



Michigan ranked third in the nation in production of asparagus in 1978, with more than 90 percent of the crop going to processors. The majority of Michigan's crop is grown in four counties — Berrien, Cass, Van Buren and Oceana. The photo above was taken on part of Farm Bureau member Arthur Dowd's acreage. Dowd

raises asparagus on 150 acres in Van Buren County and markets it through Shafer Lake Fruits in Hartford. Shafer Lake, one of 13 processors under the Asparagus Price Agreement, processes asparagus for Farm Bureau through the Direct Marketing Program.

## Growers Finance Asparagus Promotion

Harvests of the 1979 Michigan asparagus crop will be subject to a \$7.50 per ton assessment on processing and fresh market sales. The assessment, which is being initiated this year, was established by a grower referendum conducted in May 1978. Michigan growers approved the assessment to fund promotion of Michigan's asparagus industry through research, marketing and information programs.

To implement the programs approved by the referendum balloting, an Asparagus Advisory Board was appointed by the governor to represent growers and to administer the Asparagus Industry Development Program. The program is similar in structure to promotion, research and informa-

tion programs currently operating for other Michigan commodities as provided by P.A. 232, the Michigan Agricultural Commodity Marketing Act of 1965. The Asparagus Advisory Board consists of six regional representatives and one at-large representative selected from nominations submitted by growers and grower associations.

According to Harry A. Foster, executive secretary to the advisory board, "Our activities have been primarily organizational at this point. Since this is the first program year, the board is proceeding carefully. The board members have been very clear about their intentions to delay implementation of any specific program activities until we get an

accurate picture of the assessment monies available for promotion and research." However, based on 1978 asparagus crop tonnage, the Asparagus Advisory Board can expect to have an estimated \$75,000 in assessment payments reported by September. Prior to September, market analysis and consultation will be conducted to provide a basis for program planning. Foster expects that a promotion program will be launched in the fall to target holiday and mid-winter markets.

Foster also notes that Michigan's asparagus industry also enjoys good cooperative support from processors in promoting commodity research. In addition to research monies

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## Farm Fresh Asparagus-- Member-to-Member

"Increased direct market sales of fresh Michigan asparagus in the 1979 Spring Asparagus Sale indicate that Farm Bureau members have confidence in the quality of products offered through our service-to-member program," says Dick Westra, manager, Direct Marketing Division of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA).

When deliveries began in late May, orders from forty-one participating county Farm Bureaus totalled over 30,000 pounds of select grade, hand-snapped asparagus spears. "This year's sale of asparagus represents an increase of 8,000 pounds over the 1978 volume," Westra reports.

The Direct Marketing program in Michigan relies upon the efforts of county volunteers to promote the sale to their members, take orders and notify members of delivery dates. "It's a lot of work for those volunteers. The program just wouldn't be able to operate without them," he says. In many counties, proceeds from the Direct Marketing sales are used to finance local activities for the Young Farmers, Women's programs or to sponsor students at the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar.

The Direct Marketing Division conducts four major sales through the year. "Response to the member-to-member concept has been excellent," says Westra, "and we are looking forward to good success in the August fruit and vegetable sale." More information will be available after June 20.



### From the Desk of the President

## Ag Research -- An Investment, Not a Cost

When our group of Michigan farmers visited Washington, D.C. this spring, there were two issues on our list of concerns that caused observers — and even some participants — to ask: does Farm Bureau speak with “forked tongue”? How could we, in good faith, call for cuts in government spending and, in the next breath, ask — with equal conviction — that our congressmen oppose the administration's proposed budget cuts for agricultural education and research?

We didn't “duck” the question; we were glad for the opportunity to illustrate that there were no inconsistencies in our policies, or that we were marching to a special interest “cut every budget but mine” tune.

Certainly, we do have a special interest in President Carter's attempts to reduce the financial support of the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Stations by \$17 million. But it's not a selfish interest because American consumers, too, will be the losers if the proposed reduced funding becomes a reality. Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service, as part of our land grant colleges and universities, has been partners with farmers in providing consumers with a plentiful supply of food and fiber.

Our Farm Bureau policy on this issue states: “The Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service has made an outstanding contribution to farm people and must be continued and strengthened to meet the future needs of agriculture. . . . We are concerned with the continuing trend of reduced federal funding for the Extension Service and believe Farm Bureau should take the lead in obtaining additional appropriations. . . .”

That policy is not inconsistent with our support for a balanced federal budget because funds used for research are an investment. Two of our state senators, Bill Sederburg and Dick Allen, shared our beliefs in a recent letter to Michigan's 19 congressmen: “We in Michigan feel that dollars invested in agricultural extension and research do not represent a cost, but an investment in the future of our most basic industry.”

They further explained: “We have not endorsed extensive government spending in unnecessary programs. We

are confident, however, that there are other areas of the federal budget which can be evaluated and slightly reduced, without jeopardizing the very important educational activities associated with these two units of our land grant system.”

We appreciate the efforts of Senators Sederburg and Allen in this area of major concern to Michigan farmers. Here in our state, we have proof that agricultural research is an investment that pays impressive dividends. Every \$1,000 invested has resulted in an average of \$3 to \$4 of additional output per farm with the same level of input by the farmer. This additional output increases productivity and minimizes the increase in food costs.

We're proud of our diversified agriculture here

in Michigan and we could list a host of commodities that have been favorably impacted by the work of experiment station scientists. Our navy bean industry is just one example. Today, we are the “Bean Capitol of the World,” producing more dry edible navy beans than any other state in the nation. Yet, without the work of the Agricultural Experiment Station, we probably wouldn't be producing any!

Following World War II, acreage began falling off because of increasing disease and the work involved in harvesting beans from the vine. Funds were made available to the USDA Agricultural Research Service in 1948 for expanded dry bean research. The Michigan Experiment Station joined in with an MSU-USDA bean disease and breeding

program, resulting in a bush-type navy bean which facilitated harvesting. Radiation and cross-breeding also led to the development of disease resistant varieties. Work is continuing to find a bean which will have some tolerance to mechanical harvesting injury.

President Carter's budget recommendations include the elimination of Michigan's dry bean research program, as part of the “redirection” of funds away from single commodity programs and toward research on such things as nutrition, energy, pollution and nonchemical pest control. This research program is tremendously important to our producers in finding ways to grow beans more efficiently.

At a time when food costs are escalating and the cost spread between the farm gate

and the consumer is more than 70 percent of the total food bill, it makes absolutely no sense to drastically cut and virtually close down the only federal research effort that has made significant contributions toward reducing losses and increasing efficiency. It is, in fact, irresponsible! Consider the so-called “savings” that would result from a cutback in agricultural research funding:

It would mean a “savings” of \$2.58 for a family of four with a \$20,000 income — which would lead to an increase in their cost of food by about \$37.20. A continuing reduction to “save” them \$26.94 in taxes could add an extra \$162.90 to their food bill. Even worse, it could “save” them from an adequate food supply in the future!

Sit down today and write to your congressman about this issue. Write to him as both a producer and a consumer, telling what agricultural education and research has meant to YOU, personally — and what the lack of it might mean to your children and grandchildren. Remind him that funding for agricultural education and research is not a cost, but an investment, an investment that pays off in dividends of an efficient farming industry that can meet the challenges of producing an adequate food supply at a reasonable cost.

Agriculture cannot afford to lose its partner in meeting that challenge!

Elton R. Smith

## NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

ALLAN GRANT, PRESIDENT  
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION



### Serious Talk About Energy

But when I started farming, most farm homes did not have electricity. The Coleman lantern and the kerosene lamp were used for most light. Wood and coal burning stoves heated the homes. Windmills pumped the water and sometimes had to be supplemented by man power (women power, boy power!), when the wind didn't cooperate.

Even through the 1930s and up until World War II the use of electrical power on farms was so limited that the formation of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Rural Electrification Administration seemed like bold ventures.

Today, with mechanized agriculture, automated feeding and watering of livestock, artificial grain drying, automatic doors and gates, electric milking and dairy cooling equipment, irrigation pumps and a host of other farm power uses, agriculture is among the leading users of electricity. In 1977 an energy utilization study project found that cooperating farmers in one area spent a yearly average of nearly \$4,000 directly for energy in the forms of electricity, propane, fuel oil, diesel fuel and gasoline. Some spend much more.

Of course those costs have

gone up now!

It is not surprising that farmers and ranchers have a keen interest in the national energy situation.

A few years ago environmentalists objecting to the smoke and other residue from coal powered generating stations, caused the federal government to restrict the use of coal, our nation's most plentiful and readily obtainable power fuel. Vast coal reserves (the U.S. owns 66 percent of the world's supply) lie unused or underused because of the prohibitive costs of removing the objectionable residue.

The clean air enthusiasts next attacked the use of our millions of cars and trucks. Emission control devices have since added hundreds of dollars to the cost of every vehicle. Required emission control devices have made our automobiles less efficient, causing them to use one-third more fuel.

The introduction of the catalytic converter further reduced the efficiency of fuel conversion and required the use of lead free gasoline. The manufacture of lead free fuel uses 11 percent more crude oil than does regular gasoline, which probably accounts for the fact that it is about that much more expensive.

It is time to become serious about our energy priorities. The comprehensive national energy policy talked about by our president when he campaigned for office three years ago is still being talked about. Considering what was later proposed, we are fortunate.

Price regulations continue to disrupt allocation of existing supplies and deter exploration for additional supplies, and the development of alternate sources.

Preoccupation by the media and environmentalists over the nuclear incident at Three Mile Island must be kept in perspective. No injuries or deaths resulted from the near calamity. The nuclear program should go forward, with proper safeguards and without panic. Twelve and one-half percent of our electricity is now generated by nuclear reactors. This percentage must be greatly increased.

Meanwhile government should relax sulphur standards for coal and oil use, decontrol prices of secondary and tertiary oil recovery and modify the movement toward more strict auto emission control standards.

These steps alone could save an estimated one million barrels of crude oil per day.

### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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**FPC Will Hold Prices to a Minimum**

# Agriculture Gets Top Priority-- But At Top Prices, Too

Implementation of a federal mandatory diesel allocation program that entitles farmers and others in the food and agriculture sector to 100 percent of their diesel fuel requirements was announced May 11 by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland.

The announcement came amid growing farmer concern over the availability of diesel fuels during a late planting season.

"Planting of corn, spring wheat and other grains is already several weeks behind schedule because of the wet weather in the midwest," Bergland said, "and serious problems have developed. Any shortages of diesel fuel could significantly reduce the size of harvests, create a tight supply situation, and result in serious market disruptions."

The mandatory allocation program under the administration of the Department of Energy (DOE) requires wholesale suppliers of diesel fuel to provide local distributors and retailers with sufficient supplies to meet farmers' needs. If necessary, major oil company refineries can be instructed to move fuel supplies to wholesale suppliers in agricultural areas.

Bill Rockey, spokesman for Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. of Michigan, says the allocation priority will enable the cooperative to supply farmers with the fuel needed to farm their crop "just as we

did during the last crisis in '73," but Rockey warns that an assured supply of diesel fuel is not likely to stimulate a downward trend in pricing.

"We will make every effort to hold the price to a bare minimum," he says, "but crude oil supplies at the world market price are practically unavailable, so refineries are forced to go to the higher priced spot market for crude oil. Because of that prices will be high and continue to get higher."

Rockey is hopeful that current on-the-farm diesel fuel supplies will provide the "cushion" that dealers will need until the mandatory allocation program is working effectively. He urges farmers not be panicked by the shortage and to maintain adequate fuel in their storage tanks to operate their farms. "But in the cooperative spirit, farmers ought to avoid stockpiling fuel beyond their maximum agricultural needs."

Under provisions of the 100 percent allocation, if a producer has a greater need than he did for May of last year, then the distributor must go to the supplier to get approval to increase that producer's supply and certify the increased requirement as an agriculturally-related need.

The supplier after receiving this information, can approve the distribution of the increased requirements. If for some reason a supplier does not

approve such a request then the distributor or producer should contact the Michigan Energy Emergency Center (517) 373-8250 for further information.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) county offices will report farmers' planted acreages and provide other information that will help implement the agricultural priority and provide information, upon request, to fuel dealers, state energy offices, and the Department of Energy.

County ASCS offices will continue to work with state energy offices and their allocation of the 4 percent state diesel fuel set-aside for hardship cases.

## Thank You

We would like to thank our many friends for the love shown us following the tragedy we experienced in February when our 16 year old daughter, Judy, and our 16 year old neighbor, Dennis Wondergem, were killed in a car-train accident.

We received so many beautiful cards and floral tributes and a memorial fund was established. The love of God is shown through the love of His people for each other.

We thank you!

John and Julie Kronemeyer and Family  
Chippewa County

## What's Happening?

June 18-22	Young People's Citizenship Seminar	Albion College Albion
June 18-21	College Week	Michigan State University East Lansing
June 20	"Gasohol Day in Michigan"	Civic Center, Lansing
June 21-23	4-H Exploration Days	Michigan State University East Lansing
July 19	State Farm Management Tour	Calhoun County
July 31	MFB Policy Development Committee	Farm Bureau Center Lansing



## Straight talk about June Dairy Month



Farming is  
everybody's bread  
& butter.

June Dairy Month began in 1937, an idea for bridging the gap between producer and consumer.

In 1937 most cows calved in spring and went on lush summer pasture near the peak of their production. Result: a seasonal surplus of milk, a need to move more of it into consumption channels. June Dairy Month helped to make the adjustment.

Dairy production and consumption patterns have changed a lot since 1937. Dairy men manage their herds to even out the flow of milk. Consumer buying habits have changed. June Dairy Month continues, an annual focus on an important industry.

The real significance of June Dairy Month is that it's a time to build bridges of understanding between people on dairy farms and people who use their products. They are interdependent, one on the other.

### Michigan Production Credit Associations

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

## Farmers, Consumers Invited to Gasohol Day

Gasohol, the fuel from farms, is not a new concept. Research on the fuel blend of gasoline and ethanol alcohol has been available since World War II, but until recently gasohol production has not been considered economically feasible.

In the changing economics of energy, however, gasohol may be an alternative energy source for which the time has come. Consumers, industry and government are now taking a closer look at the use of gasohol to conserve fuel.

In an effort to make current gasohol information available to the public, State Senator Richard Allen has invited interested citizens to attend Gasohol Day on June 20 at the Lansing Civic Center. Gasohol Day will feature speakers from the National Gasohol Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy, the United States Department of Agriculture Energy Office, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the U.S. Treasury.

Manufacturer representatives will also be available to describe the use of small, on-the-farm still systems and large plant equipment for the production of ethanol alcohol.

Persons interested in attending "Gasohol Day" are requested to send a \$10 pre-registration fee, which covers the cost of facility rental, speaker expenses and a noon luncheon, to "Michigan Gasohol Day," P.O. Box 16158, Lansing, Michigan 48901.

## Watch for "Red Flags"

# Farmers Can Avoid Bankruptcy Losses

TINSTAAFL — "There is no such thing as a free lunch" — if farmers caught in the recent rash of grain elevator bankruptcies had heeded that truism; if they had followed that basic rule of good farm management: "Know your dealer," then perhaps they would not have been the losers of over a million dollars.

That's the opinion of officials of both the grain industry and the Michigan Department of Agriculture, which has responsibility for auditing the nearly 500 elevators and trucking concerns dealing with grain in the state.

In the past few months, four grain elevators — in Durand, DeWitt, Clarksville and Bellevue — have gone into bankruptcy, leaving in their wake over a million dollars in losses to farmers. Four out of nearly 500 — not a bad record, especially in today's economy. But because the bankruptcies occurred in a short period of time and resulted in widespread publicity, the problem has become an issue of concern.

To farmers, who want assurance that it won't happen to them. . . To the MDA officials, with only four auditors to monitor the nearly 500 establishments involved in the state's grain business. . . To the grain industry itself, concerned about its image and the potential damage to the well-earned trust most of the dealers have established with their farmer-patrons.

There's no law or money-back guarantee that will completely assure a farmer that he won't get caught in a grain elevator bankruptcy. But experts believe the most effective steps toward self-protection a farmer can take are simply responsible, good business management practices.

One of these practices, according to both Dean Pridgeon, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and Stan Sherman, executive secretary of the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association, is to recognize that "there is no such thing as a free lunch." When a dealer offers too much "incentive" to do business with him rather than one of his competitors, when he makes an offer "too good to turn down," then the farmer should be suspicious.

"Anytime you hear farmers say, 'I do business with this person because I can get a dime more and no storage and I can sell when I want to,' then you ought to get concerned, because it's not possible for one business place to be that much above the others in paying practices," warned Pridgeon. "They do this to get enough volume of grain so they can pay off a guy they owe today and let them live a few more days. The only thing is, they dig the hole deeper in the process and all of a sudden, it all falls in on them."

**"KNOW YOUR DEALER"**  
The best rule, says Sherman, is "know your dealer." Ninety-nine percent of them are "doing a heck of a good job under difficult circumstances," he said. Those difficult circumstances include being in a fiercely competitive business with

narrow margins, ever-increasing costs of operation, and a myriad of government regulations, Sherman explained.

Cooperatives, where the "know your dealer" rule is easily applied, have an excellent record of avoiding bankruptcies. Some may liquidate, says Donald Armstrong, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., when there's not sufficient demand for their services, but few go into bankruptcy.

Armstrong believes this is true "because the member is actually the owner and therefore is directly involved in the operations. He has the opportunity to see that operation's financial position on at least an annual basis. Then there's the board of directors made up of local farmers that see it on a month to month basis."

### FARMERS HAVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Food Inspection Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture has responsibility for auditing the nearly 500 elevators and trucking concerns dealing with grain. However, farmers also have a responsibility to be alert to certain "red flags" that may be signaling that an elevator is in financial trouble.

"The farmer has the greatest potential loss and so he also has the responsibility to see that his scale tickets are made in the proper records within 30 days and that payments that are promised are made," said Dr. Edward C. Heffron, chief of the MDA Food Inspection Division.

When this doesn't happen, Dr. Heffron suggests that "when there is a doubt — rather than hesitate — farmers should call. Time often makes quite a difference." Heffron said that in the case of the bankruptcy with the largest losses, not one farmer complaint had been received. "We feel that a complaint would have initiated surfacing the type of information that perhaps could have made it less of a loss," he said.

Currently, with limited staff and budget, MDA can only average about two audits per year for each establishment. "Of course, we act upon a complaint and one that appears to have some validity generally will result in an audit in a day or two, and in some cases, start the same day," Heffron explained.

But farmers, it seems, are reluctant to issue complaints or inquiries even if there are "red flags," Heffron said, and in many cases, audits are initiated by having a salesman mention that the



DR. EDWARD HEFFRON

establishment has been slow in paying or that they have had checks bounce.

### IS THE LAW ADEQUATE?

The Grain Dealers Act of 1939, amended by the Michigan Legislature in 1976, provides for the licensing, regulation and bonding of grain dealers. In view of the recent bankruptcies, there are some concerns as to whether the act is adequate.

"We think there are some deficiencies in the act and we will be going to the Legislature with some recommendations for changes," said Director Pridgeon.

Stan Sherman is concerned that a complete rewrite of the act will make the law "so restrictive that dealers won't be able to freely operate and will drive more grain across the border to our neighboring states." He fears, too, that possible over-regulation will add further to the difficult financial situation grain dealers find themselves in because of the costly requirements of MI-OSHA, EPA, Federal Grain Inspection Service, and other government regulations.

Pridgeon says he understands the fears of the industry, but is confident the proposed changes "will not be more of a burden than what they wish to assume." He said the MDA will work with a committee of the elevator industry to explore the "deficiencies" before presenting recommended changes to the Legislature.

One of the areas the MDA officials believe needs changing concerns documents issued by the elevators.

"Presently the law simply states that certain types of records shall be issued to the seller of the grain and that accurate records of transactions must be kept," explained Dr. Heffron. "This leaves a hole, in that scale tickets and some of the other forms that are made out can be issued to the seller of the grain in complete compliance with the law, but the copy we see in the office is not required to be like the copy that's issued."

"Therefore, we don't know if that copy is in compliance with the law and the only way we can find out is to go to some of the sellers. Presently, the law doesn't give us the authority to go to the seller unless there's a shortage identified," he said. "We think it would be helpful to have the requirement that the records be identical and then extend some authority to be able to expand investigation further without having identified a shortage."

### MANAGEMENT IS KEY

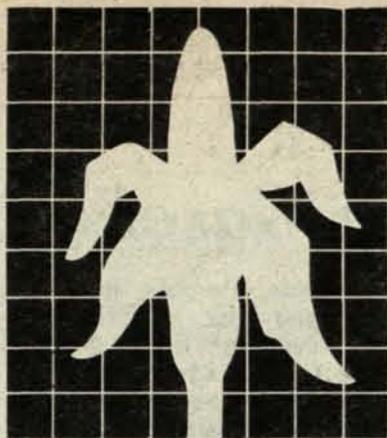
The current law requires grain dealers to keep accurate records. If they fail to do so, they risk losing their license.

"There's a balance in the law so that 'big brother' isn't infringing upon individual rights," explained Dr. Heffron. "If we find an establishment that isn't keeping good books, we're required to either have enough evidence to suspend their license immediately and follow with a hearing — or take the usual course of giving a reasonable notice of a hearing, offer an informal hearing, then hold a formal

(Continued on page 7)



DEAN PRIDGEON



# Marketing Outlook



## Congress Debates Sugar Program

While the U.S. Congress attempts to formulate some type of domestic sugar program that will stabilize the industry, several western sugar processors have ceased production and will process no sugar beets this year. Several of these plant closings were met with grower activity to purchase the dying plants and operate them cooperatively but those efforts have failed to sign the necessary acreage to operate the plants.

This means that those growers in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Idaho and Washington will be switching beet acreage to other crops. Those growers indicate that they will be switching to mostly corn, wheat, potatoes and possibly other vegetable crops.

The congressional activity at this time is in somewhat of a turmoil. Sugar state congressmen know what they want but President Carter has made his stand clear on inflationary programs. Congressman Foley, the chief sugar legislation backer, reportedly said "Negotiating the sugar bill is like negotiating the Mid-East peace treaty."

So far, negotiations have resulted in the House Committee on Agriculture reporting a bill to support the price of sugar at 15.8 cents per pound plus a 1/2 cent per pound direct payment to producers for the 1979 crop year. The program would last three years and escalate annually but not to exceed 7 percent per year based on cost of production. The bill

limits payments to \$50,000 per producer.

The direct payment clause has been opposed by the corn sweetener people, who want the market price of sugar higher so that they can sell relatively cheaper corn sweeteners. While, the big Hawaiian producers don't like the payment limitations in the act.

We will have to take a wait and see attitude concerning proposed legislation. But, if we don't get some kind of domestic program started soon, other beet and cane producers and processors will cease production. Thus, increasing our dependence on imports at a time when we really can't afford more imports.

## Barcroft Named Dairy and Livestock Specialist

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger, director of MFB's Commodity Activities and Research Division, recently announced the appointment of Tony Barcroft as the new dairy and livestock commodity specialist for the division.

Barcroft, currently finishing his B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University, was raised on a dairy and cash crop farm near Hastings, Michigan.

He has worked for the state of Michigan on the staff of the Toxic Substance Loan Commission and as a research assistant in the MSU Ag. Economics Department, working with the Telplan



TONY BARCROFT

information retrieval system. Barcroft assumed his responsibilities in the Commodity Activities and Research Division on May 7.

## PROFIT--

## The American

## Way:

### Part III

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

The word profit is often viewed with suspicion by the general public. For many it brings forth hostility. Today we read a great deal about windfall profits in the oil industry, excessive profits being earned by the top 500 corporations and consumers being ripped-off by businessmen. There may be some truth to all of this, but that's not the point. The real question is: Why do people feel they are being ripped-off by business? Why do people become hostile when profits are discussed? What makes people suspicious when they read about big corporations and profits in the local newspaper?

Like everything else these days there is no simple answer to such questions. Most people have their own, personal reasons to distrust or dislike business and profits. I would like, however, to examine some of these attitudes toward profit and end this series with a discussion of the practical aspects of profit.

Any businessman or beginning student of economics is taught the virtues of maximizing profits. In fact the economist would have a tremendously difficult time discussing or predicting business behavior if he could not assume that all businessmen operate to maximize profits. After all, profit is the reward for doing an efficient job with the scarce resources at an individual's command, for taking risk, for venturing into new areas. This is really no different than the worker who changes jobs or joins a union.

There are probably two root causes for most people's suspicion and-or hostility: (1) Inequality of incomes generated from inequality of resource ownership and (2) imperfections in competition that lead to large profits. One is the result, in large part, of good honest competition, hard work and Yankee ingenuity while the latter is generally the result of unfair advantages derived through some ability to manipulate or control markets. These two factors should be analyzed separately.

People have dealt with the inequality of income questions vis-a-vis taxes, subsidies, welfare programs, etc. This obviously helps some people and hurts others. These redistributions are achieved at a cost. The cost is the resultant distortions of incentives, reduced business and market efficiencies and the actual costs of collecting and transferring monies associated with various tax and redistribution schemes.

The question of imperfect competition is not as easily remedied. Here the answer lies with Congress and the courts. The checks and balances of a perfectly competitive environment are virtually complete. Where competition is perfect or even nearly so, there is a pattern of order and efficiency. Profits signal the advantages of a particular venture or product and invite others to enter and compete for the consumers' business. When competition is imperfect, however, the checks and balances become imperfect, opening the door for someone to gain an advantage over their competition and perhaps drive them out of business. But this is difficult to prove, difficult to legislate against and is certainly difficult for the courts to interpret. Even under perfect competition the business that does the best job and is the most efficient will get the most dollar votes from consumers. This forces the competition to either improve or go out of business. Hence, deciding how monopoly power was achieved is difficult at best. Society tends to view some methods as more acceptable than others. As a result, there has been a great deal of confusion and this has detracted from the overall results in the area of competition expected from the courts by society.

As a practical matter, however, it should be remembered that so far I have incorrectly focused on only one side of the story. Practicality dictates that we remind ourselves that the U.S. economy is a profit and loss system. Profits do provide businesses with incentives to keep producing, provide jobs, wages, products and services that we all desire. Profit allows business to assume risks, develop new technology and to advance our standard and style of living. But some businesses fail! Without profits, businesses go under, people become unemployed, research and development slows or stops, taxes are not collected and everyone suffers.

Thus, while it is often easy to become excited about the level of profits in the U.S., it is difficult to condemn their intent and function in society. I would urge anyone who wants to do away with the profit concept to look at other nations around the world. Compare the achievements of those countries without the profit incentive to those countries that maintain the profit motive. It soon becomes clear by comparison that we all benefit when there is Profit — the American Way!



Lansing

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## Legislation Shows More Interest in Gasohol

Gasohol - Gasohol increases in popularity. Since Michigan Farm Bureau's affiliate Farmers Petroleum Cooperative introduced gasohol to Michigan in February, it is now available in about a dozen stations around the state. Large metropolitan newspapers, television and radio have given it a great deal of publicity and given solid credit to Farm Bureau for its leadership.

Several bills have been introduced in the Legislature. The latest is SB 414, introduced by Sen. John Hertel, chairman of the Senate Environmental and Agricultural Affairs Committee. Farm Bureau has worked with Sen. Hertel on the issue.

The bill would require that beginning January 1, 1981, all motor vehicle fuel sold in Michigan must be a gasoline-

alcohol blend. There would be a four year phase-in period, starting with 3 percent mixture after January 1, 1981; increasing to 5 percent in 1982; 7 percent in 1983; and 10 percent by 1984. The blend now being sold in stations around the state is 10 percent alcohol and 90 percent no-lead gasoline.

American farmers not only supply the food to the citizens, but now may be looked to for supplying a good share of the fuel for cars, trucks, machinery, etc. It can provide a major new market for farm and forest products.

Three of the major automobile manufacturers — Chrysler, General Motors and American Motors — have now indicated that they will honor all warranties on cars using gasohol.

Sen. Hertel, in introducing the legislation, said that other

solutions being discussed are years away, while this plan for a gasoline-alcohol mixture is immediate. He recognizes that due to the cost of alcohol pure enough for blending, gasohol will be higher at the pump. However, in the long run, if demand increases, it could be on a par with other fuels.

Other gasohol legislation is progressing. Sen. Corbin, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, is planning a bill to adjust the Michigan gas tax in order to make gasohol more competitive with no-lead gasoline. The federal government has already exempted gasohol from the four cent federal tax.

Sen. Allen is also one of the legislative leaders promoting gasohol as a means to help the energy shortage and a market for agricultural

products. He has just announced that a "Michigan Gasohol Day" will be held at the Lansing Civic Center on June 20. A \$10 registration fee will be charged to cover the cost of the rent, speaker expenses and noon luncheon. The purpose is to provide nationally known experts on gasohol to discuss the advantage of this alternate fuel.

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Gingrass, chairman of the Economic Development and Energy Committee, has held one meeting on HB 40001, introduced by Rep. McCollough of Dearborn, which required research on the use of gasohol in internal combustion engines. The bill was turned over to a subcommittee recognizing the legislation might be expanded to be more helpful to the promotion of the use of this alternative fuel.

## Legislative Notes

Energy Emergency - SB 244 (Sen. Sederburg) provides legislation to give the governor certain powers for a 60-day period in the event of an emergency arising out of an energy shortage.

The bill creates an Energy Advisory Committee within the Department of Commerce consisting of the directors of Commerce, Energy Administration, Michigan Public Service Commission and the Department of State Police.

The bill ignored agriculture and the importance of energy to farmers. Farm Bureau has requested the committee to add the director of Agriculture to the Advisory Committee and also, in another section of the bill, to include agricultural producers and processors as being among those critical businesses that may need priority in receiving energy allocations such as oil, electricity, gasoline, etc. during an energy emergency. If the legislation passes, the governor could act immediately in an emergency situation. Agriculture is already facing a serious diesel fuel shortage later in the summer.

## Labor Issues Surface in House Proposals

OSHA - A new federal study by the General Accounting Office reports that OSHA information on causes of serious accidents is so broad and vague that it is "useless." The federal agency also asserted that OSHA does not use the data it collects in deciding which hazards require new rules and that it ignores its own data on fatalities on deciding its inspection program. For example 30 percent of all work fatalities receive less than 18 percent of the inspections.

Here in Michigan a new comprehensive bill on MIOSHA, HB 4532 (Bullard), was introduced and is being considered by the Labor Committee. Instead of reforming MIOSHA, the legislation as now written would place even greater burdens and red tape on the Michigan employers.

Workers Compensation

## Wetlands Bill Passes Senate, Moves to House

Wetlands Bill (S.B. 3) Passes Senate - One of the most controversial measures has passed the Senate 25-8. It now goes to the House for consideration. The bill, as passed, contains the exemption amendments achieved by Farm Bureau in the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee. Sen. Hertel, chairman of the committee, promoted and supported Farm Bureau's amendments.

It is very clear that ditching and tiling of a wetland for farming and forestry will be

permitted without a permit. The bill specifically states that wetlands are valuable for food production and that many crops such as those grown in muck lands can only be grown on wetlands that are drained and brought into production. One section spells out various uses that are allowed without a permit which include the agricultural exemptions. One important Farm Bureau amendment maintains the inter-county drain system within the Department of Agriculture. The bill also

permits the construction and maintenance of roads across wetlands. All agricultural exemptions continue unless the land is used for purposes other than agriculture.

Before final passage, the Senate also amended the bill to exempt wetlands of less than five acres. This exemption would apply to any use unless the DNR could prove that it was of critical importance. A provision was added to require the DNR to compile an inventory of wetlands after the law is

implemented.

The question now is whether the agricultural amendments in the Senate bill can be maintained in the House of Representatives. It is interesting that an aide to the House Conservation Environmental and Recreation Committee said that a "prime target would be the exemptions granted to agriculture." This means that Farm Bureau has its work cut out in order to assure that the agriculture exemptions will be maintained in the final bill.

## Mid-Michigan Farmers Urge Changes in Highway Department Plan

The State Department of Highways and Transportation has developed a specific plan to construct limited access roadway, Highway U.S. 27, from Lansing to Ithaca including a by-pass for St. Johns.

At the present time, the proposed route has received the support of the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Several Clinton County farmers, affected by the planned corridor, are questioning the departments' recommendations. At the request of the farmers, officials of the DNR and MDA met to review a 10 to 12-mile segment north of St. Johns.

The state's path, north of the city, would basically follow the existing route. The problem, according to the farmer group, is the con-

struction of a service road. They contend that the service road would hamper the access of emergency vehicles, utility services, local citizens and farmers.

The farmers took the state agency officials on a tour of the state's proposed segment north of St. Johns, then on a tour of one of the proposed alternate routes located one-and-one-half miles east of the existing U.S. 27 route.

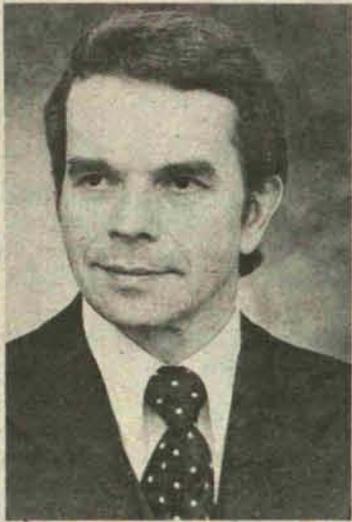
Alden Livingston, a livestock and cash crop farmer in Clinton County, says that the alternate route is best for everyone. "The alternate route is cheaper... safest by the state's own admission... most streamlined and we would actually have twice as much road for \$5 or \$10 million less," he says.

After viewing both routes,

Emmanuel VanNierop, environmental advisor with the Michigan Department of Agriculture said that the state's route may be reconsidered. "I have studied this project right from the beginning," said VanNierop, "and on the basis of the environmental impact statement and as far as I was concerned, I thought that a new highway in this particular sector of U.S. 27 would not be needed because of the condition of the present alignment... to build another highway just a mile or so east of it didn't seem rational to us. There may be some legitimate problems that we should look into." Van Nierop added that the alternate route is cheaper than the state's path and that a change in routing can still be made if Highway and Transportation officials agree.

# NATIONAL NOTES

## Michigan Congressmen Give Co-Sponsorship to National Agricultural Marketing Act



DALE KILDEE



DON ALBOSTA

Support for the National Agricultural Bargaining Bill of 1979 — H.R. 3535 — continues to grow. Following the recent initial introduction of the bill by Congressman Leon Panetta, (D-California) a total of 20 congressmen have joined as co-sponsors.

Of the 20 co-sponsors, five are from the Michigan congressional delegation. Michigan congressmen who have joined as co-sponsors are Don Albosta (D-St. Charles), Bob Davis (R-Gaylord), Dale Kildee (D-Flint), Bob Traxler (D-Bay City) and Howard Wolpe (D-Kalamazoo).



BOB DAVIS



BOB TRAXLER



HOWARD WOLPE

The bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing Consumer Relations and Nutrition of which the sponsor, Congressman Panetta, is the second ranking majority member. Chairman of the Subcommittee is Congressman Fred Richmond (D-New York).

Although no date has been set for hearings on the bill, it is expected that hearings will be held this summer. The bill is the result of nearly two years of work by a national ad hoc drafting committee composed of representatives from the national general farm organizations including Farm Bureau, Grange, Farmers Union and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives as well as many state agricultural marketing associations from throughout the nation.

The bill would make it an unfair trade practice for handlers of agricultural commodities to refuse to negotiate in good faith with an accredited association of producers regarding price and other terms of commodities represented by the association. Farm Bureau strongly supports H.R. 3535.



## Labor Moves to Block Geneva Trade Package

The Washington office of the American Farm Bureau Federation has heard that organized labor plans to delay congressional action on the Geneva trade package by attempting to obtain a 60-day delay in the implementing legislation that will accompany submission of the Geneva trade package to Congress.

Reportedly, organized labor's strategy is to obtain a 60-day delay which will give them more time to muster opposition to the trade package, which, on the whole, favors agricultural exports.

The trade talks have been in process for over five years, and under the present timetable, could be concluded by the end of September, if not earlier. To delay beyond that time would weaken prospects of passage and, therefore, could jeopardize agricultural trade gains obtained in the Geneva talks.

Specific action was introduced in mid-May in the form of a Sense of Congress resolution by Congressman William R. Cotter (D-Conn.) of the Subcommittee on Trade of the House Ways and Means Committee.

AFBF requests that Michigan Farm Bureau members contact Rep. Guy VanderJagt (R-Muskegon), a member of the Trade Subcommittee, and oppose Congressman Cotter's Sense of Congress Resolution.

## Gasohol Hearings In House Ag Committee

Three House agriculture subcommittees are currently conducting joint hearings concerning gasohol legislation.

Under consideration is H.R. 3905, the National Fuel Alcohol and Farm Commodity Production Act of 1979 introduced by Rep. Berkley Bedell (D-Iowa). The bill has two objectives: (1) to improve and stabilize agricultural income, thereby reducing the role of the federal government in price support programs and (2) to establish a way for implementing improved natural resource practices.

To accomplish these objectives, the Secretary of Agriculture would be given broad authority to guarantee payment of 50 percent of the principal and interest on loans for alcohol fuel plants; sell agricultural commodities to loan recipients; acquire and use distiller's dried grains; and issue regulations and enter contracts to carry out the program of alcohol fuel plant loan guarantees. The thrust of the bill is

devoted to the alcohol fuel plant loan guarantee program and to the program for assuring a dependable supply of agricultural commodities for the alcohol plants. The program would include authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire distiller's dried grains through the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Williams told subcommittee members that the USDA "fully supports the president's initiative on gasohol."

Williams also noted the USDA's actions, which included: assist pilot projects for fuel-grade ethanol production; expand research and development work on alcohol fuels; intention of using set-aside acres to grow crops for use in the manufacture of ethanol fuels; and preparation to take into account the feedstock requirements of fuel alcohol distilleries, in determining and maintaining the proper level of grain reserves.

## "Red Flags"

(Continued from page 4)

hearing and decide within 15 days whether the license should be suspended or revoked."

Heffron believes this is one of the benefits of an auditing program. "It requires certain procedures to be followed by the elevators, and they are procedures that should be followed simply for good business purposes," he said.

Accurate record-keeping is a part of good management, and there is general

agreement among both MDA officials and grain industry leaders that most cases of bankruptcies stem from mismanagement and not an intent to defraud.

There's also general agreement that farmers have a responsibility to know the people with whom they do business, and to recognize the "red flags" that warn of possible danger. That's simply good business practice on the part of the farmer.

## Asparagus Promotion

(Continued from page 1)

which will be made available through the Asparagus Industry Development Program, Michigan processors also contribute to commodity research through the Michigan Asparagus Research Committee. Through contractual agreements, which are negotiated on an individual basis with processors in the state, research contributions are currently set at \$2.00 per ton. Research dollars contributed by the processors are dispensed by a

grower-processor committee which reviews and makes determinations on research grant requests to the Michigan Asparagus Research Committee.

"This unique cooperative situation has developed in Michigan because both growers and processors recognize that if the Michigan asparagus industry is to continue to grow, we will have to expand our markets through promotion and variety improvement," says Foster.

## Notice Of Availability

The Bureau of Maps is again prepared to accept orders for the complete set of 83 Michigan County Maps. These maps are printed in two colors on high quality paper and are bound by a durable, hard finish cover. The book is 128 pages, 11x16 and is the only bound set of Michigan County Maps which clearly delineates public and private property. The book is \$7.00 postpaid and is available while quantities last from, Bureau of Maps, Drawer 30235, Lansing, MI 48909.

# Producers Spread the Word: "Go"

## Oceana County is Site of National Asparagus Festival



Jacqueline Spierenburg, Oceana County Farm Bureau member, was named Mrs. Asparagus, 1979. Sponsored by the Southern Dairy Community Group, she will reign over festivities at the Sixth Annual National Asparagus Festival in Oceana County, June 8-9.

The Sixth Annual National Asparagus Festival will be held June 8-9 in Oceana County. The majority of the festival's activities will be held on Saturday, June 9, highlighted with an asparagus luncheon, the Asparagus Royale Parade and an asparagus smoragabord.

Oceana is the number one asparagus-growing county in the state, with 500 growers farming 10,000 acres and accounting for 53 percent of the state's crop. Only 10-15 percent of the crop in the county is mechanically harvested; the rest being hand-picked.

Michigan ranks third in the nation in asparagus production behind California and Washington and last year asparagus growers in Michigan voted to approve the Michigan Asparagus Industry Development Program. As a result, Governor Milliken has appointed a seven person administrative group known as the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board.

## Beef Industry Commission Gets "Vote of Confidence"

In a referendum to determine if the Michigan Beef Industry Commission should be continued, the state's cattlemen cast 581 "yes" votes and 367 "no" votes, for an affirmative percentage of 61.3 percent. Assessment voting totalled \$40,407.80 voting "yes" (62.9 percent) and \$23,821.45 voting "no" (37.1 percent).

Bill Byrum, executive vice president of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, called the result of the referendum "a vote of confidence" for the commission, which provides consumer and market information, promotes market expansion and supports research for the beef industry.

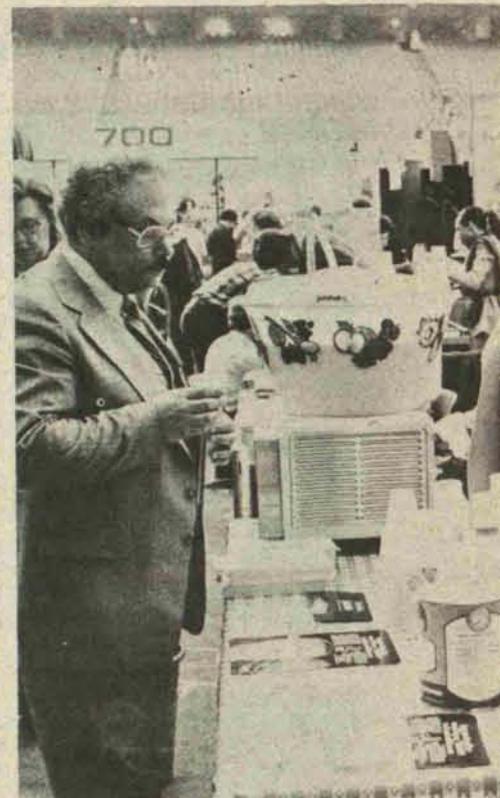
"I'm sure the affirmative vote was a significant sign from Michigan cattlemen that they are pleased with the overall programs of promotion, education and research for the industry," Byrum said. "It's essential,

especially in today's economy and with the attitude of the public toward their diets, that we continue to make sure that factual, honest, unbiased information is presented to consumers concerning the merits of including beef in their diets."

Byrum said the direction of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, as far as program activity is concerned, "is as on-target as any state program in the United States, if not the most effective." About one-third of the collected funds are contributed to the National Live Stock and Meat Board for national promotion and research.

The referendum was conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the law which called for a vote by cattle producers after the first five full years of operation to determine if the program should be continued.

## Make Mine a



The "Magic Cow" helped American Dairy convince restaurant owners they should offer menus. Using the new Jetshake machine, L. Cows to hundreds of visitors at a recent Great Lakes Dairy Show. Many were convinced and food patrons will soon select Michigan markets. With the initial success, a new campaign is now underway to expand the promotion.

## Pork Producers Benefit from High Cattle Prices, But . . .

### "We Can't Ride on Coattails of the Beef Industry"

An Illinois pork producer, quoted in the NEW YORK TIMES recently, said hog farmers are enjoying the high prices cattlemen are receiving. "It's those cattle prices that are keeping us where we are," he said, because as long as cattle prices remain high, there is good reason to expect consumers to increase their demand for less expensive types of meat — which means higher prices for hogs.

Roger Carr, Burr Oak hog farmer who serves as president of the Michigan Pork Producers Association, agrees that there is some reflection of current high beef prices in the price of hogs. But he also feels strongly that "we can't sit back and ride on the coattails of the beef industry."

"We face some unique challenges in our industry," said Carr. "For example, consumers have long thought of pork as fat and fat meant high cholesterol and that spelled danger. This misunderstanding probably stems from the fact that the hog of yesteryear was obligingly plump because we depended upon it as a source of fat or lard. But today's hog is much different — leaner, lower in calories, richer in protein, minerals and vitamins."

Through scientific breeding and feeding, producers have accomplished an impressive reduction in fat — from 14.8 pounds per hundred live weight in 1952 to 5.7 pounds per hundred pounds of live weight in 1977.

Add to this consumer misunderstanding about fat, the current fears about nitrites, and the pork industry has its work cut out for it, Carr believes. Helping hog producers educate the public about their product is the National Pork Producers Council which "spreads the good word" about pork through media advertising, in-store promotions, and

activities such as the "Pork Cookout King Contest."

This year's Pork Cookout King Contest is set for Philadelphia during the city's "Freedom Week" celebration and the winner will receive a two-week, expense-paid trip for two to Hawaii. Hoping to win this trip is Michigan's contestant, Dr. Carl C. Hoyt of Zeeland, Ottawa County Agricultural and Marketing agent with his Grilled Sweet Apple Ham.

The key ingredient in Dr. Hoyt's recipe is Michigan-produced pork, carefully selected and cut by his local butcher, and packed in ice for the trip to Philadelphia.



Dr. Carl Hoyt, Ottawa County Agricultural and Marketing agent, practices making his Grilled Sweet Apple Ham perfect for the national Pork Cookout King Contest.

## Lenawee Farmers Host Students in World Food Supply Program

"I am now more aware and sympathetic toward farmers' rights." That is the reaction of one student currently enrolled in the World Food Supply Program at Adrian College.

As a part of the unusual course, 23 students, most unfamiliar with agriculture, recently toured several types of farming operations in Lenawee County.

One of the students' assignments was to spend the night at a dairy farm. Several dairy farmers in Lenawee County hosted students and helped them to learn the facts of farming, from family commitment to financial investment, that comprise the first step in the chain of food supply and preparation.

Farmers hosting students were Lenawee County Farm Bureau members Gregg Hardy, Phillip Hart, Fred Feight, Carlos Long, Lloyd Ruesink and Roger Wolf.

As a result of the overnight visit, some students were surprised at the quantity of corn used in livestock production, the business intelligence of farmers and the predominant family lifestyle that exists.

Another assignment of the World Food Supply course included a one-day tour of several farming operations in the area. The students visited

farms specializing in the large scale production of tomatoes, beef, fruit, hogs and cash crops.

Lenawee County Farm Bureau members participating in this one-day blitz of area farms included Leland Bush, Larry Gould, Jack Mowat and Jeffery Turnow.

The Program's five-year-old Battle Creek Farmers' Training Foundation



Lenawee County Farm Bureau member Seneca, surrounded by his daughters Wynelle (center), talk with Adrian College (second from right) and Laura Davis (right) dairy operation. The two students, Ann, a sophomore from Battle Creek, and Laura, a sophomore from Battle Creek, spent their recent two-day stay at the operation.



## Interview

**DR. HOWARD TANNER**

Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

## Farmers and the DNR

**MFB:** From your point of view, Dr. Tanner, what do you see as the overall purpose of the Department of Natural Resources?

**Tanner:** I do have to break it down into segments. One section of our functions relate to the protection of the quality of our environment. All of the state regulations that relate to air quality, water quality and waste disposal come under the purview of one bureau of the Department of Natural Resources. Another segment of operations is to deal with public lands: state owned public lands, forests, parks, game areas, access sites, recreation areas and so on. There are about 4.3 million acres of public lands which we administer for the people of Michigan. Another area is the public water of Michigan. State law says that the waters are public and the fishes within those waters are public and with the Great Lakes surrounding us that is a significant element. Yet another area of state regulation imposes principally on how you might use private land...If I tried to compact it all into a general statement, I would speak of the public trust, of the public rights of the public property as being the responsibility of the Department.

**MFB:** How do you feel these objectives impact on the farmers in Michigan?

**Tanner:** The impacts are many. Farming activities, like other pursuits, are subject to some of the regulations in these acts; constraining to a greater or lesser degree that which the farmer might seek to do with his land. I would guess, off-hand, if you tallied up, probably the farmer is less impacted than any other kinds of activities, the character of which turn out to be permanent.

If you pave over a piece of land, that's pretty permanent. If you change a piece of land into an element of suburbia or an industrial site or a waste disposal site or something else, those things are fairly permanent. To contrast, the clearing of land, the plowing and tilling of land, even the draining of land under agricultural regimes is viewed as far less permanent and subject to alternative choices at any time in the future.

**MFB:** It seems as though on the part of some segments of agriculture there has been over the past year or two years a certain amount of antagonism towards the Department of Natural Resources. Why do you think there seems to be a misunderstanding as to the role of the DNR or the general philosophy? What are your views?

**Tanner:** The one area that I didn't touch upon in the first question was the allocation of public resources. We have many user groups from the casual hiker, skier, to the harvester of game or fish or mushrooms or raspberries or something else. Many of them have a conflicting presence: The waterskier as opposed to the bluegill fisherman and the canoe as opposes to the trout fisherman and so on. We have many areas of allocation conflicts.

So having said that, then go back to why we have had certain differences of opinion in the farm area.

I think the area that farms have had the most serious conflicts in the past has been on the use of pesticides. The two departments, Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources, took leading roles on the opposite of the DDT issue and some of the antagonism may have stemmed from that.

Much of the public has a very fuzzy perception of the differences between public lands and private lands. It's true that the game belongs to the people, but it's also true that the right of trespass belongs to the landowner, usually the farmer. A farmer may be a hunter and he may be very tolerant of hunting...but when the pressure of any activity, hunting or otherwise, gets intolerable, just answering the door for those who are asking permission becomes an unacceptable burden to the farmer.

**MFB:** You mentioned that one of the roles of the Department is looking into the allocation of land resources. What do you see as the prospects for the future? Do you see the DNR as playing a stronger role in determining how the land is going to be used in the state?

**Tanner:** Probably. I think that to some degree if you seek to develop a perception of where we are headed in the way of restrictions on the use of land, you could very profitably look at the more dense populations of Western Europe. Those people are similar to us in culture, similar to us in a whole variety of ways and yet are hundreds of years ahead of us in terms of these issues and exist frequently in populations that are so much more dense than ours that they require more regulation.

Basically, the more dense the population, the more restrictions that are going to be required. If you add to that the increase perception of the necessity to perpetuate for future generations, the basic productivity of the land, then you begin to say, "Yes, there's going to be more regulations." Most of those regulations will be state and if they are state, I would suspect that many or all of them would fall within the Department of Natural Resources.

**MFB:** Farmers, of course, have a very strong interest in determining the use of the land. How can they have some input into this process by which the use of the land will be decided?

**Tanner:** Well, all of our authority, or nearly all, flows as a product of the Legislature. The elected officials, if you will, the farmers' elected officials, make these decisions in the form of statutes. Now, occasionally, there's an executive order from the governor. Occasionally, there's a Supreme Court decision which prescribes what you can do and can't do, such as the Pigeon River decision. But basically, we promulgate rules under the statutes passed by the elected officials. So if a farmer wants impact, his impact must be principally in the legislative process. Then he can come to the rulemaking process...he can also come to us as we attempt to administer the acts that are given to us as a responsibility.

Basically, let's face it, and I will tell you this, the groups that want to be effective in the legislative process are best served through their organizations.

**MFB:** Many farmers feel that the environmental groups and so forth have a bigger impact on DNR policy than they do. What is your feeling on that?

**Tanner:** Well, as to the first part of your question, I guess probably I would agree that environmental groups have perceived our department, the legislative committees in the House and Senate, our Commission as focal points in which to concentrate.



DR. HOWARD TANNER

I would invite farm groups to seek all appropriate avenues of communication with us to voice their views, voice their problems, to have those problems dealt with. I think there's much that can be done in expanding the dialogue between the two forces, if you will.

**MFB:** On the whole subject of organizations impacting DNR policy, how do you view the relationship between the DNR and the Michigan Farm Bureau?

**Tanner:** In one word: adequate. The relations aren't bad, there just aren't enough of them. We have had some a long time. I think we've seen substantial growth in the last few years. I would encourage more. I don't have anything I would seek to correct, I would just try to add to the frequency and ease with which we communicate.

**MFB:** What do you see as the major natural resource problem that's going to be facing both the Department of Natural Resources and agriculture? What can farmers of the Michigan Farm Bureau do in terms of helping to solve that problem?

**Tanner:** Well, we have many, I guess. In general, I would put waste problems first. Specifically, the highest priority is toxic waste, but not far behind that is solid waste. I think we're able to perceive a real crisis ahead for southeastern Michigan in just the simple, grubby question of solid waste. It is quite clear in our projections that at the very best they're going to be out of sanitary landfill space long before modern systems or resource recovery could possibly be put on line. So even if we started this afternoon, we would still have a period between crisis and solution.

The toxic waste thing has to be addressed. The farming community is only peripherally affected, but certainly there are plenty of mistakes being made with this toxic material generated by our industrial society and some of those mistakes do, in a sort of indirect way, an almost accidental way, affect farmers.

### WANTED

#### 35mm Color Slides of Your Farming Operation

The MFB Information & Public Relations Division would like to expand its slide library and if you have any slides that could be used for future slide-tape presentations, please send them to the address below. Your slides will be duplicated and returned.

Send to: Marcia Ditchie  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Information & Public Relations  
P.O. Box 30960  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

## "STOP" Detects Antibiotic Residues in Cull Dairy Cows

A new test for detecting antibiotics in meat is being implemented in 333 federally inspected packing plants during the first part of 1979. Known as the Swab Test on Premises (STOP), the test is a quick, simple procedure for detecting the presence of antibiotics in cull dairy cows, the main target of STOP.

According to Dr. A.M. Galang, area supervisor for the federal meat inspection program in Michigan, 10 designated packing plants in the state will begin testing soon. "All of the training is completed. Testing equipment and supplies are in the plant right now," says Dr. Galang. "We are just waiting for the go-ahead from the USDA."

The test procedure consists of a kidney swab taken from the slaughtered animal which is introduced onto agar plates. The cultures are incubated at the plant site and results are available within 24 hours.

Where test results are positive for the presence of antibiotic residues in the organ meat, additional samples are forwarded to testing laboratories in Peoria, Illinois or St. Louis, Missouri.

If the results of the laboratory testing show the presence of antibiotic residues in the muscle tissue, the entire animal carcass is condemned. However, if the additional testing reveals no antibiotic residues are present in the muscle tissue sample, only the organ meats are condemned.

Dairymen marketing animals containing antibiotic residues are subject to regulatory action and-or penalties.

Careful attention to recordkeeping and dosages are important factors in controlling antibiotic residues in cull dairy cows, says Dr. Paul Telle, Michigan Farm Bureau Services animal nutritionist. Dr. Telle, who is director of Technical Services, recommends the following management practices to Farm Bureau members in dairy as an aid to controlling the residue problem:

1. Review the use of drugs for disease prevention and treatment — consider whether antibiotics should be used at all.

2. Keep complete records on when and what antibiotics are given to each animal by you, your employees, or your veterinarian. Know the withdrawal times and don't sell the animals before that date. Don't forget, the withdrawal time begins the last time the drug was administered.

3. Remember, misuse of intramammary infusion drugs as well as injectable products will cause tissue residues. When in doubt about how a drug should be used,

consult your veterinarian or the dealer who sold you the antibiotic.

4. Mark treated animals and, if possible, isolate each animal that has been treated.

5. Drug labeling instructions change frequently; always look closely for the correct dosage and with-

drawal time each time you buy and use an antibiotic.

6. Use only the exact dose recommended for the species and size of animal being treated.

7. Administer the drug correctly; select needle size and injection site carefully. Adverse reactions and

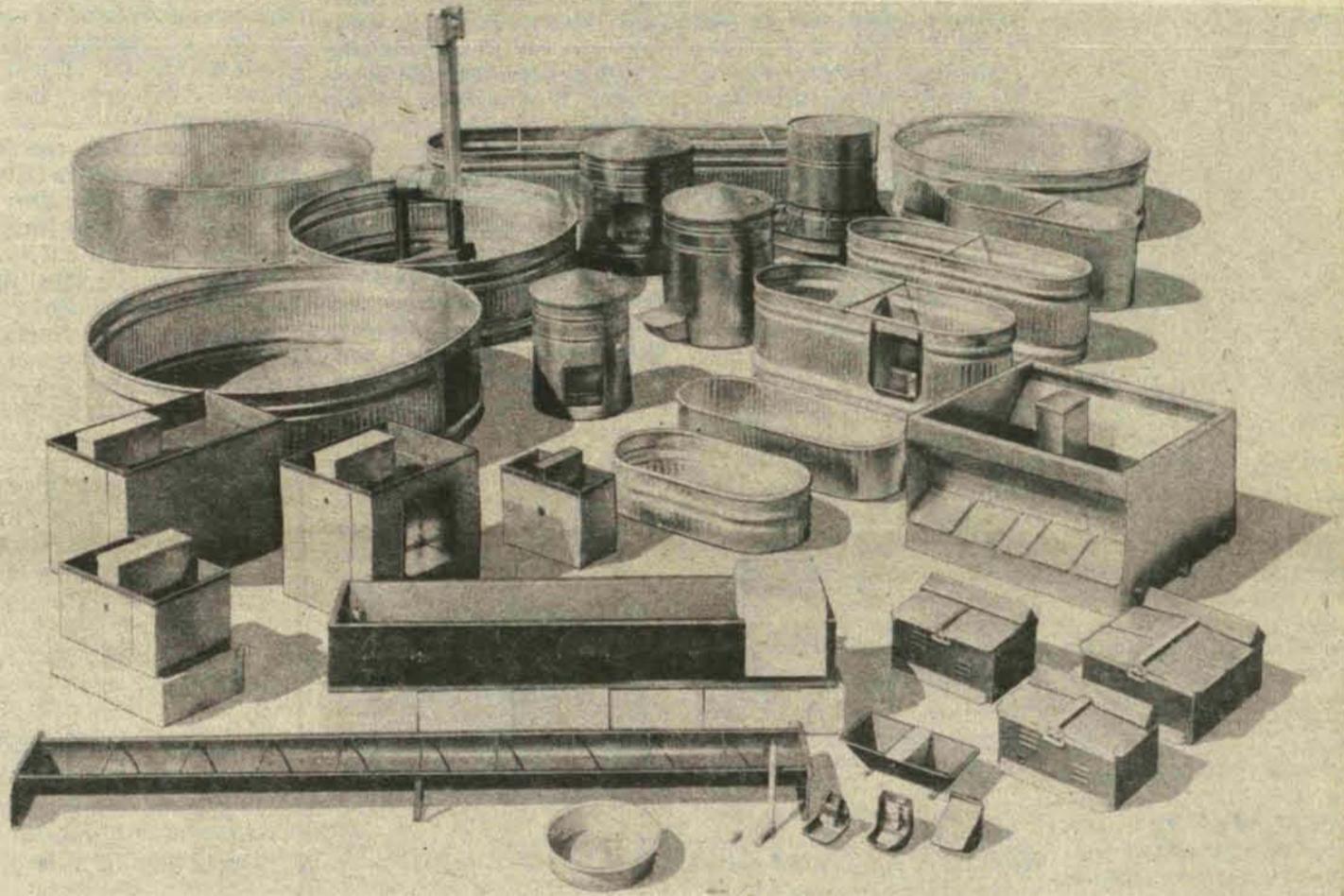
ineffective treatment — as well as violative residues — can result from incorrect use of drugs.

8. Don't "double dose" — for example, don't use an injectable drug along with the same antibiotic orally. If you do exceed the label's dosage directions on the advice of

your veterinarian, you and/or the veterinarian must be responsible for a longer withdrawal time.

9. Be sure your veterinarian advises you on the safe date to market animals he treats and the composition of any drugs administered.

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# Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Michigan Farm 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. In addition to recognition from local news media, recipients receive a personalized plaque and custom designed Farmer of the Week buckle and leather belt from the two sponsoring organizations. The Farmer of the Week Award recipients for April 1979 were:

Week of April 9 — Elmer Jaeger of Baraga, who moved to the Upper Peninsula from Iowa in 1974 and today has one of the largest dairy operations in the area. Jaeger, 44, farms 360 acres and milks one of the area's largest dairy herds. He is a member of the Copper Country Dairy board of directors and serves on the board of the Copper Country Farm Bureau and the board of the Michigan Breeders Assn. He is also a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Assn. and Ottawa Sportsman's Club, and he was named the 1978 winner of the "Progressive Farmer's Award" for outstanding agriculture accomplishments and community contributions. Jaeger and his wife, Elaine, have six children.



STEVEN J. GAZDAG

Week of April 23 — Steven J. Gazdag, 29, a cash crop farmer from Kalamazoo. He farms 1,000 acres, most of it in corn, soybeans, and wheat, and also maintains a small hog operation. Gazdag is a member of the Comstock Township Planning Commission; 4-H leader and project superintendent; member of the Township ASCS Committee; member of the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau Board; member of the FB State Young Farmer Committee; and member of the Green Meadow Bible Baptist Church and past member of the Church Deacon Board. He was named the Michigan Jaycees' Outstanding Young Farmer in the state for 1979 and was selected the 1977 Distinguished Young Farmer for Kalamazoo County. Gazdag and his wife, Bonnie, have one child.



LOUIS SCHERER

Week of April 2 — Louis Scherer, 60, who operates a fruit and vegetable farm with his two oldest sons. Their 450-acre farm is located near Hartford in Van Buren County. Scherer is a member of the Michigan Grape Society, the Van Buren County Farm Bureau and participates in his church, Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Silver Creek. He belongs to the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Assn. and the National Grape Co-op and is a past member of the Cherry Growers Co-op. Scherer and his wife, Angeline, have six children.



ROBERT KARTES

Week of April 16 — Robert Kartes, 52, president of the Ogemaw County Farm Bureau, who operates a 2,000 acre dairy and livestock farm near West Branch. Farming with his sons Tom and Brad, he raises dairy cattle, beef, sheep, hogs and a variety of crops, making his one of the most diverse farming operations in that area of Northern Michigan. An active community leader, Kartes is a member of the board of the Northeast Central Michigan Planning Commission, the Township Board of Review, and is an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He is vice-chairman of both the Ogemaw County Soil Conservation Board and the local ASCS Board and he was named Honorary Chapter Farmer by the Ogemaw Heights High School Chapter of the Future Farmers of America. He and his wife, Margaret, have six children.



MARK SMUTS

Week of April 26 — Mark Smuts, 26, who operates a 2,500-acre cash crop farm near Charlotte in Eaton County. Smuts, who is president of the Eaton County Farm Bureau, raises primarily corn, wheat and navy beans. He is a member of the Church Board of Chester Gospel Church and serves as a Sunday School teacher at the church; member of the Advisory Council of the Production Credit Association of Charlotte; and served as past assistant chairman of the area Young Farmers' organization.



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## Niles Youth Wins FBIG Co-Sponsored Speaking Contest

Jeff Brazo, a senior at Niles High School in Niles, earned first place in the state in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) extemporaneous speaking contest, co-sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

Brazo, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Brazo of Niles, was among eight finalists who competed recently at Michigan State University. Several hundred FFA members from throughout the state competed in the contest on various levels.

As the state winner, Brazo

will represent Michigan in the first national FFA extemporaneous speaking contest this fall in Kansas City, Mo.

Receiving gold state awards in the Michigan competition were Dwight Brown, Jonesville; Steve Mixter, Ubyly; Annette Schumacher, Unionville-Sebewaing; and Larry McGuire, Lincoln-Alcona. Recipients of silver state awards were Dawn Condon, Lowell; Steve Wright, Greenville; and Chuck Spalding, Owosso.

## Plum Advisory Board Appointed

Governor William G. Milliken has appointed seven persons to represent plum growers on the Michigan Plum Advisory Board. Following are the seven growers and the areas they represent: Southern Michigan — William C. Hover, Bangor, and Dale E. Nye, St. Joseph; Central Michigan — K. Tim Bull, Kent City, and Boyd F. Trommater, Hart; Northern Michigan — Donald C. Gregory, Suttons Bay, and

James E. Maitland, Williamsburg; and At-Large — Herbert F. Teichman, Eau Claire.

The appointments are the result of a plum grower referendum held last fall which was approved by over 95 percent of the growers for the Michigan Plum Industry Program.

The new plum program is designed to improve the profitability of plums through promotion and research as well as market information.

## Dear Prospective Student,

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

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

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

Write or call for further information

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

OR

Any of the Directors listed below:

- |                                                            |                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Joa Penzien, Pres.<br>Mt. Clemens<br>313-781-4233          | George Robb<br>Fowlerville, Mich.<br>517-223-9462  |
| Clark W. Hill, V.P.<br>Charlotte, Mich.<br>517-543-1415    | Chester Johnson<br>Lakeview, Mich.<br>517-352-7389 |
| Elton B. Hill, Secy-Treas.<br>East Lansing<br>517-332-1776 | Wallas Jones<br>Norway, Mich.<br>906-563-8669      |
| Roy Howes<br>Copemish, Mich.<br>616-362-3636               | Paul Porter<br>Quincy, Mich.<br>517-639-4126       |

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

# Minimum Workers Comp Reduced 40 Percent

Farm Bureau Mutual, the largest farm insurer in the state, has reduced minimum premiums by approximately 40 percent on agricultural Workers Compensation insurance, a premium cut sought for the benefit of Farm Bureau members.

Earlier this year, Farm Bureau Mutual filed a deviation request with the Michigan Insurance Bureau, requesting permission to charge premiums lower than the minimums set by the National Council on Compensation Insurance.

In seeking the lower premiums, Farm Bureau Mutual pointed out that the National Council's figures did not adequately reflect the situation of most agricultural employers, whose average annual payrolls and employee work hours totals are relatively small compared to other industries.

"The cost of agricultural work comp insurance, particularly its effect on farmers with small payrolls, has long been a major concern to us," said Don Bradshaw, vice president and general manager of Farm Bureau Mutual. "After two years of research, we had gathered enough data to convince the Insurance Bureau that a major rate cut was needed for agricultural employers."

The reduction, which took effect April 1, lowered Farm Bureau Mutual's minimum work comp premiums approximately 40 percent in each of 12 agricultural classifications.

For example, Farm Bureau Mutual's minimum premium for work comp coverage under the category of dairy and livestock farms is now \$274, compared to the \$473 minimum figure set by the National Council on Compensation Insurance. For orchards and fruit farms, the Farm Bureau Mutual minimum premium is \$300, compared to the National Council's figure of \$500. (See chart for more detailed comparison of minimum rates.)

This low-cost agricultural work comp coverage is available exclusively to Farm Bureau members. For full information, contact any Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

### MINIMUM PREMIUM COMPARISON

CLASS DESCRIPTION	NATIONAL COUNCIL'S PRESENT MINIMUM PREMIUMS	FARM BUREAU'S NEW MINIMUM PREMIUMS
Nurserymen, Landscape and Christmas Tree Farms	\$277	\$165
Farm Mkt. or Truck, Berry, Bean, Sugar Beet Farms	\$277	\$165
Poultry or Egg Producers (No Farming)	\$312	\$184
Florists or Hydroponic Gardening	\$240	\$145
Farm Machinery Operation	\$500	\$300
Tree Pruning, Spraying	\$500	\$300
Farms, Not otherwise classified	\$500	\$289
Dairy or Livestock Farms	\$473	\$274
Orchards, Fruit Farms	\$500	\$300
Fruit Packing and Handling	\$246	\$148
Vegetable Packing and Handling	\$300	\$178
Stables and Breeding Farms	\$469	\$272

(As of April 1, 1979)

# "Operation Eyes" to Prevent Farm Theft

The Michigan State Police, the Oceana County Farm Bureau and the Michigan Rural Crime Prevention Council are participating in a pilot project designed to stop the theft of fruits, vegetables and other farm products. The project, called OPERATION EYES, was kicked off May 2 at the Hart State Police Post.

"OPERATION EYES is a program created to promote more awareness on the part of farmers and law enforcement agencies," says Lt. Thomas Altland, commander of the Hart Post. "The theft of fruits, vegetables and livestock is a real problem, and we hope that the 'NO TRESPASSING' signs that have been developed will help prevent these larcenies."

Oceana County is a major fruit and vegetable growing area and produces about half of the asparagus grown in the state. "The theft of fruit and vegetables is a real concern of farmers," says Elmer Gowell, president of the Oceana County Farm Bureau. "The 'NO TRESPASSING' signs should make farmers more aware of the problem and encourage them to report losses to law enforcement agencies."

Gowell says that some fruit and vegetables are stolen by people who think that the product is simply growing wild in the field. "Perhaps if they see the land posted," says Gowell, "they'll realize that everything they take is money out of grower's pocket."

# Comments from Edith

By Edith Humm  
MFB Outstanding Young Farm Woman



## Bottle Law Showing Benefits in Country

Spring rains and unseasonably cool temperatures have kept farmers from getting an early start on this year's crops. This reminder that Mother Nature is still the Scheduling Supervisor for agriculture has caused some disgruntlement, but luckily a few summer-like days gave most farmers the chance to get in some acreage.

If you've been out in the fertilizer truck, as I have, you've had a chance to get started on a suntan. You would think, though, with all the knowledge and technology at our disposal, someone would have figured out a way to drive a truck

with the right arm exposed to the sun, too!

It is a good feeling to be working out-of-doors again and certainly you must have noticed the best thing about this spring. Very few, if any, bottles and cans litter our fields. Last year, I picked up two trash bags of crushed cans and broken bottles before we could begin to fit the field. This year, I found only one can. I'm encouraged by such an improvement! I don't have to tell you how expensive it can be when cans or broken glass slash into tractor tires.

We can be proud that the bottle law which farmers worked hard to support is

beginning to contribute to a cleaner environment. Projects such as Operation Cleansweep, which Farm Bureau helped to support, have cleared the countryside of even more unsightly litter. However, it doesn't look like we can relax and enjoy the new law. Bottlers are mounting a new attack in an effort to repeal the bottle law. They will attempt to build support for their position among consumers by claiming higher costs involved in production and transportation of returnables has forced a price hike for the beverages. Those claims will need strong substantiation.

I always bought returnables even before the bottle law because they were less expensive than throwaways. Why now are the prices of bottled and canned beverages so high when they were comparatively inexpensive in the past? Nevertheless, I will continue to support the ban on throwaways in Michigan. We cannot sacrifice the benefits of a sound environmental law for the sake of a few extra pennies spent on each can of beer or soda pop.

*June is dairy month*

### Farm Fresh Foods For Your Family

Enjoy wholesome dairy food often. The fresh country flavor is taste-tempting. The variety is appetizing for everyone, too.

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## Farm Bureau

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## The China Market

Amidst such front page stories as the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) the outlook for American agricultural trade with the PRC is promising. In fact, some predict a record level of U.S. farm exports is likely this year.

These developments are taking place in the context of momentous changes within the PRC. The new stress on economic development has resulted in a wide ranged revamping of economic policies.

As a part of this, China's foreign trade policy during the past couple of years has swung sharply in the direction of increased commerce, reflecting the country's acknowledged need to turn to Western technology to achieve its stated goal of comprehensive modernization of the economy by the year 2000.

### The Search for Technology

In the search for technology, Chinese buying missions have been traveling widely, a large number of technical missions have been abroad or have been invited to China, and the PRC is now sending substantial numbers of students abroad for the first time in years.

All of these developments have created a new air of optimism about future trade with China, with the greatest growth expected in non-agricultural items.

Since the PRC's new leadership has stated that agriculture must be improved dramatically if the country's overall economic goals are to be realized, it is not surprising that many of the new economic policies involve agriculture extensively.

### New Policies

New consumption, production and trade policies will help shape the size of U.S. farm exports to that Asian market.

An important feature of China's new policy is an emphasis on increased standards of living and material incentives. Wages have gone up and rural households have been promised increases in income.

These higher incomes are bound to spill over into increased demand for items such as grain, livestock products and edible oils.

The income increases are not massive on a per capita basis. But because of China's huge population, even small increases translate into a healthy growth and demand for agricultural products.

Moreover, the rise of rural incomes may encourage the Chinese to keep more of the production for on-farm use. This would make fewer farm products available for state procurements to support consumers in the urban sector. The result may be an increase in imports.

China's ten year plan ending in 1985 calls for the rate of growth in farm production to be doubled that of past levels.

For grains, a target of 400 million tons has been set — 60 percent above present levels. Although the Chinese have not released precise targets, livestock numbers — with hogs and poultry leading the way — are expected to grow substantially. This implies an expansion of feed requirements and less emphasis on traditional feeds, such as plant residues and other non-grain products.

Because it's not easy for China to develop new cultivated areas, most of the expansion plans are geared to increasing per acre yields. This will be accomplished through mechanization, increased irrigation and land improvement, more multiple cropping, higher levels of fertilizer application, better research and the rapid spread of the new seed strains. Imports of agricultural technology will play an important role in these areas.

The plans to increase farm output are not only highly ambitious but they show that the state has targeted a greater level of support for agriculture than in the past. More money is to be invested in chemical fertilizer and agricultural

machinery; new attention will be focused on agricultural education and research.

The Chinese are placing more emphasis on the positive role that trade can play in economic development. Further, they are taking a more liberal view of credit and have been exploring a variety of new ways to finance their industrial imports. When agricultural trade is mentioned by the PRC, it is generally in the context of increased exports of agricultural products. The new plans will require large increases in exports if the growth of imports is to be sustained. In this context, the Chinese appear intent on rebuilding their exports of soybeans to Japan — their major export market. This is one reason for the planned expansion of soybean production.

Where does this leave agricultural trade, particularly imports of grain and soybeans, over the next two years? No precise answers are available. The Chinese would be concerned about further large increases in grain imports, both because of increased dependence upon foreign supplies and, more importantly, because of the threat this would pose to plans for industrial imports. At the same time, however, increased demand pressure seems inevitable and is something that the Chinese government can not turn on and off at will.

The growth rate of agricultural production seems to be the critical variable. Unless production growth accelerates, China may not be able to hold imports down. Some acceleration is likely, but whether it will be sufficient remains to be seen.

### Import Impact

The best guess about the probable net impact of all this on China's imports of major agricultural products is that for the next several years grain imports will be higher than average.

During this period, the PRC should begin importing limited amounts of grain for feeding urban livestock operations. A figure of about 10 million tons of grain imports annually for the next several years including five to six million tons of U.S. wheat and corn, has been given by

# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager Member Relations

Chinese leaders to several visiting U.S. delegations.

The picture after the next several years becomes less certain. New production policies should take hold, giving a boost to both production and the size of rural markets, although most likely not to the extent the Chinese planners are hoping for.

### Long Run Prospects

Moreover, as the 1980's progress, the Chinese are likely to be facing mounting debt repayment pressures and a crunch in import financing. Both matters lend some caution to long run prospects for trade.

As for soybeans, it appears doubtful that the PRC would have a large and sustained import program. Rather, they are likely to attempt to increase exports moderately to recapture at least part of their traditional markets and import only when they have poor harvests. This can still mean significant imports in some years, however.

### U.S. Prospects

With the prospect of a higher average of agricultural import levels over the next several years, and with increased familiarity with U.S. products and marketing practices, it seems likely there will be a more regular supplier of agricultural items to China in years to come. The size of our exports will depend mainly on China's success or failure in meeting its production and export goals.

However, while all of this seems encouraging, a note of caution is required. We must look beyond the sheer size of China's nearly one billion population to the fact that the country is and may remain a poor nation with limited buying power. Much will depend upon future economic policies and China's success in meeting ambiguous economic goals.

(This article based on comments by Frederic N. Surls, Foreign Demand and Competition Division, U.S.D.A.)

## FB Members: Special Rates at Cedar Point, Sea World

Special arrangements have been made with Cedar Point, mid-America's finest family entertainment center, located near Sandusky, Ohio and with Sea World of Ohio, located near Aurora, Ohio for Michigan Farm Bureau members to purchase admission tickets at reduced cost.

Tickets to Cedar Point are \$8.00 each and are good any day. This is a savings of \$1.25 for adults and \$.50 for children 5 years of age and over. Children 4 years of age and under are admitted free to Cedar Point.

Admission tickets to Sea World of Ohio are \$6.20 for adults and \$4.75 for children 4-12 years of age. Children under four are admitted free. This is a savings of \$.75 on adult tickets and \$.50 on children's tickets.

To purchase your tickets to either Cedar Point or Sea World of Ohio send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check or money order, made payable to Michigan Farm Bureau, in the full amount for the number of tickets ordered to Kenneth Wiles, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Be sure to indicate which admission tickets are desired.

Ken Wiles  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 30960  
Lansing, MI 48909

## Order Form

We're heading for Ohio! Here's our order for specially priced tickets to:

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TOTAL AMOUNT		\$	_____

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**Sea World  
Cedar Point**



# Capitol Report (Continued from page 6)

forts have failed for five years or more. It will require support from labor, employers and others concerned with Michigan's Workers Compensation problems.

**Uniform Commercial Code** - Farmers who borrow money on their crops this year were surprised to find that they were being required to provide additional information providing the property description where the crops were being grown. This has created a hardship on those farmers who rent several pieces of land and also a hardship on the lending institutions such as the PCAs,

**Farmer's Home Administration**, etc. It results from changes in the law. For these loans a great deal of extra paperwork and expense is created, but more importantly, the loans are recorded on the abstract of the property where the crops are grown. This is in addition to the usual recording of any loans with the county Register of Deeds. Land owners who rent the property also object to such liens being recorded on their abstracts. Farm Bureau has taken the leadership to change this law and has worked with the PCA and Farmer's Home

Administration in developing the language. The bill is now being written and will soon be introduced.

**Farm Truck Covers** - A group known as the Michigan Clean Highways Task Force is advocating that farmers' exemption from the mandatory truck cover law be eliminated.

Farm Bureau will fight any effort to remove the agricultural truck cover exemption. However, every farmer must be responsible and not overload trucks and cause highway littering problems.

**School Aide** - the 1979-1980 K-12 School Aide Bill is on the House floor for consideration. It totals approximately \$1.5 billion, about \$73 million more than this year. However, there are warnings that this could be cut as the state finances decrease. It guarantees \$46 more for each student. The formula is based on a guarantee of \$320 a student and a guarantee for each mill up to 30 mills, plus \$43 for every 2 mills above 30

mills. This year's formula was \$274 per pupil plus \$40 for each mill up to 30.

Because of the Headlee Amendment, many school districts may have a major "roll back" on their property tax rates creating a major school budget problem. As a partial solution, there is a tentative provision to guarantee such districts 105 percent of the 78-79 allowance per pupil.

The Special Education category was increased \$9 million up to \$131 million; Transportation \$102 million increased from \$93 million; and an increase in Vocational Education up to \$29.5 million. There are also several other categories.

## FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free non-commercial 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 and ALL COMMERCIAL advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy

deadline: 13th of month. Mail classified ads to Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

### FARM EQUIPMENT

**AGROMATIC MANURE PUMPS** handle long, short straw. Big capacity — versatile. Schuler Blender Wagons or Cycle-Mix for stationary or portable use. Scales for accurate weighing. Laursen's Inc., West Branch, Mich. 48661. Phone 517-345-1400. (6-11-34b)

**FOR SALE:** Lillifson rolling cultivator, two row, \$750.00. Also, General Electric refrigerator, \$100.00. Both nearly new. Glenn E. McNeil, Route 1, St. Johns, Michigan 48879. (6-11-25f)

**FOR SALE:** irrigation pump — 3" Hydro-matic with 7 HP Briggs-Stratton engine, \$300. Excellent condition. Phone 517-852-9316. Gene Mater, Route 1, Nashville, Michigan 49073. (6-11-23f)

**FOR SALE:** Combine. IH 105 Grain or Bean. Wire and spike cylinders. Good shape — \$6750. Pat Fishell, six miles west of Carson City. Phone 517-261-4633. (6-11-25f)

**FOR SALE:** Front and rear mount, international 468 cultivator, like new. Fits 656 and other Internationals. Lawrence Yallup, Route 4, St. Johns. Phone 517-224-4039. (6-11-23f)

**FOR SALE:** A No. combine 13' grain table and A330 corn head; also, 10' Degeiman Blade. Phone 517-283-2842. (6-11-17f)

**FOR SALE:** New Holland Flail Chopper, international corn binder, PTO Blizzard 600 Silo filler. All good condition. Phone 616-896-9811. (6-11-19f)

**FOR SALE:** 125 Amp Service Box with 20 breakers - \$125.00. 400' plus triplex overhead wire 60 00/100 - \$80.00. BTU Gas Furnace - \$250.00. Barb wire - make a price. Posts - \$.45 each. Plastic pipe 1/2 inch - \$.50. Massy Harris Combine for parts - \$100.00. - early 60's. Call or write Jerome Porter, 8288 68th Street, S.E., Alto, Michigan 49302 or 616-868-6536. (6-11-25f-28b)

**FOR SALE:** 1967 3/4 ton Ford 6 cylinder pickup with livestock and grain rack, 27,000 miles. Also, new apron for I.H.C. 130 bu. manure spreader. Gerald Poest, 3390 100th Avenue, Zeeland, Michigan 49464. (6-11-25f-8p)

**FOR SALE:** 500 bu. oats, one international Ensilage cutter and one Gehl Forage Box - 14 ft. George Davidson, 8758 N. Alger Road, Alma, Michigan. Phone 517-681-5073. (6-11-25f)

**ROUND BALE FEEDERS** for 1500 lb. round bales. Heavy duty 1" square tubing. Only \$99.95. Rectangular feeders also available. Free literature. Dealerships available. STARR NATIONAL, 219 Main, Colchester, IL 62326. (6-11-29p)

**WANTED:** Corn Binders, Grain Binders, Silo Fillers, Salvage Tractors. Top prices paid. David Steiner, G-10096 S. Saginaw, Route 2, Holly, MI 48442. Phone 313-694-5314. (4-61-24f)

**WANTED:** New Idea single row cornpicker. Phone 517-523-2803 evenings. Pittsford, Michigan. (1-1f-11f)

**FOR SALE:** Stormor grain bins, Farm Fans dryers, G.T. Tox-o-wik dryers, Stormor Ezee-dry systems. Hamilton Distributing Company, Hamilton, MI 49419, phone (616) 751-5161. (4-1f-25b)

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**NEW ALL WIRE RABBIT CAGES** and equipment now available. We can build cages to meet your needs. Deftmers Bunny Patch, Carson City, MI 48811. 517-584-3765. (5-1f-25b)

### LIVESTOCK

**FOR SALE:** Registered Angus Bull - 5 years old. Ray Krzeminski. Phone 517-647-6859. (6-11-12f)

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**REGISTERED HOLSTEIN BULLS** service age. Elevation son Don 23,485M 870F 3.7 percent. Wayne son of dam with 16,000M 4.2 percent. Several others. Phone Farmstead, 517-743-4036. (6-11-25f)

**TWO PUREBRED NUBIAN BUCK KIDS,** three months old, top bloodlines, \$50.00 each. Three Wether kids, \$20.00 each. Stephen Kamp, Bridgman, MI 49106. Phone 616-465-5539. (6-11-24f)

**STAMP'S DUROCS** - Big, lean, aggressive boars that have been bred, developed and evaluated for practical hog production. PRV free. Groups available. Tom Stamp, Decatur (616) 423-7508. (6-11-25f)

**REGISTERED SHROPSHIRE SHEEP SINCE 1890.** Breeding stock for sale at all times. Hewens Farm, 7400 Bemis Road, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Phone 313-482-2658. (5-1f-22f)

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**FOR SALE: YORKSHIRE & SPOTTED** serviceage boars and open gilts top bloodlines tested at MSU test station. All registered stock. Richard Cook, 1/2 mile east Mulliken, M-43. Phone (517) 649-8988. (11-1f-25f)

**DUROC & LANDRACE BOARS & GILTS.** Also crossbred gilts. John Swearingen, 652 Prattville Road, Pittsford, MI 49271. Phone (517) 567-8975. (3-1f-19f)

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**FEEDER PIGS** - Produced and sold by members of the MACMA Feeder Pig Division. Available biweekly in large uniform lots, weighing 40-60 lbs. Contact Bill Haas, 517-323-7000, Ext. 707. (4-1f-28b)

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**PUREBRED YORKSHIRE BOARS** and gilts for sale. Big useful pigs. Raymond Graham & Sons, 5240 Jones Road, North Branch, MI 48461. Phone (313) 688-2165. (11-12f-23f)

**LICENSED, DEPENDABLE, LIVESTOCK HAULING**, to Marlette, Cass City, and Sandusky. Call Orville Jeineck, (313) 395-7296, Capac, Michigan. (5-1f-17f)

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### LIVESTOCK

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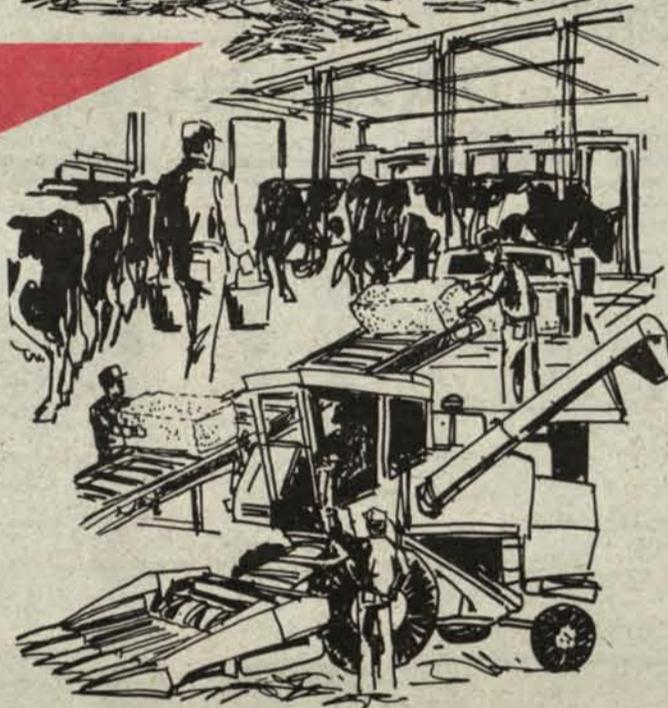
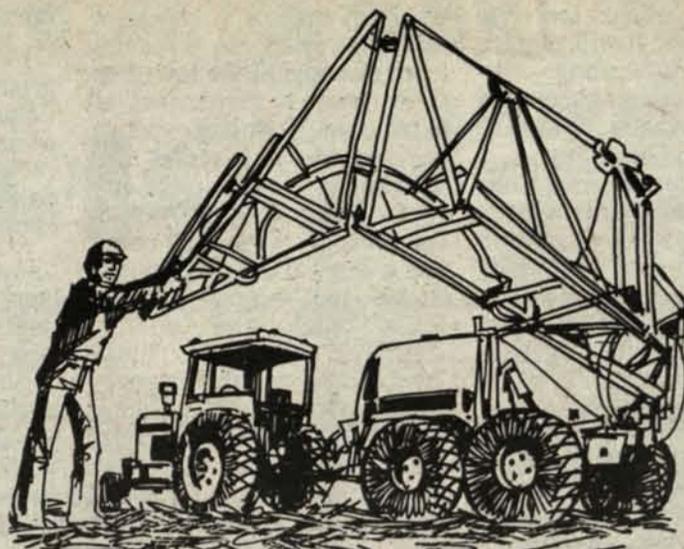
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