen to Jim Mersberger, assistant director of Political Education and Young Farmers for the American Farm Bureau Federation.



Curt VanHouten, emergency medical technician in Wexford and Missaukee counties, demonstrates CPR techniques with the assistance of Doug Bunning in the "Practical First Aid for Home and Farm" class.

Rural Crime Survey Underway

Farm Bureau members in Antrim, Oceana, Huron, Chippewa and Livingston counties are being asked to fill out and return a farm crime survey being distributed by the Michigan Rural Crime Prevention Council.

"The information from this survey will give us an indication where rural crime prevention efforts are most needed," says Trooper Bill Atkins of the Michigan State Police.

"It is very important that farmers in these counties take

the time to complete and return the forms. They'll provide valuable assistance to the Crime Prevention Council, and they'll help us in efforts to make their farm communities a little more safe and secure," Atkins adds.

The Rural Crime Prevention Council consists of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State Police, Michigan Sheriff's Association, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, the Agricultural Engineering Department of Michigan State University and the Michigan Farm and Power Equipment Association.

Help Count Barn Owls

The Department of Natural Resources is conducting a census of the state's barn owls — and it needs your help.

John Lerg, the DNR's endangered species program assistant coordinator, says the barn owl was fairly common in the state during the 1930s and 1940s, but declined drastically since then, and is now listed as a threatened species in the state.

"Small towns and family farms years ago provided barn owls with their favorite nesting places in church towers, silos and barns," Lerg says. "The birds are vanishing now, as the Michigan countryside changes."

The barn owl, sometimes called monkey-faced owl, stands approximately 16 inches tall, has a creamy white, heart-shaped face patch, long legs and black eyes.

"This owl should not be confused with the smaller screech owl," he points out. "The screech owl is gray or reddish-brown, stands about eight inches tall, has yellow eyes, short legs and ear tufts."

The public can report observations of barn owls to the DNR's Wildlife Division, Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909. Exact location of the owls is not needed, but include your name and address so the DNR can contact you later for more information.

Farm Leaders Plan Ag-Expo Center

Eight Michigan agricultural leaders have banded together to plan an agricultural and food exposition center for Michigan residents.

The recently formed Michigan Agricultural Education and Exhibition Center Development Association will coordinate planning of the ag-expo facility on behalf of Michigan's second largest industry.

"The group's major objective is to provide the various segments of the food and agricultural industry with a central focal point which would make agriculture more visible and recognizable as a leading contributor to the state and nation's economic well-being," said Dr. Paul Kindinger, Commodity Activities and Research Division director at Michigan Farm Bureau. Kindinger also serves as the group's assistant secretary-treasurer. "The group hopes to keep the project tied closely with Michigan State University, and their educational and youth programs," he said.

The corporation, in its initial phase of research activities, has listed the need for a multi-purpose arena, an exhibition and show pavilion, a sales auditorium, and several outdoor exhibit areas and related facilities.

In detail, the board of directors have outlined the following goals and objectives in their preliminary planning:

- 1) To serve as a focal point for the Michigan food and agricultural industry
- 2) To enhance agriculture's image as the second largest contributor to the Michigan economy
- 3) To create facilities for multiple uses by youth groups
- 4) To develop exhibition facilities for Michigan livestock industry shows, sales and exhibits
- 5) To develop exhibition facilities for farm machinery shows and demonstrations
- 6) To create an educational center for farmers to interact with MSU and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Cooperative Extension Service, and the Agricultural Experiment Station, and as an educational center for students on campus
- 7) To develop such uses as may be compatible, such as office space for agriculturally-oriented groups, a center to focus on the heritage and importance of the food and agriculture industry
- 8) To create a center that can be used by the community and university as a public service center

The location for such a facility is undetermined at this point in time, Kindinger said, but added, "it will be centrally located in the state."

The first board of directors includes Glen Lake, president of Michigan Milk Producers, chairperson; Elton Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau president, vice chairperson; Gerald Haarer, vice president of Premier Corporation and representing Michigan's Cattlemen, treasurer; and Robert Houck, president of the Michigan Horse Council, secretary.

Other board members are Dick Lehnert, editor of Michigan Farmer; J.W. Erwin, Michigan Horticultural Society; Frank Merriman, Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative; and David Diehl, Sr., Michigan Agricultural Commission.

Kindinger said the group hopes to draft a final proposal in the near future which will include building designs, building costs and the group's financial goals.

"At that time, we'll be seeking approval and support of the general agricultural community and the general public," he said.



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CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

New Driver's License Law Affects Farmers

Tax Limitation - A major problem for the Legislature is the implementation of the "Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment." It, among other things, provides for limiting local taxes including the "yield" of the local property tax. H.B. 4232 would implement that provision of the amendment. According to the amendment, if the state equalized valuation of property increases by more than the "consumer price index," the millage rate must be reduced so that the tax revenue does not exceed the previous year's revenue adjusted for inflation. (New construction and improvements are excluded) This is known as the "millage rollback" provision. Contrary to the impression that many have, it does not limit property assessments and equalization, but does limit the amount of tax that can be raised.

One controversial issue is whether local units of government will be able to increase the rate of taxation within authorized millage limits that have been previously voted by the people. For example, in a school district the people may have voted 30 mills for school purposes, but may be levying only 27 mills. The question is whether the school district can use the additional three mills without being limited. Once the authorization level is reached, then of course the only way of increasing local school revenue in the example would be by vote of the people.

Another provision of this section (31) of the amendment prohibits local government from levying any tax or rate increase above the

already "authorized by law/ or charter" at the time the amendment was approved.

There are numerous other problems on this portion of the constitutional amendment that must be resolved by the Legislature in other bills that are yet to be introduced. This includes definitions of "mandated program" by the state because the amendment requires that any new or "mandated" program must be paid for by the state.

New Driver's License Requirement - Farm Bureau has found that a new law passed last year (S.B. 1182, P.A. 139) requiring additional licensing for drivers of certain trucks and trailers will also apply to farmers. Legislation to remedy the problem is now being readied for introduction. The new law requires a "classified" endorsement on a Michigan operator or chauffeur license if the driver operates certain types of vehicles. A "Class 1 Endorsement" is required to operate a bus, school bus, or vehicle weighing over 24,000 gross vehicle weight.

A "Class 3 Endorsement" is required for a combination of vehicles weighing over 24,000 pounds gross or a vehicle towing a vehicle weighing over 10,000 pounds gross. This would apply to many trucks used by farmers and small businesses and would also apply to such trailers as fertilizer spreaders and other trailers that may be hauled on the road by farmers.

Class 1 and 2 endorsements would be limited to those 18 years old or older at the time

of application and would require a valid driver's license. In order to qualify the driver must complete a 40 question test with at least 30 correct answers and must also complete a road driving test for the vehicles to be operated. There are certain waivers that can be allowed. The fees for such endorsements would be \$7.00 and renewals \$4.00. The endorsement is stamped on the regular driver's or chauffeur's license. The new act takes effect May 1, 1979 but any driver that is affected would not be required to qualify for the endorsement until his present driver's or chauffeur's license expires. When licenses are renewed then the classification or endorsement must also be obtained.

Serious problems with this could result for farmers who haul trailers or fertilizer spreaders that weigh more than 10,000 pounds gross. For example, the farmer himself may go to town with the pickup to bring the fertilizer home and perhaps on subsequent trips his wife, son, daughter, hired man or others may haul the fertilizer. Each driver would have to have an endorsement in order to perform that duty. This is equally true in elevators or other small businesses where delivery is made by whomever is available. This is not only expensive, but the fact that only those 18 or over can qualify can create an additional hardship.

The purpose of the act at the time of passage was to require that drivers of such common carriers as the

double bottom tankers and other large commercial trucks be fully qualified. However, as written and as passed it is found that it will apply to many others.

Farm Bureau has suggested exemption language for farmers who in the course of agricultural production find it necessary to operate their trucks and haul such trailers as fertilizer spreaders, field sprayers, etc., on the road.

PBB Testing - H.B. 4107 (Rep. Hoffman) has passed the Legislature and will reinstate the program to exempt dairy herds from further testing. Exemption of dairy herds was suddenly stopped when the attorney general ruled that the method the legislature was using by resolution was unconstitutional.

By resolution, the Legislature had exempted the entire U.P. and certain counties. Also, by resolution that took effect last October, more than 2/3 of the dairy herds in the state had been exempted provided at least 15 percent of each herd had been tested or was in certain categories.

Passage of the legislation places the system within the law which makes it constitutional.

Tax Exemption of Health Costs - Senator Young (R) Saginaw, has introduced S.B. 200. This will permit farmers and other self-employed persons who pay for their own health insurance protection such as Blue Cross and other medical expenses to deduct them from the state income tax.



Most people who are employed by others receive such insurance programs as a "fringe benefit" and, therefore, pay no state income tax on such items. Such a system penalizes the self-employed who must pay their own premiums. In addition to health insurance, the bill would also provide for deductions of dental and optometric insurance costs.

Legislation last year permitted taxpayers to exclude employer-paid health and accident premiums from the household income for the purpose of figuring property tax credits under the "Circuit Breaker" program.

S.B. 200 is one more step toward greater equity in the Michigan Tax System, especially as it applies to the self-employed. This is totally in line with Farm Bureau policy.

Tax Indexing - H.B. 4113 introduced by a new legislator, Rep. Paul Hillegonds, (R) Holland, is designed to protect incomes from inflation by increasing personal exemptions under the Michigan Income Tax based on the average amount that prices have increased or fallen. For example, if the inflation factor was at 8 percent this would be multiplied by the exemption (presently \$1500) to determine the amount of exemption increase.

Legislators Hope for "Equitable" Workers Comp

"Be careful of what you ask for — you just might get it" was the message from three Michigan legislators who met with members of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association at the group's March 13 annual meeting in Lansing.

Representatives Perry Bullard and George Cushingberry, Jr., Senator Phil Arthurholz, and Jack Landry, aide to Senator David Plawecki, comprised the panel of legislators who presented their views and fielded questions regarding Worker's Compensation reform and 1979 legislative issues.

Representative Bullard questioned the overall benefit to business if Worker's Compensation reforms were enacted in the current labor climate. "Money to be saved by reforms or cutbacks in what might be paid out in

benefits is really not very much when you stack it up against the labor position arguing for cost of living increases for people who were injured 5 or 10 years ago and the cost of living increases built in for people injured today and in the future," Bullard told the farmers. "Those are extremely expensive proposals and balancing savings by reducing so-called abuses against the cost of living increases, both retroactive and prospective, leaves... any kind of reform being a net increase (in costs) probably."

The panel of lawmakers agreed that despite the focus on Worker's Compensation reform by the governor's office and key legislative leaders, chances for reform of the system are slim in the 1979 legislative year.

The inability of business

and labor groups to find a common ground for compromise and the disparity of demands within the respective groups have blocked previous efforts to obtain an equitable reform measure, they said. The legislators assured the group that meetings with business, labor and agricultural groups continues in hopes of resolving some of the differences.

"In the last attempt to reform the system, there was really no input from small businessmen and no input was solicited from agricultural employers or agricultural workers," Landry told the group. "I am positive that before we attempt to enact any reform, we're going to learn from our previous mistakes. We're going to be in meetings such as this and present our views and answer your questions.

Hopefully, then we can come up with a measure that isn't going to treat just big business and big labor

equitably, but will also get the input of other groups, so we can have the most equitable package possible."



Legislative proposals affecting Michigan's 1979 farm labor picture were the subject of a panel discussion during the MASA annual meeting, March 13. Participating in the discussion were Rep. Perry Bullard, Senator Phil Arthurholz, MFB Director Don Nugent, Rep. George Cushingberry and legislative aide Jack Landry (not pictured).

NATIONAL NOTES

AFBF Joins Suit Against EPA

The American Farm Bureau Federation has joined with ten other firms in a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Filed March 6, 1979, the suit challenges EPA's emergency suspension order which prohibits most uses of the herbicides 2, 4, 5-T and Silvex.

The suit contends that EPA, by ordering emergency suspension of the herbicides, is violating the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). It is also alleged that EPA's decision was arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion.

EPA's decision to issue the emergency suspension order is based on research done in Oregon, known as the "Aalsea II Study," which reveals a statistical correlation be-

tween the application of 2, 4, 5-T in forests around Aalsea, Oregon and miscarriages experienced by women in that area. The parties participating in the challenge contend in the suit that the study is erroneous and that EPA has denied them "due process" of the law under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

AFBF was a party to defending 2, 4, 5-T uses on rice, range and pasture in 1974 when EPA withdrew a cancellation order for lack of evidence. The present suspension order does not include use of 2, 4, 5-T and Silvex on rice and range.

A hearing is expected to be held on April 3 in the U.S. District Court for the eastern district of Michigan, on a motion for a preliminary injunction.

Farm Bureau Opposes FDA's Proposed Changes for Substitute Foods

The American Farm Bureau Federation has entered a statement in opposition to proposed changes by the Food and Drug Administration in the standards of identity for substitute foods.

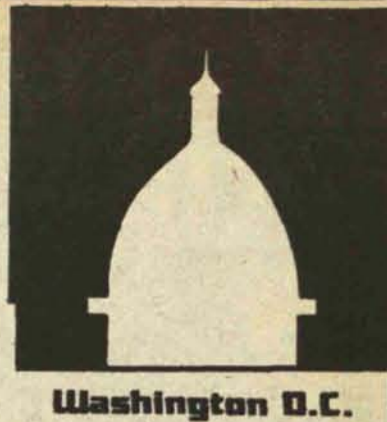
The nation's latest general farm organization entered its statement on behalf of more than three million member-families in 49 states and Puerto Rico, but especially on behalf of the many dairy producers among them, according to Hollis Hatfield, AFBF dairy specialist.

The basis for the Farm Bureau objection, according to Hatfield, is the policy adopted by voting delegates at the 1979 annual meeting of AFBF, which states:

"We oppose the Food and

Drug Administration's proposed standards for substitutes for milk, cream and cheese and the labeling of such substitutes with any references to the product being imitated. We do not object to new food products entering the market, however, these products should stand on their own merits."

The AFBF statement contends that adoption of the proposed changes would, "legalize the adulteration of dairy products; authorize the manufacture and sale of fabricated substitutes for milk, cream and cheese formulated to be as similar to the dairy product being



simulated as is technically possible; and sanction use of the name of the imitated product in the name of the substitute."

AFBF contends that the nature of the proposal is of obvious concern to dairy producers, but adds, "If this proposal is adopted, the ultimate loser will be the consumer."

"The inference that a substitute product is nutritionally equivalent to the food being simulated is a deception of the first order," Hatfield said.

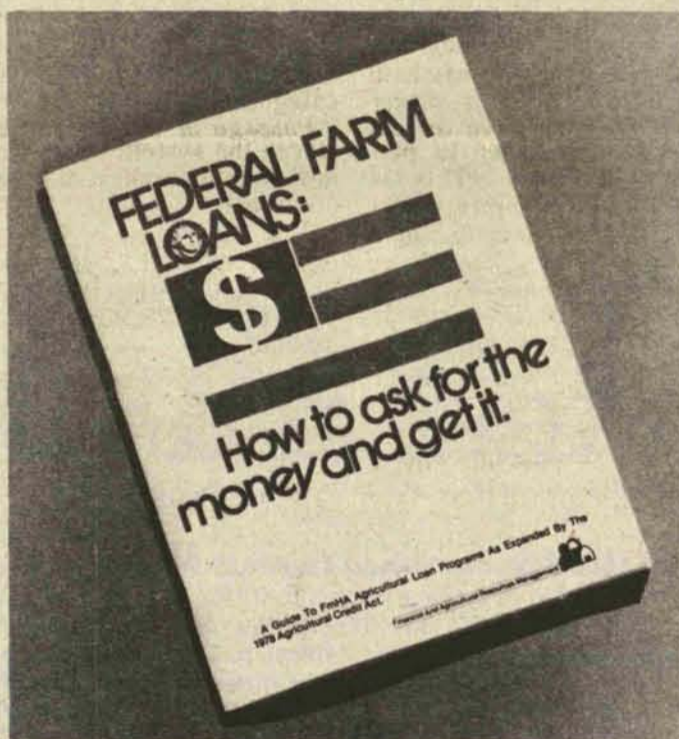
Book Aids Farmers in Loan Applications

"FEDERAL FARM LOANS: How To Ask For The Money And Get It," is the first concise reference guide to USDA Farmers Home Administration loan programs since the passage of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978.

Designed to show farmers and ranchers how they can apply for and obtain FmHA farm loans for which they are eligible, this informative new book contains actual procedure condensed directly from thousands of pages of federal regulations.

Under guidelines of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, farm partnerships, cooperatives and corporations, as well as individual farmers, can now receive FmHA loans up to \$400,000 at advantageous rates and terms.

The book describes six categories of direct agricultural loans: Farm Ownership, Soil and Water, Recreation, Farm Operating, Economic Emergency and Emergency Disaster loans. Specific eligibility requirements, authorized loan purposes, loan limitations, rates and terms for each loan category are



carefully explained. Internal agency procedures for loan processing, and a glossary of the terms commonly used in FmHA loan programs, are detailed.

The book also includes a variety of sample forms and a list of suggested Do's and Don'ts for the prospective applicant.

"FEDERAL FARM

LOANS:..." is an invaluable reference guide for farmers, ranchers, ag lenders, farm consultants and others who can benefit from these greatly expanded USDA agricultural loan programs. This soft cover book sells for \$7.95, and may be ordered from: FAARM, P.O. Box 2656, Wenatchee, Washington 98801.

Farm Bureau Calls for Repeal of Carryover

Complete repeal of the carryover basis provision of the 1976 Tax Reform Act has been called for by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

In a statement delivered by John Datt, director of AFBF's Washington office, Farm Bureau said the "carryover basis fosters an insidious bias against farmers and ranchers." Datt said it does this by taxing appreciation in capital assets that is due largely to inflation rather than increased productivity.

The testimony was delivered to the subcommittee on Taxation and Department Management of the Senate Finance Committee.

Datt said farm and ranch

heirs should not be forced to pay increased taxes on an artificial gain in land values, especially when the appreciation occurred prior to their ownership.

Under the carryover basis provision which has been suspended until 1980, an heir must pay capital gains taxes based on the original price of the land, not the value at the time it was inherited.

Datt said that by repealing the carryover basis, "Congress will recognize contribution of a sector of our society and economy that has taken great economic risks to build a productive and efficient agriculture. Heirs must not be penalized for the skill, enterprise and vision of their benefactors."

U.S., Japan Need Trade Balance

The president of the American Farm Bureau Federation warned recently that "without tangible improvement in the trade balance between the United States and Japan, there is real danger that some trade doors will be closed." Allan Grant stressed that it must not be allowed to happen.

Grant spoke before the Washington conference on U.S.-Japan agricultural trade.

"We must do everything we can to keep goods and commodities flowing," he said and emphasized the need for a continuing and honorable dialogue between the two nations.

Grant congratulated the Japanese delegates on last year's slight relaxation of barriers against U.S. meat

and citrus imports. "We think that as (the new quotas) phase into full effect you will discover they are easy to live with — that our products will be popular with consumers and of no harm whatsoever to the economy of your farming community," he told the delegates.

Grant recalled the severe impact of a grain embargo imposed several years ago and assured the Japanese leaders that the Farm Bureau is "prepared to use every legal means to prevent any repetition" of such an embargo.

"Our national political leaders," Grant said, "have learned that farmers will no longer allow their grain and other commodities to be held hostage to consumerist and political pressures."



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Members

Earl Johnson President of Livestock Exchange

A Genesee County cattle feeder, Earl Johnson, of Otisville, has been elected president of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange. The action took place during the annual reorganizational meeting of the Exchange's board of directors following its 57th annual meeting on March 10 at Long's Convention Center, Lansing.

A life-time farmer, Johnson is a past president of the Michigan Cattle Feeders Association and was recently appointed by Governor Milliken to serve a three-year term on the Michigan Beef Industry Commission. He

farms about 3,000 acres of land and feeds over 4,000 head of cattle a year in a family enterprise with his three sons and brother, Don. Johnson has served on the Michigan Live Stock Exchange board of directors for the past 12 years.

Other officers and board members elected were David Morris, Grand Ledge, vice president; Ed Oeschger, Bay Port, secretary; Lawrence Fisher, Palmyra; Norris Young, Buchanan; Keith McKenzie, Cassopolis; Jack Sill, Gaines; George Spencer, Cassopolis; and Phillip Roberts, Breckenridge.

Commission Names Members

Three new members have been named to the Michigan Bean Commission, replacing those whose allotted terms have expired. Two of them represent growers and the third is the representative for canning companies on the Commission.

In District 1, representing Arenac, Bay, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland and Montcalm counties, Calvin Marsh, 28, of Edenville will replace Dirk Maxwell of Hope, who has served since 1973. Marsh is in partnership with his father and a brother, operating Marsh Farms and Marsh Machine Company. The farms produced 1,800 acres of sugar beets, corn and beans last year. Their 1978 bean production was 750 acres of colored and white beans. He is a graduate of MSU and holds a Master's Degree from Boston University and is a veteran of Army service in Germany. Marsh is a member of the Midland County Farm Bureau.

In District 3, the new appointee is Carl DeGeus, of St. Charles, who replaces Richard Leach, Jr. of Saginaw, representing Saginaw and Shiawassee counties. Leach has served two terms of 3 years each on the Commission. DeGeus farms 450 acres of beans, sugar beets, corn, wheat, soybeans and alfalfa. He has attended MSU short courses, and serves on the board of Chesaning Farm Supplies, Inc. DeGeus is a member of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau.

Representing the canning industry on the Commission will be Charles E. Stratman of Camden, N.J., who is director of procurement for the Campbell Soup Company. He will replace William A. Siegmann of Pittsburgh, vice-president of H.J. Heinz Company. Stratman was born on a cash crop farm in Nebraska and served 3 years in the U.S. Navy. He has had nearly 37 years of service with Campbell's.

Tuscola Youth Wins FFA Trip

Dennis Engelhard, son of Tuscola Farm Bureau members LaVern and Betty Engelhard, was one of 22 top Future Farmers of America (FFA) award winners who spent fifteen days in March on agriculture-related visits in five European countries. It is the first FFA trip of its kind to honor award winners according to FFA officials.

England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland were the countries visited on the tour, which is part of the FFA's incentive awards program encouraging proficiency in a variety of agriculture abilities.

The participants won their right to go on the all-expense paid trip through their excellence in one of twenty-two particular endeavors, ranging from diversified livestock production to soil and water management, and forestry to floriculture. The travel seminar, like the monetary awards for the proficiency winners, is sponsored by concerns of business and industry through the National FFA Foundation.

Engelhard won the crop production proficiency category and was sponsored by Massey-Ferguson, Inc.

Kent County Members Win MMPA Award



Jim and Berdie Cook of Lowell, Kent County Farm Bureau members, were named Michigan Milk Producers Association's 1979 Outstanding Young Dairy Couple. The Cooks milk about 180 cows and farm 1,000 acres in partnership with Jim's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Cook, Sr. The Cooks will attend the national Young Cooperators' meeting held in conjunction with the National Milk Producers Federation annual meeting later this year.

Ag Leaders Honored During Farmers Week



PETER MORRISON



MARVIN DREYER



HAROLD LEIN

Win MSU's Distinguished Service Awards

Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources honored three individuals March 22 for their outstanding contributions to Michigan agriculture.

Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award are Marvin Dreyer, Holland; Harold E. Lein, St. Louis; and Peter C. Morrison, Williamsburg. Their awards were presented during the President's Luncheon by Dr. James Anderson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. MSU President Edgar L. Harden was the guest speaker.

Dreyer was cited for his leadership in Michigan's poultry and Christmas tree industry. Having started with 40 acres of land in 1954, Dreyer now operates on 435 acres producing 2.4 million dozen eggs and about 15,000 Christmas trees annually.

In addition to his farm enterprise, Dreyer is active in agricultural organizations

including the local MSU Extension Poultry Advisory Committee; is a member of the board of directors of Marketeers, a local Christmas tree organization; a member of the Grand Valley Christmas Tree Growers Association; and president of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. Dreyer is also a member of the Ottawa County Farm Bureau.

Lein, general manager of Michigan Livestock Exchange, was cited for his assistance in livestock production circles and support of MSU agricultural education programs. He has been active in many organizations, some of which include: membership in the Michigan Beef Industry Commission appointed by Gov. William Milliken, vice president of the National Producers Service Co., member of the National Livestock Feeders Association and Michigan Cattle Feeders Association.

Morrison operates 1,200 acres of land producing sweet and tart cherries, apples, prunes and pears. He is also president and general manager of Morrison Storage, which specializes in freezing of processed fruit crops, and is manager of the Yuba Cooperative, a fruit processing plant.

Morrison has been very active in helping establish market patterns for the fruit industry. He helped organize MACMA, the commodity division of Michigan Farm Bureau of which he has been a board member since 1975. He has been active in the Michigan Cherry Committee. He was a prime mover in the establishment of a federal marketing order which assures an even supply of cherries going to market each year. He is a charter member and vice president of the Cherry Central Co-op which efficiently markets cherries from member processing plants. Morrison is also a member of the Northwest Michigan County Farm Bureau.

Genesee County Agriculture

Getting to Know You.....



Town and Country Meet

For the first time, an agricultural mall promotion was held at the Genesee Mall in Flint in early March. The 3-day agricultural display was sponsored by the Women's Committees of Genesee, Oakland, Lapeer and Sanilac counties with the general purpose of promoting and educating urban people about agriculture. (Above) "Well, I remember . . ." was a frequent comment heard from shoppers at the antique display. (Top right) A shopper was intrigued by the shape and "smell" of a sugar beet, while (lower right) a younger urban visitors was fascinated by the baby chicks at one of the live animal displays. This year's display was so successful that plans are already underway for next year's agricultural promotion, according to Ethelyn Mills of Genesee County, general chairman of the project.



National Award Winner Boosts Local Interest in Agri-Business

"Since we've returned from Miami, we get a couple of invitations to speak at Farm Bureau meetings, business or civic clubs each week," says Roger Bloss, "That's great, but I think I'm going to have to hire a secretary so I can have time to run the farm."

But it's the award-winning management of RO-B farm in Genesee County operated by Roger and Linda Bloss in partnership with Roger's father that is bringing the couple into the limelight. Groups in the Swartz Creek area are interested in learning more about the dairy operation that earned the Blosses recognition as one of three national winners in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Outstanding Young Farmer and Rancher competition.

Roger entered farming following graduation from high school in a full partnership with his father, F.D. Since 1966, Roger has been instrumental in developing a phased program for expansion and improvement of the dairy herd and facilities.

From the original herd of 75 cows, the operation has grown to a current herd size of 140 registered Holsteins.

During the growth years, additions and herd replacements were made from registered animals.

Improvement of the herd is a high priority for Bloss and his interest in breed improvement is evidenced by his leadership role in Central Genetics, an organization established for the purpose of developing high potential young bulls into outstanding sires. Roger and 11 other farmers in Clinton, Shiawassee, Ingham and Genesee counties expect to have the first proofs soon on several of the young bulls they have purchased over the past four years.

Improvements in the facilities can be traced at approximately four year phased constructions or additions. In a progressive expansion program begun in 1974, an old barn was razed and a new comfort-stall and calf barn was built in its place. A 50' x 150' Butler Farmstead building was constructed for storage of hay and straw. The farm building provides housing for 30 yearling heifers and a 25' x 50' area is reserved for housing dry cows. In the same expansion phase a pre-cast

bunker silo was constructed for corn silage.

With those improvements operational, Roger prepared to continue the upgrading of facilities with the installation of automatic takeoff milkers in the six-on-a-side herringbone milking parlor in 1977.

Each step in the management and growth of the dairy operation is discussed at length with the senior Bloss partner. "It's absolutely necessary in this kind of father-son partnership that you are able to communicate well with one another and are able to work well together toward common goals," says Roger.

"We just purchased an additional 80 acres and I don't plan to buy any more land in the near future. My current plans are to complete construction on the two-stage lagoon system which will be more efficient. Other plans may include construction of a heifer barn. If we could house the heifers separately, I think we could easily be milking 170 cows," he speculates.

The Blosses are strongly family oriented. Many of their leisure time activities center around the children's



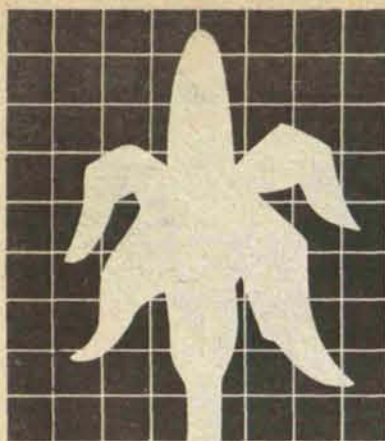
THE BLOSS FAMILY

activities in 4-H and school activities. Linda and Roger have been active in the P.T.O. fund-raisers and committee to re-establish the FFA in the Swartz Creek high school. Roger is a member of the area Jaycees and a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Their children, Tammy, 11; Ricky, 7; Julie Ann, 5; and Kathy, 2, accompany their parents to county fairs and the family finds time occasionally to get away from the dairy operation for a motor home vacation. Most

recently the entire family took an extended trip to Florida in connection with the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting.

With their busy schedule, Roger and Linda appreciate the opportunity to meet with young farmers at events such as the Leader Conference in Denver, Colorado on February 18-21. The trip was sponsored by the Farm Bureau Insurance Group to allow the Blosses to continue to represent Michigan as the state's Outstanding Young Farm Couple.



Marketing Outlook



Fewer Beets -- More Potatoes

The Utah and Idaho Sugar Company would like to sell four sugar processing plants in Idaho, Utah and Washington. This has prompted much speculation as to the future of sugar beets in the Northwestern United States and to what the former beet growers will shift to.

At this time, subject to the situation among alternate crops, especially wheat, there appears to be a potential shift from sugar beets to potatoes in Idaho. This shift is

predicted to increase potato plantings of two percent in that state. If another sugar processor does not continue to operate these plants the effect could be much larger on both wheat and potatoes.

The sale has been announced because the government has failed to provide an adequate base sugar price to return a reasonable profit. This situation exists in other beet and cane sugar producing areas in the United States.

Low prices, from foreign competition, are forcing domestic producers and processors to closely evaluate the profitability of sugar. Without price increases provided by legislation less domestic sugar will be produced in the future.

If sugar beet production is phased out in Michigan or other areas we must recognize how this will impact on alternate crops. At this time there does not appear to be another crop which could easily absorb this acreage.

Ohio Strike Affects Michigan Farm Labor

The strike in the tomato fields of Ohio has had a great effect on their industry and may reduce the migrant labor force here in Michigan.

The strike called by FLOC, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, has prompted several changes in the Ohio tomato industry. The most important change is that several processors will now contract only machine harvest tomatoes. This will

reduce the number of workers required and will force a reduction in the number of acres for harvest, as many small growers cannot afford the \$80,000 for a mechanical tomato harvester.

With the reduced workers needed and the lower acreage it is questionable as to how many of the traditional migrant tomato pickers will attempt to make the trip

north and follow the crops. With far fewer pickers in Ohio this will reduce the labor "spillage" which we normally received from Ohio. This "spillage" has been very important in harvesting Michigan's fruit and vegetable crops.

Michigan growers dependent on migrant labor should make every effort to find adequate labor well in advance this year.

Guidelines for Disposal of Pesticide Containers

Safe disposal of pesticide containers has been a problem for a long time; recent guidelines issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources should help.

According to Tom Dudek, Michigan State University Extension entomologist, pesticide users can now legally dispose of empty containers in licensed sanitary landfills — if the operator of the landfill is willing to accept them.

"Until recently, landfill operators could lose their licenses if pesticide containers were found at the site," Dudek points out. "Now, though they do not have to accept pesticide containers, they can legally do so."

Pesticide users can do their part by properly preparing containers for disposal.

Containers for liquid pesticide formulations should be emptied and triple rinsed according to the following guidelines:

- Fill the container one-fourth full with rinse water
- Close the container tightly
- Shake or roll the container vigorously
- Add the rinse water to the spray tank
- Repeat these four steps twice more

- Puncture the top and bottom of the container so it cannot be reused

- Dispose of the container in a sanitary landfill

Containers for dry pesticide formulations should be emptied completely, then opened on both ends so they cannot be reused. They can then be disposed of in a sanitary landfill.

As yet there are no guidelines nor any disposal sites for toxic materials, Dudek notes, so there is no easy solution to the problem of what to do with left-over dabs of pesticide. He advises growers and homeowners to buy only what they can use and store it properly to maintain its effectiveness.

PROFIT--The American Way: Part I

Profit is not a new concept in this country. The idea was conceived by our forefathers as part of our economic system. When capitalism and free enterprise were adopted or allowed to flourish, certain basic principles became inherent in the makeup of our system. One of those principles is the right of any individual to reap the fruits from the scarce resources that they command. For some people this means selling their labor for a wage, while for others it means investing in land, equipment, machinery, factories and businesses of various descriptions.

Unlike some economies where the scarce resources and factors of production are owned and controlled by the government, the U.S. system places its emphasis on the individual. In other words, it is up to the individual's discretion to decide what, how much and when a good or service is produced. While these are decisions that must be made by any economy, there obviously are wide disparities in how this is to be accomplished.

Another central consideration when discussing profit is the concept of risk. In our economy it is the individual who chooses how much risk they are willing to bear. The larger the risk, in most cases, the larger the potential payoff. But it is this potential payoff that motivates some people to overcome tremendous obstacles.

Our history is filled with people, individuals like you and I, who have decided that the potential was great enough to make them face tremendous odds. People such as Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers, Howard Hughes, John D. Rockefeller, Walt Disney, and the list goes on. Probably everyone can think of someone even in their own community or neighborhood who has taken a large risk and eventually became successful in their own right. But each one of these notable examples demonstrates an extremely important principle. The rewards or success generally correspond to the amount

of risk these individuals were willing to assume.

This leads us to the most important point of all: Profit serves as the incentive. It's the motivator, the big carrot which can be dangled in front of an individual. The success of America rests squarely with the idea that we have provided incentives for individuals. This causes people to accomplish more than can be accomplished in any other type of society!

The small private sector in the Soviet Union is a perfect illustration of this point. Each worker on a collective farm is allotted one or two acres of ground for their own use. This amounts to only two or three percent of the cultivated land in the USSR. From this small amount of land, however, comes 27 percent of the total value of the Soviet Union's farm output. In other words, one-third of the vegetables other than potatoes, close to two-thirds of the potatoes, almost one-half of the eggs and roughly one-third of the meat and milk are produced from these private plots.

It's true that our economy is not perfect, but neither is any other economy. All economies must make adjustments from time to time. Some work better under a given set of circumstances than others. On an overall basis, however, none will do more for it's people, allocate resources to their highest and best use, produce more or provide a higher standard of living than one where the individual receives the benefit of their decisions. In other words, a system where profit provides the incentive!

Profit is an important part of our economic system, one which is sometimes taken too lightly. Perhaps a thorough examination of "Profit-The American Way" will make us more fully appreciate the role it does play.

Next month we will begin to take a closer look at profit in the U.S. economy. During the next few months we will examine how profit is made, how it's figured, who makes it and who doesn't, what the consequences are when people do or do not make a profit.



By: Dr. Paul Kindinger
Director
Commodity Activities and
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Michigan Farm Bureau

Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Radio Network

The Farmer of the Week Award, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, recognizes Michigan farmers for their contributions to the agriculture industry and the community.

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for February were:



BERNARD KEEFER

February 5 — Bernard Keefer, 56, who runs a dairy, hog and cash crop operation near Lyons in Ionia County. Keefer, a lifelong farmer, is farming 500 acres in partnership with his son, John. He serves as Orange Township supervisor; member of the Ionia County Farm Bureau; past advisor to the Future Farmers of America (FFA); served as 4-H leader; served as Production Credit Assn. manager; and was the recipient of the County Soil Conservation Awards and the Honorary State Farmer Award.



ROBERT TESLUCK

February 12 — Robert Tesluck, of Yale, who farms 2000 acres in St. Clair County. Tesluck, 38, raises corn, soybeans, wheat and navy beans. He is an active member of the St. Clair County Farm Bureau and the Yale CB Club, where he served as a board member; member of the Mid-Thumb Association of the American Bowling Congress; and past volunteer member of the Brockway Fire Department, where he served as a lieutenant. He and his wife, Ann, have two children.



HERBERT OPPERMAN

February 19 — Herbert Opperman, 58, a dairy farmer from Lapeer. Opperman farms 300 acres, milks 45 cows and raises corn, hay, oats and some wheat. He served as president of the

Lapeer County Farm Bureau from 1969-70; serves on the Tri-County Planning Commission and has been a member of the Township Planning Commission for 14 years. He has served as a township trustee for eight years, chairman of the Township Election Committee for 10 years, and also serves on the Township Board of Review. Opperman serves on the local board of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative and attends the Wesleyan Church.



ELWOOD KIRKPATRICK

February 26 — Elwood Kirkpatrick, a dairy and beef farmer from Kinde in Huron County. Kirkpatrick, 40, farms about 1000 acres, milks 125 cows and raises cash crops. He also has more than 100 head of beef. He is vice president of the North Huron Schools Board of Education; member of the board of the Harbor Beach Hospital; president of the Huron County Farm Bureau; member of the Huron County Dairy Herd Improvement Assn.; and member and past officer of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn. He and his wife, Guydeane, have four children.

DHIA Offers New Program

Michigan's Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Inc., is offering a new program designed to aid farmers in monitoring mastitis problems.

The Somatic Cell Count program uses the same samples collected monthly by DHIA technicians to test butterfat and protein.

The samples are run through a testing device called the Fossomatic Automatic Cell Counting Instrument at the DHIA Milk Analysis Laboratory. Somatic cell counts are measured and reported on the monthly DHIA milk production report. A special herd report is also provided to identify problem cows. With the farmer's permission, a copy of this report would be mailed each month to the veterinarian.

Research proves that the level of somatic cells present in a cow's milk can be used as a reliable indicator of a cow's mastitis condition. Although the cell count does not diagnose the cause or kind of infection or injury, it does warn of potential problems.

DHIA points out that 47 percent of the cattle in an average size dairy herd are infected with sub-clinical mastitis. And research has shown milk production loss due to mastitis infection in one quarter can vary from 1267 to 1983 pounds of milk during a 305-day lactation. Milk producers interested in the somatic cell program should contact their DHIA technician.

The program is open to all sample herds and costs an additional 13 cents per cow.

County FB Leaders Meet with Press



County Farm Bureaus throughout the state, in cooperation with the Michigan Farm Bureau, are holding "Agricultural Backgrounders" for their local newspaper, radio and TV personnel to promote a working relationship between county farm leaders and members of the media. At the Central "Backgrounder," DURAND EXPRESS editor Owen Rood talks with MFB District 5 Director Bill Spike and Shiawassee County President Les Warren.



CHARLOTTE REPUBLICAN TRIBUNE editor J. F. Torrey (right) and WCER Radio, Charlotte, broadcaster Steve Lewis learn about the challenges facing farmers from Clinton County Farm Bureau President Don Witt.

FEED FACTS

Where do you get them? Ask the Farm Bureau People.



John Heim
Northern Michigan Representative



Gerry Gallup
Western Michigan Representative



Manny Zelles
Thumb Area Representative



Herb Garman
Southern Michigan Representative



Jeff Wilson
Central Michigan Representative



Doug Nelson
Animal Health Product Manager

These top fieldmen and others back your Farm Bureau feeds dealer with their "on the farm know how." Farm Bureau dealers have your interests at heart. They offer you quality products as well as benefits in research from CRF, world's largest network of animal research stations. After all they are here to serve you as part of your cooperative.

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Man and His Food --and Nitrite

(Editor's Note: The following is condensed from a speech given by Doctor Fred E. Deatherage at the September, 1978 meeting of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.)

American agriculture provides the most nutritious food and the food industry gets that food to those who need it more abundantly and efficiently than ever before in human history. Yet the technological fruits of science are often resented as the source of all human ills.

Faddism, sensationalism and the portrayal of scientists, particularly chemists, as demons unleashing genies of untold capabilities, disturb me. We have now reached a crescendo built around a manufactured emotional fear of cancer. The simple fact is that we really do not know what causes cancer. So it is convenient to blame cancer on the environment and all the chemicals it contains.

All living things are made up of cells, and cells live by chemical processes. In these chemical transformations, naturally occurring intermediates are found which are common to most living cells. These same things are a natural part of our food supply, even though as pure substances they may be called additives. For plant cells, nitrogen in the form of ammonia, nitrate and/or nitrite is required as these cells make their own protein. In humans, we require nitrogen as amino acids but since we eat plants we do consume naturally occurring nitrite, nitrate and ammonium salts.

Substances made by producer organisms (green plants) must be consumed by consumer organisms, of which man is one. All organisms are in competition. Each one, in its own way, promotes its own survival by manipulating the ecosystem by killing some and helping other organisms. Man himself is the best manipulator of ecosystems. He selected some organisms for food. In so doing, prehistoric man accepted responsibility for feeding and protecting cattle, wheat, chickens, etc. This is agriculture.

Our civilization cannot survive without food preservation. Food comes only from living things and these are not harvestable every day. Yet we must eat daily. Manipulation of environmental parameters for life can control spoilage bacteria, molds and yeast.

The presence of nitrate and nitrite in the ecosystem is natural. They are produced by lightning, carried by rain to the soil and are found in our rivers and lakes, in plants we eat. They are also produced in our mouths and in our intestines. Nitrate and nitrite, particularly, are perhaps the most valuable preservatives ever discovered. They inhibit the growth of many spoilage organisms, including the ubiquitous free-living nitrogen fixing soil bacterium clostridium botulinum which produces the most lethal toxin known.

Nitrite itself inhibits staling and oxidative deterioration of cooked meat. How many people like a warmed-over hamburger, sliced roast beef or turkey several days after cooking? They are ultra-sensitive to oxidation by air. But people like wieners, bologna, ham and corned beef days after cooking. They are stabilized by nitrite.

VEGETABLES - OTHER SOURCES OF NITRITE

Since we eat plants, we must of necessity eat the nitrate and nitrite they naturally contain along with their protein. How much of these are we talking about? Most fresh vegetables contain about a half part per million nitrite, with some as high as six parts per million. They also contain much larger amounts of nitrate, which is converted easily to nitrite. Celery has 1600-2600 parts nitrate per million, lettuce - 100-1400, radishes - 2400-3000, potatoes - 120, zucchini squash - 600, etc.

But vegetables are not the only source of nitrate-nitrite in our diet. Nitrate occurs naturally in our saliva. Some of this is converted to nitrite by bacteria in our mouths. The average person ingests eight or more milligrams of nitrite daily in his own saliva. This is more than twice that eaten in cured meat.

Salivary nitrite is not the only source of nitrite

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**
Manager Member Relations

in our bodies. It has been shown recently that nitrification processes much like those in the soil occur in our intestines. This intestinal nitrite amounts to about 80-130 milligrams per day — ten or more times what we get from our saliva. Thus each of us each day produces 90-140 milligrams of nitrite. This is enough to cure three or more pounds of meat. The average American eats less than four milligrams of nitrite per day as cured meat. Therefore, cured meat represents at most only 4 percent of the nitrite getting into our bodies. Some say it is more likely two percent.

It is clear that nitrite is a normal part of equal ecosystems of the world and of our own life processes as well.

NATURAL CHEMICAL DEFENSE?

Let us go even further. Since nitrite is produced normally in the human intestines, could it be that this is one of our natural chemical defense systems protecting us from ubiquitous, clostridium botulinum, the spores of which are all around us and even in our food? For some reason these spores do not germinate to active vegetative bacteria in our intestines. Vegetative cells produce the horrendously lethal toxin. Could it be the nitrite in our intestines is our natural protection just as nitrite in cured meat prevents the outgrowth of these feared bacteria? There is evidence that this is indeed the case.

Most people have heard of the sudden infant death syndrome, where babies die in their crib for no apparent reason. It has been shown that many of these fatalities are due to the outgrowth, in the infant intestine, of clostridium botulinum spores to active vegetative bacteria which produce enough toxin to kill the baby. It is reasonable then to consider that normal bacterial nitrification processes producing nitrite have not been sufficiently developed in the first months of life to protect some babies. This idea needs further study. Nevertheless, it has sufficient merit to call the Sioux Honey Association to issue a warning that honey should not be fed to infants less than one year old. Honey, which is almost a sacred food to some faddists, is well laced with botulinum spores.

It is fair to say that nitrite is a part of nature itself. Then why all of the current fuss?

Before the present era of "cancerphobia" there was always concern over the fact that nitrite could be poisonous if not used properly. There are known cases of problems with excessively treated fish. But almost everything, including salt and water is toxic if fed in amounts several times that found in normal physiological circumstances. If we accept 100-150 milligrams of nitrate a day as a normal value for the human, we have considerable latitude in the use of nitrite, for as already indicated that amount is sufficient to cure three pounds or more of meat.

The 1958 Delaney Amendment gave a new dimension to the definition of ingredient safety in foods. It said that "no additive may be deemed safe if it is found to induce cancer when ingested by man or animal" and that no such additive may be used in animal feeds unless no residue of it can be found in food products obtained from the animal. One problem with this law is that, since it was enacted, analytical capabilities have improved a thousand to a million fold. We can find "carcinogens" almost everywhere.

Another conflict with the present law is that many naturally occurring substances, under certain circumstances, can be found to cause cancer. This includes a number of hormones we make and use in our body.

NITROSAMINES

As a student I learned that nitrite could be used

to make dyes and other things including a class of substances known as nitrosamines. In recent years it has been found that some nitrosamines may cause cancer rather easily under certain conditions. It was logical to investigate the possibility that nitrite in food might be converted to some nitrosamines in the body. Some test tube experiments indicate that extremely minute amounts of some nitrosamines might be produced in the stomach. However, evidence that this actually happens is not yet available. Recently, extremely minute amounts of some nitrosamines have been found in the urine of some patients with bladder infections, some of whom developed bladder cancer. Cause and effect relations are still not clear.

Nitrosamines do not seem to be produced in cured meat during usual processing and cooking. However, some samples of bacon fried to very high temperatures of 350-400 degrees fahrenheit or more yield a few parts per billion nitrosamines. What hazards, if any, such bacon poses to the public is not known. There is evidence that these minute amounts of nitrosamines can be eliminated using different cures for bacon.

BAN ON NITRITE?

Not long ago there appeared an incredible number of news stories relating to an imminent ban on the use of nitrite. The fury of confused activity seems to have been due to a direct feeding study of nitrites to rats bred to be susceptible to cancer. In this study 12.5 percent of the nitrite-fed rats developed cancer compared to 8.4 percent for the controls.

Sometimes I think it might be wise to abandon in some studies the use of cancer prone in-bred strains of animals. Rather, might it not be more reasonable to use alley rats to stimulate the genetic variability of the human race?

I deplore the fact that our government, on the basis of one study, which has not been revealed for critical review by the scientific community, could order the ban of a food processing technique that has contributed so effectively to the health of mankind for thousands of years.

Under laws passed by Congress and rules promulgated by the regulating agencies nitrite could be banned, even though the science may not be there to support it. Regulating officials should be allowed some discretion. We need some revision of man-made laws to put them in concert with the laws of nature which control all living things.

The confusion we see about the use of nitrite is only one scene in a continuum of scenarios which tends to undermine confidence in our food. The alarm in the public and in the agricultural and meat industries over the banning by government of a major, historically sound segment of our food supply is a manifestation of a lack of confidence in those in authority. Such loss of confidence can only be restored by mutual trust by people of integrity.

The work of scaremongers is made easier by the information explosion and the resulting communication gap which has come by rapid change in our way of life. As the scientific age dawned man decided that natural philosophy could explain the empirical practices of agriculture; food preservation in cooking developed through millenia of trial and error learning. They eventually realized that such knowledge could lead to improved technology assuring more and better food for more people. This decision, which is so much a part of our own American heritage, compares with that of prehistoric man's development of agriculture.

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