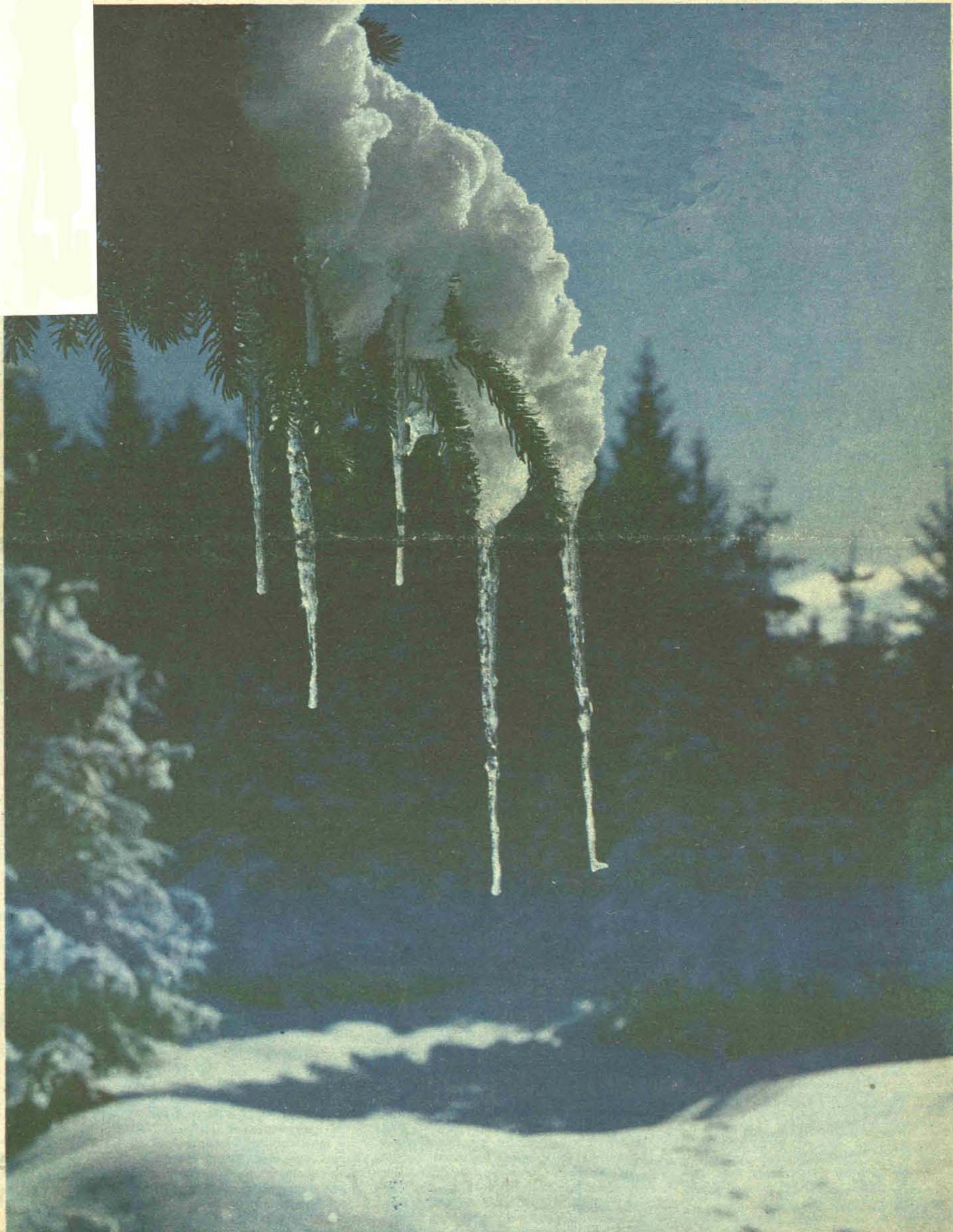




# Farm News

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

VOL. 59, NO. 2, FEBRUARY, 1980



*From the Desk of the President*

# Sacrifices That Carry No Clear Benefit

picture, accounting recently for about 13 percent of our exports. We looked forward confidently to this market in the 80s, realizing that the only solid, long-term farm income solution is expanded sales of our agricultural products abroad.

No sooner had the new decade opened when farmers discovered that the strides forward they had made in the 70s would receive a tremendously damaging setback. With President Carter's sanction of a grain embargo against the Soviet Union in retaliation for its invasion of Afghanistan, farmers couldn't help wondering who was being punished for this aggression — the USSR or them.

According to AFBF economists, 1980 net farm income is now expected to drop to \$24.8 billion because of the embargo on grain sales to Russia. This is an 11 percent or \$3.1 billion decline from the \$27.9 billion that was expected prior to the embargo. The impact of the embargo comes into even sharper perspective when net farm cash receipts are considered—a 25 percent reduction in the amount of cash farmers will have available to pay taxes, bank loans and production expenses.

There is no more patriotic segment of society than farmers. We are willing to make sacrifices when our country's national security is threatened. But we are gravely concerned that the sacrifices we are expected to make will not have the slightest impact on the Soviet-Union-Afghanistan situation. Although those exports meant much to the economic well-being of American farmers, they mean relatively little to Russia. The void created by our embargo will, without a doubt, be readily filled by other eager suppliers.

Our Farm Bureau policy states that we are opposed to the use of food as a weapon except in the case of a threat to national security. President Carter says our national security is involved. Therefore, your voting delegates to the AFBF annual meeting, held just a few days after President Carter announced the embargo, took action on the issue. I urge you to carefully study these recommendations (See Page 3.)

Seldom have we been faced with an issue that has created such ambivalence and conflicting emotions. We are Americans, outraged by the Russian aggression. We are farmers, concerned about the confusion and antagonism of our trading partners caused by export embargoes.

As a recent Wall Street Journal editorial asked: "Why does anyone in the administration think that such a rubbery weapon as economic sanctions will cause the men in the Kremlin to hesitate over their next move, let alone pull their troops out of Afghanistan?...The worst part of this kind of economic warfare is what it does to public attitude. Farmers, businessmen and allied nations are not unwilling to pay the cost of military security, but they quite rightly object to sacrifices that carry no clear benefit."

That phrase, "no clear benefit," is what prompted AFBF delegates to qualify their commitment to support combined efforts by all segments of our society as well as our allies to resist Soviet aggression in Afghanistan and throughout the world.

It's a message we're going to have to work hard to get across to the administration and to Congress.

**Elton R. Smith**

As we enter a new decade, it's good to review the one we've just closed, to consider the challenges we faced and overcame, the strides we made and why we did.

Probably the one thing that had the most positive impact on farmers during the 70s was the expansion of agricultural exports. Your Farm Bureau worked hard to open up new markets and exports of our farm products rose five times over during the past decade.

These exports boosted farm income. They produced jobs all over the United States, ranging from manufacturing farm machinery to loading grain at ports. Exports gave farmers the incentive to produce. We went from production of 4 million bushels of corn in 1970 to 7½ billion in 1979. Exports also contributed to the health of our economy by improving our balance of trade.

The Soviet Union was a big part of this export

## Coping With Stress

Happy Ground Hog Day! As I write this, it's still a couple of weeks away, but I've already heard people worrying about whether the ground hog will see his shadow. Others are worried over the mild winter weather and wonder when it will take a turn for the worse. None worry more than the winter sports fans, who are anxious for snow for their activities.

"Worry" — it's such a small word, but it seems to have a strong grip on our lives and our farming operations, too.

Recently several farm magazines have had articles about stress and how farming is becoming a very stressful oc-

cupation. Worry is a stress factor. We all worry; some more than others, but it's there just the same. It does no good to worry about the things we cannot change. As farm wives, we need to know how to best help our husbands recognize and deal with stress.

Our farm prices have dropped since the grain embargo against Russia, but it will do no good to worry about the dip in prices. What we should do is reassess our situation and see how we can help ourselves get through this crisis. Also we must let our elected officials know how we stand on this issue.

Instead of worrying about

how and when we might die, we should get in touch with our Farm Bureau insurance people about estate planning and get in touch with an attorney who specializes in farm wills. Parents of minor children should make sure they have selected a guardian. Death is a sure fact of life, so don't worry about it; be prepared.

Small, daily worries keep us from a full enjoyment of life. For instance, I have found that it does no good to worry about company stopping in when the house is a mess. Let's face it, it's inevitable. No one ever visits when the floors are polished and the toys put away.

I used to worry about socks. With seven children, the total number of socks in the weekly wash should be about 49 pairs or 98 individual, little socks. If I am really lucky, all 98 will make it into the washer, but it's all downhill after that.

At least 15 - 20 socks will disappear while in the washing machine. I used to worry about where those socks went, but experience has shown that they will show up in next week's wash. The bad news is that I may still be short 15 half pairs, but it will be a different 15 socks than in last week's wash.

## Between You and Me

By Judy Kissane

1980 Michigan Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farm Woman



One time I tried tying all the pairs together. The result was that the washing machine ate twice as many socks as before — but in pairs! That's when I quit worrying about socks. Now I just hope the washer doesn't start eating blue jeans!

Worry over things we cannot change adds to our feeling of stress. Recently, one of our sons had eye surgery. I worried about everything while he was in the hospital from blizzards to ice storms, car trouble to babysitters, hospital food compared to home food and, of course, the outcome of his surgery.

I could have avoided some of the stress during a stressful time if I hadn't worried over everything. Seventy-five percent of the things I worried about never happened. The remaining 25 percent, his surgery results, were disappointing and not as we had hoped for, but the fact remains that my worrying did not affect it one way or another.

So try to reduce the stress for

yourself and your husband or wife by not worrying over those things over which you have no control or cannot change.

Until next month I'd like you to think about the following verse:

**"God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can and Wisdom to know the difference."**



"DON'T LAUGH—IT'S EFFECTIVE!"

### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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# Farm Bureau Delegates Qualify Support of Grain Embargo

## Ask President Carter: How will grain embargo protect national security?

In response to President Carter's decision to embargo grain and oilseed exports destined for the U.S.S.R. in retaliation for the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, delegates to the 1980 American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, January 9, adopted an "emergency"

policy.

That policy basically called for all segments of society to share the burden of sacrifices needed to deal with the current national security crisis. It also stressed that agriculture will suffer severe economic hardships as a result of the suspension of grain sales, and steps must be taken by the govern-

ment to provide compensation for such losses to farm incomes.

Copies of the policy were sent immediately to President Carter and all members of Congress.

Following adoption of the emergency policy, delegates later adopted a statement

challenging the President to explain to the American people why the actions of the Soviet Union constitute a threat to the national security and how the embargo of grain sales by American farmers will further American interests and protect our national security. They qualified their support of the embargo, saying that it should

be suspended unless certain actions are taken.

To help Farm Bureau members fully understand the action of the delegates, Michigan Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau public affairs staff have provided an analysis of both the emergency policy and the related statement.

## Emergency Farm Bureau Policy for 1980

**"A threat to our national security exists as a result of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan."**

(In view of the strategic location to world energy reserves the USSR now holds as a result of the Afghanistan invasion, the dependence of the U.S. on these energy reserves, and the mere act of the invasion itself, Farm Bureau does believe that a threat to national security exists.)

**"All segments of our nation must share in carrying the brunt of the sacrifices necessary to deal with the current crisis. We urge the President to take the necessary steps to end all cultural and economic contacts with the USSR. These would include business contracts, exchange programs, participation in the 1980 Summer Olympic Games and all other contacts other than diplomatic ties necessary to resolve the current situation. Our government should solicit allies throughout the world to take similar action."**

(Reports thus far indicate that only exports of agricultural products and high technology items such as computers and chemicals to the USSR have been embargoed. All non-diplomatic contacts should be severed and Farm Bureau supports the embargo only on this basis.)

**"Because of the immediacy of the President's actions, some segments of our nation's economy will suffer severe economic hardship through no fault of their own, and therefore, steps must be taken by the government to provide equitable compensation for these losses. Agricultural trade should not be sacrificed unless the national security demands a total suspension of all non-diplomatic relations with the USSR."**

(The government should compensate those segments of the economy that suffer losses as a result of government actions to deal with the crisis. That statement may seem self-

serving but is not inconsistent with longstanding Farm Bureau policy which supports compensation to producers for losses suffered through no fault of their own.)

**"We encourage the administration and the Congress to immediately implement the following:**

**"1. Immediately increase the CCC export credit budget from \$800 million to \$2.0 billion for fiscal year 1980 and fiscal year 1981;**

**"2. Offer the wheat and feed grains loan and target price programs to all producers whether they participated in 1979 programs or not;**

**"3. Place the 17 million metric tons of embargoed grains and oilseeds in isolation with staggered release beginning at a point 10 percent above the call levels through the 1980-81 marketing season;**

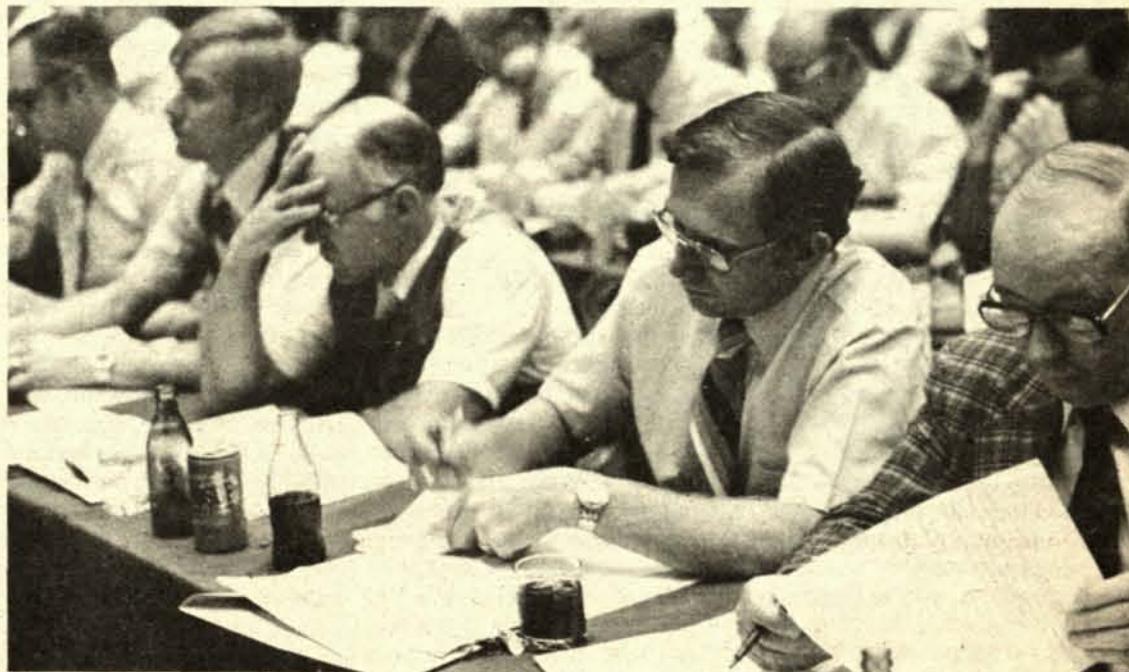
**"4. Announce revised 1980 farm program release and call levels by February 1, 1980;**

**"5. Establish acreage division programs for feed grains and wheat for 1980 to reduce the 1980 crop-size by 17 million metric tons;**

**"6. Legislate requirements for gradual addition of alcohol to fuels and provide long-term incentives to build needed processing facilities; and**

**"7. Provide low interest loans to holders of agricultural commodities not sold due to the embargo with repayment when the products are sold and provide purchases where low interest loans are impractical due to perishability."**

(Steps 1 and 5 may be accomplished by action of the administration. Steps 2, 3, and 6 require action by Congress. Step 4 has been done. Step 7 applies to all agricultural commodities while the previous steps apply only to grain. It may be possible that existing low interest loan programs can be used. If not, Congress will be required to act.)



Voting delegates representing Michigan Farm Bureau at the AFBF annual meeting in Phoenix, Jan. 6-10, were (l-r) Robert Rottier, at-large member on the MFB Board; Dick Wieland, District 10 director; Jack Laurie, District 6 director and MFB vice president; and MFB President Elton Smith.

## Delegate Statement on Grain Embargo

**"The President has terminated additional sales of grain and oilseeds to the USSR and declared that the threat to our national security resulting from the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan requires this action."**

(Farm Bureau does not disagree with the President that a threat to national security exists. The USSR has long been known for providing assistance in rebellions in other nations and promoting the spread of Communism. However, the action taken by USSR in Afghanistan represents a new direction—that of direct invasion.)

**"We call upon the President to explain to the American people why the actions of the Soviet Union at this time constitute a threat to our national security and how the embargo of grain sales by American farmers will further American interests and protect our national security."**

(As noted, the USSR is known for its subversive efforts in many areas of the world. Except for the tactic of direct invasion, the USSR action against Afghanistan represents more of the same. The public should be given a thorough explanation of the factors that caused the

President, in this particular situation, to declare a threat to our national security. The explanation must include why he feels the embargo of grain and oilseeds will almost by themselves protect national security."

**"In the event a national emergency exists, all segments of our nation must join in making sacrifices necessary to deal with the crisis. All necessary steps must be taken to end cultural and economic contacts with the USSR. In addition, our government must take those actions necessary to insure that all grain exporting countries support the U.S. policy and place similar restrictions on sales to the USSR."**

**"Steps must also be taken by the government to equitably compensate American farmers who suffer economic hardships as a result of the President's action. American farmers should not be required to endure economic hardship primarily to evidence this administration's willingness to confront the Soviet Union."**

**"American farmers will support combined efforts by all segments of our**

**society as well as our allies to resist Soviet aggression in Afghanistan and throughout the world.**

**"Unless the above-mentioned actions are taken, the grain embargo should be suspended."**

(These points clearly emphasize that agriculture is willing to support actions necessary to halt USSR aggression subject to specific conditions being met. The primary conditions are compensation for losses suffered and all segments of the economy bearing their share of the burden.)

An additional point that has created some confusion is a provision in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 which requires, under certain conditions, that government support prices be raised to 90 percent of parity when embargoes are imposed. The President is authorized to invoke embargoes only if (1) the national security is threatened, (2) foreign policy requires such action, or (3) short supply warrants the action.

In this particular case, the embargo was made for national security reasons. The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 requires support prices to be raised to 90 percent of parity only if embargoes are made due to short supply.

**Michigan Farmers Tell Bergland**

**Family Farms Can Survive "IF..."  
Market System, Repeal of  
Carryover Basis Emphasized**



**MICHAEL PRIDGEON**

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, at the "structure of American Agriculture" hearing in Lafayette, Indiana, December 18, was told by Michigan farmer Michael Pridgeon that "farming is not a way of life, but a means of livelihood for many Americans" who must not be denied the opportunity to make a profit and to earn and get higher incomes.

Pridgeon, a young farmer from Montgomery in Branch County, who serves on the Michigan Farm Bureau board, testified on behalf of the organization at the hearing, one of ten that Bergland conducted throughout the U.S. for public input into the 1981 farm bill.

"We believe the future structure of American agriculture must include the dominant role played by the family farm and

major forces affecting its existence," Pridgeon said. He spelled out the Farm Bureau's definition of a family farm: "A family farm is an agricultural business where the farm family controls the resources, makes management decisions, accepts the risks, and lives by the results."

**"Must have opportunity to make profit"**

Pridgeon said the single most important force affecting the family farm and the structure of American agriculture involves the federal government's farm programs. "Michigan Farm Bureau strongly endorses government programs involving agriculture that are designed to create conditions which will permit farmers to operate under the free enterprise market system," he testified. "We favor a market oriented agriculture because we believe farmers will fare better under the market system than any type of government managed system."

The well-being of all farm and ranch families depends on the opportunity to make a profit and to earn and get higher

incomes, the young farmer said. "Their opportunity to improve their standard of living may depend on their ability to increase the size of their farm businesses. They must not be denied this opportunity."

Pridgeon said the family farm can survive as a means of livelihood "if American agriculture operates under the free enterprise system; inflation is stopped and government spending is brought under control; if it has ready access to energy supplies; overregulation is brought to a halt and minimum wage increases are stopped; if it is provided with good research, education, and credit to increase agricultural productivity; if it is allowed the flexibility which will permit efficient use of modern technology and management; if it has ready access to domestic and world markets, and farmers are allowed to continue to speak for themselves through their organizations on matters of public policy."

**Definition of Family Farm important**

Also testifying was Claudine Jackson, who with her husband, Andrew, operates a centennial farm in Livingston County. Jackson, former chairman of Michigan Farm Bureau Women, testified for the Family Farm Coalition of the Michigan Council of Churches, and the Family Farm Task Force of the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church.

"It is a real concern to those of us who are lifetime farmers when many non-farm groups try to define a family farm as one that generates gross income not to exceed \$20,000 per year," Mrs. Jackson said. "For some reason, much of society seems to feel that social ills could be corrected if everyone had a little piece of land. There is much poverty in rural America, and if we concentrate our emphasis on the small family farm, and expect the family to live on the farm with a gross income not to exceed \$20,000, the poverty and social ills will increase."

Jackson said that of the nation's 2.7 million farms, the USDA estimates that 1,875,000 of them gross less than \$20,000, but while they represent 69.2 percent of the farmers, they generate only 10.7% of farm product sales. Fifty-two percent of the total farm sales comes from the six percent of farms that gross

more than \$100,000 sales per year, she said. The average farmer, Jackson testified, feeds about 60 persons.

"We live in an area where we are surrounded with many neighbors living on 10-acre parcels. Most of them have livestock—a horse or two or three, perhaps a few chickens and dogs. A few have a garden. Most of these people do not produce enough from their ten acres to even feed the horses. They are food deficient families—a real waste of agricultural land," she said.

"If our government doesn't try to place too many regulations on the family farm, and if there is an incentive to produce—profit—I believe that families will determine how many management headaches they wish to assume, and how great a risk they are willing to take," Jackson said.

Jackson listed the ability of farm families to pass their farms on to succeeding generations as another concern. A new carryover basis provision, added to the federal estate tax law, threatens to place extreme hardship on small property and business owners, she explained. "This carryover basis provision was so complicated that Congress, in its wisdom, delayed implementation for three years. The moratorium will end December 31, 1979. At that time, the family farm will be discriminated against



**CLAUDINE JACKSON**

unless the carryover is repealed," she said. "One-fourth of all farmland presently sold is sold to meet federal estate and state inheritance taxes. Most of the land sold leaves agricultural production and the remaining farm is often too small to be a viable unit."

She urged repeal of the carryover tax and also urged the government to "allow the farm families to make the management decisions, and decide on the risk they are willing to take—not try to limit them on acreage or gross income."

On the same day Jackson was testifying, the U.S. House of Representatives voted, 326-77, to instruct its conferees on the "windfalls profits" tax bill to accede to the Senate provision repealing the carryover basis in estate tax law. Although President Carter opposes the repeal, he is expected to sign the total tax package in order to gain the windfall profits provisions.

**Editorial**

**The Consumer's Interests**

In his recent series of "Structure of Agriculture" meetings, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland made it clear that consumer interests will continue to play an important—even a dominant—role in formulating the Carter administration's farm policy.

The nation's farmers are not all happy about that—and a closer look reveals that their concerns are well founded.

The consumer today plays a key role in farming or, for that matter, in any business. In fact, the purchaser of goods has always had the final say. The consumer's refusal to spend money for a product is a signal for the end of the product or, at the very least, a change in quality or cost. This is the ultimate consumer input—free enterprise at its best and it works.

That is not what the USDA has in mind. Led by one-time consumer advocate Carol Tucker Foreman, the Agriculture Department intends to define the so-called "needs" of consumers and actually shape a farm program to fit!

The food faddists and consumer activists have had their say—and then some. This is the bone that American farmers want to pick with Secretary Bergland. Tax dollars are being spent in monumental amounts to find out what consumers want, or need, and the two are not always the same. And if farmers don't want to go along? The current brass at USDA has already experimented with forcing farmers into line by withholding farm program benefits.

Will farmers be subject to the whims of consumer activists using the federal farm program as a gun to their backs? It's a possibility that scares farmers. Most of them feel that the USDA should be a cabinet level spokesman for the interests of agriculture.

As for consumer input...the dollar he spends and the one he doesn't...are still the greatest input of all.

**What's Happening?**

- Jan. 29 Southwest Regional Legislative Seminar YWCA, Lansing
- Jan. 30 South Regional Legislative Seminar Plaza Hotel Lansing
- Feb. 7 MASA Labor Meeting Ottawa County County Farm Bureau Office, 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 11 MASA Labor Meeting Van Buren County County Farm Bureau Office, 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 Southeast Regional Legislative Seminar Plaza Hotel Lansing
- Feb. 14-15 Presidents' Conference Holiday Inn Mt. Pleasant
- Feb. 14-17 Mall Display Fashion Square Mall Saginaw
- Feb. 19 Saginaw Valley Regional Legislative Seminar YWCA, Lansing
- Feb. 26 Central Regional Legislative Seminar YWCA, Lansing
- Feb. 27 Thumb Regional Legislative Seminar Plaza Hotel Lansing
- Feb. 28- March 2 Genesee Valley Mall Flint
- March 5-7 Young Farmer Leader's Conference Valley Plaza Ramada Inn, Midland
- March 8-9 5th Annual Tractor Pull Pontiac Silverdome
- March 12 Upper Peninsula, North, Northwest, Northeast Regional Legislative Seminars Plaza Hotel Lansing
- March 13 West Central, West Regional Legislative Seminars YWCA, Lansing
- March 24-27 Washington Legislative Seminar Washington, D.C.

# Cheboygan First—Again!

For the third consecutive year, Cheboygan County is the first county Farm Bureau to report membership goal. Cheboygan reported 1980 membership goal on December 26, 1979 and has gained a position in the Michigan Farm

Bureau 1980 "Fabulous Fifteen."

County Farm Bureaus and their membership chairman reporting 1980 membership goal as of January 21 are: in the 1-350 member category — Benzie, Clarence Davis; Iosco, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Robinson; Kalkaska, Foster McCool and Copper Country, Dan Linna. In the 351-650 member category — Cheboygan, Stan Stempky, chairman, and Ogemaw, Rick and Roberta Beck, co-chairmen. In the 651-1200 member category — Montcalm County, Lola Weber, Martin Thomsen and Doris Rader, co-chairmen; and in the 1,501 and over category — Monroe County, Alvin Gaertner, chairman.

Benzie, Iosco, Kalkaska, Cheboygan, Ogemaw, Montcalm and Monroe counties are all members of the prestigious "Fabulous Fifteen" club.

## New Member-Only Benefit Announced

John Underwood Chevrolet, Inc., of Clinton, Michigan, has announced that Michigan Farm Bureau members may now purchase new cars and trucks under the member-only program.

Members can purchase any new 1980 model Chevrolet, Oldsmobile or Pontiac automobile at \$150 over dealer cost, except Corvettes, which are \$1,000 over dealer cost. The price includes dealer preparation charges.

New 1980 light trucks and vans and 4x2 Suburbans may be purchased at \$150 over dealer cost; 4x4 Blazers at \$150 over dealer cost if purchased between March 1 and September 30; 4x4 Blazers purchased between October 1 and February 29 will be \$300 over dealer cost; and medium size trucks (50-60-70) may be purchased at \$500 over dealer cost.

A \$100 deposit will be required on all car and light truck orders and \$300 on medium size truck orders. Farm Bureau members must contact **Keith Bailey or Jack Fetkenhier only** to obtain a price quotation on any of the above vehicles. Members must present a current Farm Bureau membership card when ordering in person or provide their membership card number on phone orders. The dealership's phone number is 517-456-4181.

Underwood Chevrolet is located at the corner of M-52 and US-12 in Clinton (Lenawee County), southwest of Ann Arbor.

### March 1-15

## Blue Cross-Blue Shield Sets Open Enrollment Period

Michigan Farm Bureau will have a two week open enrollment period for current Farm Bureau members who want to enroll in the Farm Bureau Blue Cross-Blue Shield Group. To be eligible, the member must have renewed his or her membership by January 31, 1980.

Farm Bureau offers a choice of plans designed to meet your health care needs at a cost you can afford. You can choose a full coverage Comprehensive Plan or a share the cost Econo Plan designed to protect you and your family against major medical bills.

This year the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Group coverage is better than ever and the cost is even less than last year. Pre and post natal care, along with medical emergency care, are now benefits of the Farm Bureau contract.

Farm Bureau's Blue Cross-Blue Shield Group offers coverage and protection that is just not available through individual plans and many other group plans. Farm Bureau subscribers are never cancelled because of health conditions or age. They also receive personal attention and assistance from their county Farm Bureau secretary whenever they have a question or problem concerning their BC-BS contract.

Contact your county Farm Bureau secretary and get the full details about Farm Bureau's Blue Cross-Blue Shield Group. He/she will be happy to help you select the plan that will best meet your health care needs.

Don't forget, to be eligible for the Farm Bureau Group, you must have paid your 1980 membership no later than January 31, 1980. The Blue Cross-Blue Shield open enrollment date is March 1-15, 1980. Contact your county Farm Bureau secretary for enrollment today. It will be your last opportunity to enroll in the Farm Bureau Group until March 1-15, 1981.

## Did You Renew Your Membership Yet?

# MUSCLE BOUND



Here's what puts the extra muscle in Safemark Big Kick batteries: Through-the-partition in-line intercell connectors reduce internal resistance for maximum cranking power.

More plates in every cell because of thin wall construction — greater cranking speed.

Corrosion virtually eliminated through use of special grid alloy — reduces top short circuiting. **AND — SAFEMARK BIG KICK ARE MAINTENANCE-FREE. FOR YEARS OF TROUBLE FREE STARTING WITH SAFEMARK BIG KICK BATTERIES SEE YOUR LOCAL SAFEMARK SERVICE AGENT, OR CALL YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU.**

SIZE	AMPS	VOLTAGE	MEMBER PRICE
BK-22F	380	12	\$47.41
BK-24	440	12	56.00
BK-27	505	12	63.99
BK-74	440	12	56.96
FTC-1	490	6	40.09
FTC-4EH	850	6	71.49
FTC-3EH	850	6	63.26
FTC-3ET	385	12	60.26
FTC-30H	580	12	78.09
FTC-3H	550	6	54.73
FTC-5D	820	6	78.90
FTC-7D	935	6	92.56
FTC-8D	935	12	181.73
FTC-2-8	475	8	47.64
FTC-4DLT	715	12	99.20
FTC-17TF	470	12	77.49
FTC-UIL	220	12	33.91
BK-24M	420	12	59.80

## That's the best way to describe the Safemark Big Kick battery line

It's crammed inside with energy producing plates that packs the kind of wallop that gets cold stiff engines spinning on cold wintry mornings. And, there's still enough capacity left to meet the higher demands required by those extra electrical accessories like CB, air conditioning, power windows, etc.

**THE SAFEMARK MARGIN: QUALITY • SERVICE • DEPENDABILITY • ECONOMY**

## CAPITOL REPORT

By  
Robert E. Smith

### Up-Date On Workers Compensation

Some months ago the Legislature created a joint Legislative Task Force to consider workers compensation reform. The task force is comprised of senators, representatives and the directors of the departments of commerce and labor. Farm Bureau is a member of a coalition of a variety of business, industry and other employer groups which is interested in this issue and is a member of the steering committee.

The task force has been at an impasse for several months with little or nothing accomplished. However, Governor Milliken was a surprise visitor at the December 20 meeting. He opened the meeting by introducing his own reform proposals for consideration. His proposals are not yet in bill form and at this time there has not been a response from the task force.

A few of the key areas that the governor suggested are as follows:

- Raise the maximum weekly benefit to 100% of the state average weekly wage. Changing the basis of the benefit calculation from  $\frac{2}{3}$  of gross wages to 80% of "after tax" wages.
- Eliminate the minimum rates for general disability. This is an extremely important provision as far as agricultural

employers are concerned. The minimum rate for specific losses would be the lesser of the employee's actual wage or 25% of the state average weekly wage. Presently the minimums often provide more income than the employee earns.

- Coordinate benefits to reduce workers comp benefits by 50% of the benefits received from social security and to reduce 100% of the benefits received from unemployment insurance. In other words, no individual could receive the total benefits of workers comp as well as social security, unemployment and other benefit income.
- Update several specific benefits. This is important because there has been little change in workers comp for several years and Michigan is known to have among the lowest benefits for true injuries along with the highest premium cost. Updating of old benefits would be financed from the General Fund.
- Measure the average weekly wage at the time of injury and not only the week in which the employee was injured. The base wage loss would be on actual earnings instead of an assumed 40 hour week. The average

(Continued on page 13)

### Former UFW Staffer Speaks at Capitol



Tony Mendez, former United Farm Worker staffer, who worked with Cesar Chavez on the original UFW boycotts, spoke recently at the Michigan capitol. Mendez said he left the UFW because he was disillusioned with the union's tactics of harassment and violence.

## Excerpts from Governor's State of the State Address

Governor Milliken presented to the Legislature, on January 10, his 12th Annual State of the State message. The recommendations numbered more than 350 specific administrative or legislative steps that the governor believes to be essential for the coming year's legislative session.

He alluded briefly to his budget message that will be presented later in the month, pointing out that there will be reduction and even elimination of some programs, due to the very tight fiscal situation that Michigan faces. In fact, it is expected that some \$90 million from the "rainy day fund" will have to be used in order to balance this year's budget. The Headlee tax and revenue limitation is also having its effect. However, the message will contain additional funding for several programs including an increase in the mental health budget by \$42 million and an increase in funding for Aid to Municipalities, primarily the cities. He pointed out that the "age of limits" has been with us for some time, however, he sees no need for new taxes in 1980.

### Accomplishments In the '70s

The governor listed numerous accomplishments during the decade of the 70s. Some of them were:

- 670,000 new jobs.
- Real personal income growth by 24%.
- International exports from Michigan reached record levels.
- State programs for encouraging plant rehabilitation and industrial development resulted in more than \$5 billion being invested and creating more than 160,000 jobs.
- Increased production in Michigan of oil and natural gas.
- Changes in the transportation system including construction of more than 700 miles of two and four lane highways with an increase in highway safety. The traffic death toll has dropped 25%.
- Adoption of Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116). The enrollment is more than one million acres.
- Setting of national standards by controlling public assistance costs.
- Federal dollars returned to Michigan grew more than four times.
- Development of the nation's largest property tax relief program (circuit breaker) which returns more than \$300 million to homeowners, renters and farmers.

- Exemptions in the flat-rate income tax that result in Michigan's tax structure being considered the most equitable and balanced in the nation.
- Creation of a Budget Stabilization Fund known by most as a "rainy day fund."
- Revenue sharing programs to townships, villages, cities and counties amounting to nearly one-half billion dollars this year.
- Major crime dropped in Michigan by 18%.
- School aid has nearly doubled through the "equal yield" concept.
- Statewide testing for public school students has been enforced.

### Recommendations for 1980

His message included the following recommendations for 1980. Proposals relating to agriculture include:

- Increasing efforts to expand international trade for Michigan products. Nearly 25% of farmers' cash receipts in Michigan result from exports.
- Recommends that the directors of the departments of agriculture, commerce, management and budget and natural resources study the issue of whether foreign land investments are a problem in Michigan.
- Supported research to provide the basis for effective research on food for contamination and continues to support the building of a Soil Science Center at Michigan State University which would house the departments of crop soil science and horticulture, the largest departments of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Has directed the Department of Agriculture to expand the monitoring of crops and soils on which sewage sludge can be used as a valuable source of plant nutrients.
- Pointed out that the gypsy moth is a threat to Michigan's \$4.7 billion tourist industry and saw timber resources and recommended measures to prevent further spread of this insect.
- Mentioned the agricultural districts proposal and said he would support this as an alternative program to P.A. 116. (This issue will be quite controversial.)
- Recommended the direct appointment of the director of the Department of Agriculture instead of the present system of the director being appointed by the Agricultural Commission. (This too will be most controversial.)

- Recommended that the state's drain code should be studied for revision. The Department of Agriculture has already established a task force. (Farm Bureau is represented on the task force.)
- Stressed in other parts of the State of the State message, his concern for the preservation of prime agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas.

In the area of state-local relations he said that he would continue to support the tax effort formula for distribution of revenue sharing to local units of government, however, he recommends that the criteria be the tax effort in the community, percent of families below the poverty level, percent of elderly, tax base growth and declining population. It is likely that this approach will shift revenues considerably within the state.

He discussed briefly some reorganization in government by transferring to the Commerce Department several offices and agencies that effect physical and economic development. The Department of Commerce will be divided into three major components: economic development, community assistance and energy. Several other agencies will be transferred to the Department of Licensing and Regulation such as the Insurance Bureau and the Liquor Control Commission.

He spent some time on the problems of workers compensation saying that for years an effort has been made to reform Michigan's system of extremely high premiums and comparatively low benefits.

He said that it is essential that the Legislature enact a state vehicle inspection and maintenance program which would require testing of all vehicles for emissions that in turn affect clean air requirements. The Federal Clean Air Act requires that areas failing to meet such standards by 1982 must institute mandatory vehicle inspection. He said that it simply means that if the right law is not passed, expansion comes to an abrupt halt because Michigan already has been denied industrial permits by the federal authorities.

He said he was opposed to reinstating the death penalty in Michigan and that he would establish a special organized crime commission to implement and determine a strategy for prevention and control of crime.

In the area of education, the governor said he would support the reorganization of the intermediate school districts in Michigan (S.B. 873). (This, as

(Continued on page 7)

## Ceiling Placed on Farm Disaster Loans

A House-Senate Conference Committee has approved legislation placing a \$2 million ceiling, phased down to \$500,000 by 1983, on farm disaster emergency loans made by the Agriculture Department's Farmers Home Administration.

The new emergency loan limit was included in a bill (S. 985) which fixes ceilings within which Congress may set regular FmHA farm and rural development loan totals for the 1980, 1981 and 1982 fiscal years.

House Agricultural Committee Chairman Thomas Foley

(D-Wash.) said controls were needed on the disaster emergency credit program because existing regulations have allowed some big producers to get loans of up to nearly \$17 million in several cases.

"We should make this disaster program serve the small and moderate-sized farmers who are eligible for other farm credit programs operated by FmHA. The agency was never designed to serve multi-million dollar operators," Foley said.

Under the Conference Committee Bill, farmers eligible for

disaster credit in the current 1980 fiscal year can get up to \$500,000 in loans to cover actual disaster losses plus up to \$1.5 million for farm operating and adjustment needs. The actual loss ceiling will be permanent, but the limit on operating and adjustment credit will be reduced by half a million dollars annually until it drops to zero in fiscal 1983. The bill also provides that applicants for emergency loans will be required to prove they cannot get credit elsewhere by submitting letters from non-government lending agencies, although this may be waived for small loans.

## Agricultural Conference Holds Legislative Banquet

The 32nd annual Michigan Agricultural Conference Legislative Dinner was held at Michigan State University on January 9.

Speaking on behalf of the governor, Mrs. William Milliken told the 1100 in attendance that Michigan's agriculture is one of the mainstays of Michigan's economy, and "Whatever challenges we face in the years ahead, we must make certain we protect this resource from the continuing pressures which could endanger future productivity."

Referring to President Carter's embargo on future grain sales to Russia, she stated that it is a reminder that agriculture is an international business, that Michigan is a major exporting state and that exports play a major role in Michigan agriculture.

Mrs. Milliken conveyed to the audience several steps that the governor will be taking to protect the state's agricultural resources which include the appointment of a committee of local government organizations, state officials and other



Legislators who received the market baskets donated by Michigan Farm Bureau at the Michigan Agricultural Conference Legislative dinner were Rep. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City), left, and Rep. Francis Spaniola (D-Corunna), right.

interested groups to review the state's Subdivision Control Act and to recommend amendments to improve its application in controlling urban sprawl.

According to Mrs. Milliken, the governor will be asking the departments of agriculture, natural resources, commerce and management and budget to study the purchase of

Michigan farmland by foreign governments and citizens, as "such purchases could drive the price of land beyond the means of Michigan owners and divert food and fiber production acreage to other uses."

Mrs. Milliken concluded by stating that the governor is confident that by working together, Michigan's agriculture future can be even more rewarding than in the past.

## Governor's State of the State Address

(Continued from page 6)

in the past, will be extremely controversial.) He said further that he would continue to support the equal yield plus flat grant school aid formula. He recommended the passage of a constitutional amendment to appoint the State Board of Education and also recommended the governor be given the authority to appoint the superintendent of public instruction.

Under environmental protection, he suggested a program of more than \$300 million for the next five years to be used for matching grants to local governments for solid waste programs.

He also recognized many issues in the transportation section including Michigan's

critical bridge program. He said that this program has increased from \$2 million in 1978 to \$17.5 million in 1980 and that 100 bridges are in line for rebuilding in 1980 compared to 70 in 1979.

He had a special section on the Upper Peninsula saying that the Upper Peninsula is a growing economy and that many farmers have left the lower peninsula to farm in the U.P. There are more than 600,000 acres of agricultural land. He said that the U.P. economy is based on its natural resources such as the mining industry, agricultural and the forest and pulp industry. He supported improving the Chatham Agricultural Research

Station and urged continued development of tourism. He said he will form a U.P. advisory group composed of U.P. residents to further determine how business expansion and natural resource goals can be met in the U.P. He will also sponsor a conference on the wood products industry and research for ways to utilize Michigan's "most bountiful and renewable resource — our forest."

These are only a few of the more than 350 recommendations in the State of the State address, but it indicates that it will be a busy legislative year and that the decade of the 1980s will see as many changes as did the decade of the 1970s.



## Farm Bureau on the NATIONAL SCENE

### Public Oversight Hearing on Grain Embargo:

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) has announced that his committee's first business after Congress reconvenes in late January will be a public oversight hearing to explore the impact of the administration's embargo on grain and soybean sales to the Soviet Union. "We will call administration officials to meet with us for a full, detailed review of what this loss in export sales may mean to farmers, what the administration is prepared to do to offset the potential decline in farm income, and whether further steps may be needed," Foley said.

### President Signs Countercyclical Meat Import Legislation:

President Carter has signed H.R. 2727, the Countercyclical Meat Import legislation. This legislation had been modified slightly from the bill which was vetoed in 1978 by the President, who claimed he did not have sufficient discretion. Congress worked out a compromise with the administration regarding the minimum annual import quota. The administration wanted that quota set at 1.3 billion pounds; the Congress in earlier legislation had set the figure at 1.2 billion. This point was compromised by the setting of a 1.25 billion pound minimum annual quota.

**Trade Reorganization:** President Carter has signed an executive order establishing an interagency Trade Policy Committee, headed by Ambassador Reubin Askew and assigning trade operating functions for agriculture to the USDA. The President's action is in conformity with recommendations of Farm Bureau which has recommended (1) the strengthening of the office of the U.S. trade representative and (2) retention of day-to-day agricultural trade functions in the USDA.

**Unfulfilled CCC Credit Requests:** As a part of the emergency Farm Bureau policy for 1980, Farm Bureau encouraged the administration to immediately increase the CCC export credit budget from \$800 million to \$2 billion for fiscal year 1980 and 1981. Countries which have requested lines of credit with which to purchase U.S. farm commodities during the current marketing year but which have not been accommodated by such lines of credit are Portugal, Bolivia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, South Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, The Philippines and Romania.

These requests for credit would be used to purchase U.S. corn, wheat, soybean meal, cotton, tallow, vegetable oil and tobacco. These unfulfilled credit requests amount to over \$700 million, which when added to the current budget of \$800 million that has been committed, would indicate a need for \$1.5 billion to fulfill commitments and requests on hand. Other requests as the marketing year advances would indicate the Farm Bureau recommendation that the CCC export credit budget be increased from \$800 million to \$2 billion is reasonable and could significantly help alleviate the impact of the embargo of grain to the Soviet Union.

### Washington Addresses

Senators: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Representatives: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.



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# American Farm Bureau

## Awards Program

Michigan Farm Bureau was third in the nation and tops in its membership category for number of stars won in recognition for program achievements. Michigan earned six gold stars for membership quota, Farm Bureau Women, Young Farmers, Marketing (AAMA and non-AAMA), and Policy Development, and silver stars for Local Affairs, National Affairs, Natural Resources and Political Education.

The awards were presented at a recognition program featuring a special performance by comedian Bob Hope.

## Poultry Conference

Norb Hackett, vice president of Armour and Company, predicted a decade of progress for the U.S. poultry industry in the 80s if producers and others in the industry work for it.

Relating future growth to that of the past ten years, during which the poultry industry prospered at a rate second only to chemicals, Hackett made the following points: increased cost and availability of labor, credit and feed/production costs will be the biggest challenges of the future for poultry producers, but according to Hackett, an agrarian spirit that helped to create an efficient, low-cost operation in the past will be capable of meeting these challenges. He also cited consumer recognition of the nutritional value of poultry meat as a positive trend for the industry that will continue into the 80s.

## Horticulture Conference

Farmers must bring all farm workers into the mainstream of economic life or it will be done for them by labor unions or others, a California vegetable grower told producers at the AFBF horticultural conference. Mike Payne, vice president of the Bruce Church, Inc., Salinas California talked about the current United Farm Workers strike in California, nationwide boycott efforts, agricultural labor relations law and the future of farm labor in the United States.

"We have had a revolution in California in farm labor," Payne told the producers. "The other states have had a chance to look at us and learn a lesson. I hope they will."

"The unions are looking for California's labor law to become the law of the land," Payne said. "Agriculture would

## Soybean Conference

Despite world tension and the market shock caused by Carter's suspension of exports to the Soviet Union, the soybean outlook is good for 1980, speakers told farmers at the soybean conference of the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting.

Dr. Kenneth Bader, chief executive officer of the American Soybean Association, predicted expanded research in soybean technology to provide new varieties which will result in higher yielding and higher quality beans. He also anticipates little change in production patterns in the Midwest where farmers will continue to produce corn and soybeans to meet future needs for feed grains and protein in the world.

USDA economist, George Kromer, stressed the importance of United States producers to the world supply of soybeans. He estimated the world market value of soybeans at \$26 billion of which the U.S. provides about 65 percent.

World demand is, and will remain strong, Kromer said, with expanding demand in other markets more than able to offset any depressing effect of the suspension of exports to the Soviet Union.

Also addressing the conference, Glenn Tussey, AFBF assistant director of national affairs, reviewed the status of the multilateral trade agreement adopted by large majorities in both houses of Congress. Tussey called the trade agreement one of the major victories for Farm Bureau in the Congress last year.

be a lot better off removing the agricultural exemption from the National Labor Relations Act. At least then you would have a solid body of law behind the operation, not a murky, ever-changing thing we call a labor law in California."

Payne added that farmers need to look hard at improving the social and economic benefits to farm workers.

"Farm workers are going to have to be helped. They are going to move into the economic mainstream and it should be us that gives them that help. An underpaid, unhappy worker is a potential revolutionary. That is what Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers use against us. Bring the workers into the mainstream and you remove that potential," Payne said.

## Grain Farmer Elected President

Robert B. Delano, a Warsaw, Virginia, grain farmer, was elected president of the American Farm Bureau Federation by delegates to the organization's 1980 national convention.

Delano, 55, has been AFBF vice president for the last four years and succeeds Allan Grant, Visalia, California, rancher, who had announced earlier that he would not be a candidate for re-election to the post he has held for the last four years.

A native of Virginia, Delano has been president of the Virginia Farm Bureau since 1962. He holds a B.S. degree in animal husbandry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has been a member of the AFBF board of directors since 1967.

Delano is a veteran of World War II and is active in numerous civic and community affairs. He is also president of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, a post he has held since 1975.

In accepting leadership of Farm Bureau, Delano praised his predecessors and said, "The time has come for us to look inward, restructure, if necessary, but above all begin to accept the organizational discipline commensurate with an organization as great as Farm Bureau."

Named as AFBF vice president after several runoff votes,



**ROBERT DELANO**  
NEW AFBF PRESIDENT

was Cecil Miller, president of the Arizona Farm Bureau and a member of the AFBF board of directors.

Miller, 53, in partnership

with his brother, Duane, operates a large cattle ranch in Arizona, a 750 acre irrigated farm and a cattle feeding operation near Phoenix.

## Dairy Conference

Milk production is expected to reach an all time high in 1980 of 125 to 126 billion pounds, according to Robert H. Rummler, executive chairman of the Holstein Association of America in a speech delivered at the AFBF dairy conference.

According to Rummler, the 1980s are expected to bring increased milk production with fewer and fewer cows, but this achievement may be marred somewhat unless research and development into the problems of disease management and marketing are significantly improved.

Rummler warned that the increased efforts of manufacturers to push imitation dairy products on the consumer is a dangerous and serious problem for dairymen and that the American Farm Bureau Federation will have to continue its efforts to make consumers aware that there is a dif-

ference between imitation dairy products and the real thing.

Dairymen also heard more about the USDA's new STOP (swab test on premises) program to be conducted nationwide. Dr. John Spaulding, chief staff officer, Food Safety and Quality Service of the USDA, said the new testing procedure makes use of "cotton tip swabs" which are inserted into the kidneys of slaughtered animals for a period of time and then tested for antibiotic residues.

Any residues that show up are checked against the established tolerances for such antibiotics. If the test results exceed the tolerances, the carcass is rejected, at a loss to both the producer and the processor.

Spaulding told the Farm Bureau dairymen that precautions taken back at the farm would prevent much of the

residue problems from occurring, but occasionally residues will occur. Dairymen are going to have to be more aware of their antibiotic treatments, he said, especially if sending animals to slaughter is considered.

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# Annual Meeting Action

## Grain Embargo Impact Topic at Wheat and Feed Grain Conference

Uncertainty dominated the wheat and feed grain conference at the American Farm Bureau's annual meeting on January 8. Commodity exchanges had not yet opened for the week; as a result, farmers concerned about the effect of the U.S. embargo of grain sales to the Soviet Union crowded the large conference room.

Conference chairman, Harold Steele, president of the Illinois Farm Bureau, set the tone by reviewing the events of the previous week through which the world political situation had brought the grain industry to a state of confusion.

Conference speakers, Harold Smedley, vice president of the U.S. Feed Grains Council, and Michael Hall, president of Great Plains Wheat, Inc., admitted to changing their texts over the weekend.

With an embargo on 17

million tons of grain sold to Russia, both Smedley and Hall said much of the future grain marketing picture depends on action yet to be taken by the government. Smedley said the current situation in the grain market is so volatile that, "no substantive facts can be offered about future market development for grain.

"Instead of the previously expected increase in feed grain exports of 10 million metric tons for this year, we are now looking at a three million ton decrease," Smedley said.

The need for alternative markets to absorb the surplus grain likely to result from the embargo on sales, will require policy incentives which Smedley said he hoped will be forthcoming from the federal government.

Hall added that developments in government and the trading centers during

the next two months will shape marketing decisions for the rest of the year.

Hall said that the fundamentals of the market are still bullish if the effects of political decisions can be overcome.

He cited the growing world population, rising demand for meat, increasing livestock numbers, and the uncertain production of grains in many other producing countries as bullish factors in the market.

Both Hall and Smedley spoke of the need for revision in U.S. credit policy to encourage expanded trade with other countries.

Indicative of the pressing problems of the grain industry emanating from the embargo on trade, Howard Hjort, director of economics, policy analysis and budget for the USDA, cancelled his scheduled appearance on the program.

Substituting for Hjort, Dr. Terry Barr, deputy chairman of the department's world food and policy outlook section, reviewed the current farm program and explained actions which the federal government expects to take to alleviate the depressing effects of the suspended exports.

Barr said that the efforts through which the USDA will try to moderate the effects on the trade suspension will re-

quire additional congressional authority. He could not say how soon some of the expected programs can be accomplished.

Proposed actions include modifications in reserve programs, waiving of interest charges and increased export efforts, Barr said.

## Livestock Conference

A government agricultural administrator, a cattle feeder-packer and an educator predicted a period of significant change in regulation, production and marketing of livestock for the 80s.

Panel participants at the AFBF livestock conference session were Thomas P. Grumbly, associate administrator of the Food Safety and Quality Service, USDA; Kenneth W. Monfort, senior vice president of Monfort of Colorado and Dr. L. S. "Bill" Pope, dean of agriculture at New Mexico State University.

Grumbly painted a picture of government regulation in agricultural production which will be smaller in scope, but more specific in direction in the 1980s. He said that government regulatory agencies will have to tighten up the scope of their activities due to inflation and lower budgets.

Monfort predicted a plentiful supply of beef available during the 80s, but asserted that never

again would per capita consumption of beef reach 129 pounds as it did at the peak in the 1970s. He said that cost increases for packers are making it necessary for them to trim labor contracts, and predicted a period of labor unrest in the packing industry.

Dr. Pope forecast a decade of decision for livestock producers. Individuals will be making decisions independently, he said, but international relations will govern the direction they take. Inflation, government regulations, consumer preferences, availability of energy, research achievements, access to public lands and many other factors will also play a role. Those who survive in the business will be the ones who make the right decisions, Pope said.

## More Annual Meeting Action: President's Column...page 2

## Delegate Action on Grain Embargo...page 3

## Rebecca Tompkins New Chairman

## Ag Commission Sets Policy on Embargo

At their January meeting, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture adopted policy on the recent federal grain embargo and support for development of alternative energy sources. In addition, the commission elected officers for 1980.

Declaring that a "strong agricultural community is essential to a strong America," the commission adopted a policy on the recent federal grain embargo.

"As patriotic Americans, we support the administration's efforts to deal with the Russian situation relating to Afghanistan, but we are concerned that the economic impact of the grain embargo will seriously and adversely affect American agriculture, particularly the grain farmers of Michigan and other states in the Midwest," the statement said.

"The stability of American agriculture, and its great contribution to the nation's economy, should not be jeopardized. A strong



REBECCA TOMPKINS  
CHAIRMAN

agricultural community is essential to a strong America."

The commission policy statement urges the Carter administration "to take whatever steps are necessary to minimize the damaging effects on American farmers," and notes

that "this vital segment of our nation's society should not bear the total financial burden of this embargo."

The statement concludes that "we believe the remedial measures already announced by the administration are inadequate to protect America's farm economy."

The commission also adopted policy supporting the development of alternative energy sources to help reduce Michigan's dependence on imported foreign oil and strengthen the state's economy.

Dean Pridgeon, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, said the commission's position reflected its concern about the surpluses of grain which will result from the administration's embargo on grain sales to Russia.

An agricultural energy section has been established within the department's Marketing and International Trade Division, and funded with \$195,000 by the Legislature. Its assignment is to study

methods for making agriculture self-sufficient in energy requirements, Pridgeon said.

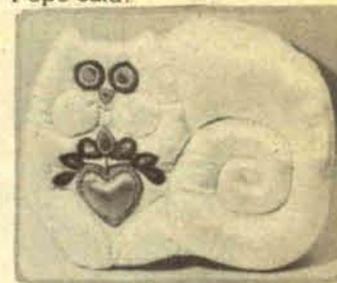
The commission statement urged a speedup in federal funding programs to assist in gasohol development.

Director Pridgeon said the department's goal is to establish a farm-scale demonstration project, assist interested organizations in securing financial support for alcohol production and provide information on biomass fuels and conservation.

As part of the first year's efforts, Pridgeon said a research project on gasohol production will be jointly funded with Michigan State University.

In other action at the meeting, Rebecca Tompkins of Traverse City was elected chairman of the commission, succeeding Charles E. Donaldson, Jr., of Stephenson, who has completed a one-year term as chairman.

David Diehl of Dansville was elected vice chairman and Dr. S. Leon Whitney of Detroit was elected secretary.



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## Farmers of the Week Honored by FBIG, Mi. 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 the news media, award winners receive a plaque and award buckle and leather belt from their local FBIG agent.

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for December 1979 were:



**LARRY ACKERMAN**

**Week of Dec. 3**—Larry Ackerman, 37, a dairy farmer from North Adams in Hillsdale County. He is a partner in an operation with 300 acres and 65 registered Holstein milking cows. Ackerman is president of the local chapter of the Michigan Milk Producers; president of the local branch of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative; director on the Hillsdale County board of the Dairy Herd Im-

### Former State President, Board Members Pass Away

Clarence J. Reid, St. Clair County farmer who served as president of the Michigan Farm Bureau from 1939 to 1945, passed away at the age of 84. A member of Farm Bureau since its organization in 1919, Reid was president of the St. Clair County Farm Bureau for 15 years, was elected to the state board in 1934, and became vice president in 1935 and president in 1939.

During his tenure as state president, he saw Farm Bureau membership in Michigan increase from 10,000 in 42 county Farm Bureaus to 38,000 in 51 county units.

A lifetime resident of St. Clair County, he was a dairyman and producer of certified seed.

Former Michigan Farm Bureau board member Allen F. Rush of Macomb County died January 11 at his farm home at the age of 78. A charter member of the Macomb County Farm Bureau and a past president from 1940 to 1951, Rush was elected to the state board in 1956, representing District 3.

He also served as president of the Michigan Hereford Breeders Association from 1964 to 1972 and recently

provement Assn. (DHIA); past district director of the State Holstein Assn.; past president of the Hillsdale Holstein Assn.; past 4-H leader and past treasurer of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. His awards include the DHIA award for top new herd in the county in 1976; top herd in the county for 1978 and 1979; State Production Milk Leader award; and he earned the State Farmer Degree from the Future Farmers of America (FFA). He and his wife, Kathie, have three children.



**RONALD BOALS**

**Week of Dec. 10**—Ronald Boals, 33, a fruit farmer from Kewadin in Antrim County. He farms 180 acres, raising primarily cherries and

peaches. Boals serves on the board of directors of the Antrim County Farm Bureau and heads the county FB state and national affairs committees; coaches the junior varsity basketball team at Elk Rapids for the second year in a row (his team's record last year was 19 wins and just one loss); is a member of the Twin Bay Trail Riders Motorcycle Club; and he is a former junior high school teacher. Boals and his wife, Kay, have two children.



**LAVERNE KINGSBURY**

**Week of Dec. 17**—Laverne Kingsbury, a Lennon area cash crop farmer who farms 500 acres with his son, Mike. Kingsbury, 47, raises soybeans, corn and wheat. He is a member of Michigan State University's Telefarm program; received the 1965 Farm Manager of the State Award

from Telefarm; member of the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau; and he supports 4-H and Future Farmers of America projects in the area. His son, Mike, is active in the Corunna High School FFA and raises feeder pigs. Kingsbury and his wife, Donna, have three children.



**COY DUANE SMITH**

**Week of Dec. 24**—Coy Duane Smith, a 31-year-old farmer from Gaines who earned a college degree while also farming full time. Smith, who farms over 340 acres in partnership with his mother, raises cash crops and a beef herd of registered Polled Herefords. He was recently elected a member of the Gaines Township Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Committee; member of the Swartz Creek High School Agricultural Advisory Board; member of the Genesee Coun-

ty Farm Bureau; past chairman of the Genesee County Young Farmers; past president of the local FB community group; and he graduated in 1978 from the University of Michigan (Flint Campus) with a BA in History.



**EVARD JONSECK**

**Week of Dec. 31**—Evard Jonseck, a dairy farmer from New Era who farms 400 acres and milks 85 cows. Two of his sons, Joe and Gary, farm with him full time. Jonseck, 46, is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era; active member in the Michigan Milk Producers Assn. and the Lakeshore Milk Haulers; member of the Oceana County Farm Bureau; and he supports local projects of the 4-H and the Future Farmers of America, organizations in which his children are actively involved. He and his wife, Nancy, have four children.

## Announcing the Farm Bureau "Member to Member" Mid-Winter Sale

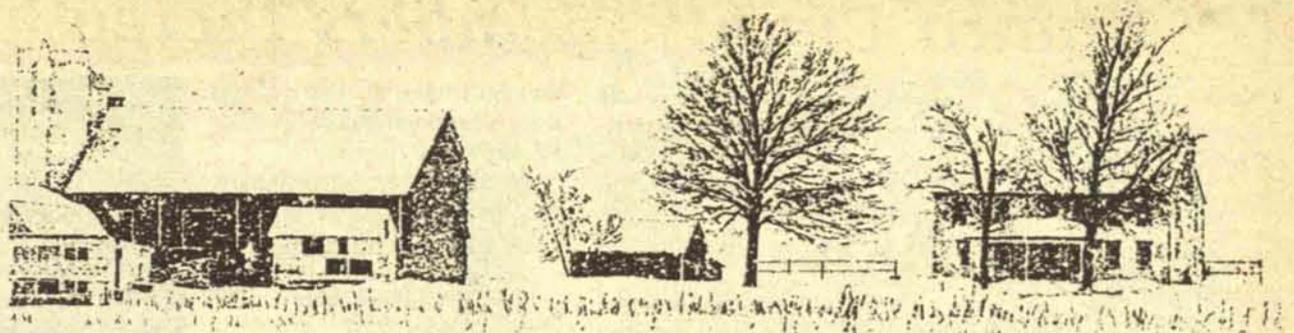
ITEM	SIZE
Blueberries	30 lbs., no sugar
Apple Slices	30 lbs., 7 to 1 sugar, Vitamin C preserved
Red Raspberries	28 lbs., no sugar
Broccoli Spears	12/2 lb. boxes/case
Cauliflower	12/2 lb. boxes/case
Peas	12/2 1/2 lb. boxes/case
Mixed Vegetables	12/2 1/2 lb. boxes/case
I.Q.F. Cut Asparagus Spears	12/2 1/2 lb. boxes/case
Temple Oranges	4/5 bushel
Pink Grapefruit	4/5 bushel
Hi-Density Orange Juice Conc.	24/12 oz. cans/case
Hi-Density Grapefruit Juice Conc.	24/12 oz. cans/case
Florida Skinless Shelled Peanuts	20 oz. can
Cheese, Variety Pak	4 lbs. - Sharp, Med., Colby, Caraway
Boneless Vintage Ham	4/4 lb. pkgs./case
Thick-Cut Smoked Bacon	8/1 1/2 lb. pkgs./case
Skinless All Meat Hot Dogs	5 lb. box
Smoked Hickory Stick	4 1/2 lbs.
Apple Cider Conc.	12/15 oz. jugs/case

**Order Deadline: February 20, 1980**

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

**Assessment Sleuthing**

**Don't Lose Dollars Through Faulty Assessments**



Farm owners/operators, Ed Moegle and Harold Ward, aren't property tax experts, but they're learning. And they're not investigative reporters, but they have uncovered and publicized a loosely supervised and inaccurate assessment process in their southeast Michigan townships of Armada and Lennox in Macomb County.

Moegle and Ward are just two of several Macomb County Farm Bureau members who have taken a closer look at their local property tax assessments and found that they were being inaccurately assessed on their farmland and real property.

"So far, assessment and computational errors have been found totalling over \$2 million dollars in assessed value in the township," says Moegle. "There may be similar situations throughout the state, but unless property owners check their annual assessment, they probably won't be aware of the inaccuracies."

Moegle and Ward are encouraging Farm Bureau members in their county to double check their 1980 assessment and they would like to see property owners throughout the state become more "vigilant" about verifying their assessments.

"Many people don't realize that they have the right to review the assessment rolls not only for their own property, but for any other parcel in the county to make comparisons in assessed valuation. These are public record documents and are on file at the township supervisor's office or the county equalization director's office. Some taxpayers feel they don't understand enough about the tax laws and are embarrassed to ask questions," says Moegle. "It was the same for us. We suspected that our assessments were too high, so we started digging. First by checking the assessor's field cards and then we asked lots of questions."

Moegle and Ward found, for example, buildings that no longer existed were included in assessments. In one instance, a Macomb County Farm Bureau member who joined them in their search, found that he had been assessed for a fireplace year after year. There is no fireplace in the home. Until he checked the assessor's field card, he never suspected.

As a result of their inquiries and study throughout the past nine months, Moegle and Ward can recite a litany of examples which demonstrate the wide-spread inaccuracy of the assessment system.

But what's really got them embroiled in fighting the assessment system in their townships is the application of "existing use" vs. "highest and best potential use" designations used in assessing the value of their farmland.

Ward and Moegle want to continue to farm in Macomb County, but they feel that property tax assessments that drive the annual tax bill beyond their reach will force them out of farming. To these men, their annual production from the fields and barns constitutes not only existing use, but also the highest and best use of the land.

Is a subdivision or commercial use of our land really the best and highest possible use, they ask. Moegle and Ward insist that as long as they continue to farm on the land, it should be assessed as farmland.

"If we keep losing farmland at the rate we have been in this state and elsewhere, the day may come when we will have common agreement that an agricultural stewardship of the land is the best possible use. Unfortunately, it may be too late then," says Ward.

Farmers, they say, are no different from other taxpayers. They are willing to pay their fair share in taxes for schools, roads, police and fire protections, etc., but as long as assessments are made carelessly or inaccurately, the tax burden will not be uniform nor just. That is what Moegle and Ward object to and they are hoping to urge people throughout the state, particularly Farm Bureau members, to "watchdog" the assessment system on their own and not wait for the bureaucracy to take action.

What should taxpayers look for when reviewing their assessment cards?

Ron Nelson, of the Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, suggests that landowners look carefully at the description of the parcel, including any easements across the property, soil type classification, number of acres, drainage and woodlots. In the field card description of the house and outbuildings, property owners should verify square footage as noted by the assessor, the condition/age of the buildings, construction material noted (e.g. wood, brick, etc.). The value of your residence will be increased by the number of rooms including bathrooms and "extras" such as a fireplace, so check these items on the field card. Farm outbuildings can vary in the valuation in assessment depending, in part, on the flooring type. Be certain that the field card lists the flooring type correctly, i.e., dirt, cement, gravel, etc.

If you suspect that there is some disparity in your assessment, you have the right to protest the assessment. The property owner who feels his tax assessment is incorrect must first appear before the local board of review. Dates for the board of review meetings are set by law, but property owners are encouraged to verify meeting dates with the township supervisor. The 1980 legal dates for board of review meetings are March 4, 10 and 11.

If the property owner does not find relief at the local level, he then has a right to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, Department of Treasury.

The letter must be postmarked on or before the first Monday in May. Appeals can also be made within 30 days after receipt of a tax bill. There are two methods of appeal:

**Small Claims Division**

Appeals can be brought into this division for the following: (a) Residential homestead property regardless of the amount of assessment. (b) Agriculture property regardless of the amount of assessment. (c) Rental residential property of less than four units regardless of the amount of assessment. (d) Other kinds of property where the equalized value will not be increased or decreased by more than \$20,000.

The hearing will be held at the county seat where the property is located, or the next contiguous county, by one member of the Tribunal. Decisions will be in writing, but "will not set precedent" unless ordered by the entire Tribunal. No formal record will be taken. There will not be any fees or cost charged or allowed for any proceeding commenced or completed in the Small Claims Division. *The decision is final. There is no appeal from the Small Claims Division.*

**Appeal to the Entire Tax Tribunal**

Appeal to the entire Tribunal is much more formal, and there are numerous rules involved in

the actual presentation, hearing, etc. Taxpayers wishing to appeal to the entire Tribunal may need advice. The appeal is begun by the filing of a petition, drafted by the petitioner, with the Tribunal. The formal regulations outline in detail what each petition must contain. The petition is considered filed when mailed by certified mail. There is a sliding scale of filing fees; for example, if the state equalized value in contention is under \$40,000.00, the fee would be \$40.00. The taxpayer may appear for himself or be represented by an attorney, or other authorized representative. Other interested parties may be permitted by the Tribunal to intervene in the case. Hearings on property tax issues will be by 3 to 5 members of the Tax Tribunal. *The decision shall provide precedent if so determined by the Tribunal and may be appealed to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court.*

**NEXT MONTH:**

**Getting Ready for the Board of Review**

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# Ottawa County Members Increase Efficiency

"With the same number of units, we cut a half hour off milking time, and aren't working nearly as hard"

Ottawa County Farm Bureau members, Bob and Don Hassevoort, grow and harvest 500 acres of crops and have enough time left over to manage a high-producing dairy herd of 210 Holsteins, partly because they get a lot of help from their 11 children. The brothers came from a family of 18 themselves, and know what hard work and cooperation among family members can accomplish.

Don and Bob are the first to hit the barn for the 5:30 a.m. milking. But when they start milking the 102 cows in the milking string, that's all they do. There's no other chores for them when the 18,700 pound rolling herd average is at stake. Those chores are reserved for the Hassevoorts' back-up crews, which arrive before and after school.

"Our boys and girls all help in the barn during milking," explains Bob, the eldest of the brothers. "And when they milk, they've been taught to pay attention to what they're doing. We want our cows milked clean, but we don't want to overdo it. They've learned that it's strict attention to the cows until the job is finished."

By spreading the workload, Bob's and Don's families are able to enjoy their meals

together, and to take time off for recreation and entertainment as a family group. When Bob's family is on duty in the barn, Don and his troops are free for fun, and the opposite is also true.

The Hassevoorts entered into this "ideal" partnership in 1961, while they were still renting the land from their father. Since then, the original 160 acres has been expanded to 500; 250 acres of which is planted in corn and the other 250 split between alfalfa, wheat, oats and rye. Three glass-lined silos store haylage and high-moisture shelled corn for the dairy herd.

Milking cows get a ration in the barn that includes a protein concentrate, soybean meal, vitamins and minerals.

## NEW FACILITIES

Until January, 1978, milking was much more difficult than it is today.

"We carried buckets and had six milking units. We spent most of our time walking back and forth emptying the buckets," Bob points out.

Since the Hassevoorts were successful with barn milking, they wanted to continue this routine with a pipeline instead of the buckets. They chose a complete new De Laval System.

"With the same number of units," Bob says, "We cut one-half hour off our milking time, and found we weren't working as hard. Best of all,

we don't have to stop milking a high-producing cow in order to empty the bucket."

Another plus for the new system is the steadily rising rolling herd average.

In December, 1977, just before Dave installed the pipeline system, the Hassevoorts' herd posted a 16,147-pound rolling average. Just over a year and one-half later (September, 1979) the Holstein herd averaged 18,669 pounds of milk and 729 pounds of butterfat with a 3.89 percent test.

"One of our best producers is Susan, which gave us 24,572 pounds of milk and 982 pounds of butterfat in her third lactation," Don notes.

"Changing to the new system was a major factor in that increased production, along with a soil test program started four years ago, the added storage facilities for high-quality silage and a herd health program that aims at preventative medicine, Bob adds.

According to the older Hassevoort, the herd's last udder health test turned in a score of "one", which is considered excellent.

In dairy country where the work goes on 365 days out of every year, milking for top production is the name of the game, especially when 11 hungry, but happy stomachs are waiting!

(Story and photos courtesy of Johnson Hill Press.)



Clean-up time has been reduced, say Don (left) and Bob Hassevoort.



Don and Bob Hassevoort show Susan, who, in her third lactation, produced 24,572 pounds of milk.

## ARTHRITIS

Pain Relief Guaranteed  
or you pay nothing

Millions of people who are suffering the agonizing pain caused by arthritis can now realize immediate long-lasting relief. Without risking one cent! Unfortunately most people who suffer from Arthritis, Bursitis, Rheumatism or any form of muscular soreness have tried so many products that haven't helped they no longer believe that relief is available. **DON'T GIVE UP.** We are absolutely confident that our proven product **ReL-EEZE** will provide you with relief from your misery. So confident are we that **ReL-EEZE** is offered with a "no questions" asked money-back guarantee. **ReL-EEZE** is a non-staining soothing rub-on lotion that quickly penetrates the painful area giving almost instant relief. There is no waiting for hours or overnight for pain relief. We know this to be true because **ReL-EEZE** users write and tell us so. We want everyone suffering from arthritis, rheumatism, bursitis or any muscular or joint soreness to use it just once. Simply rub it on the problem areas and look for immediate temporary relief. If you are not completely satisfied, return the unused product for a full refund by return mail. If you're suffering, you can't afford not to give **ReL-EEZE** a chance to help you. The cost is a modest \$4.95 for 2 oz., \$9.00 for 4 oz. and \$17.00 for 8 oz. Order now from: Bixby/Long Company, P.O. Box 4796, M. Whittier, CA 90607.

## Young Farmer Leader Conference March 5-7

The annual Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leader's Conference will be held March 5-7 in Midland at the Valley Plaza Ramada Inn.

Workshops to be conducted at the three-day conference will include stress management, finance and debt management, legal rights and responsibilities, partnerships, wills and trusts,

and tax breaks and income savers.

The cost for the 1980 Leader's Conference will be \$85 per participant. Young farmers interested in attending the conference should contact their county young farmer chairman. The deadline for reservations is February 22.

## FB Life Increase Dividends to Charter Life Policyholders

The Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company has increased the special dividend paid to Charter Life policyholders from 75 percent to a new high of 85 percent, effective January 1, 1980. The special dividend is paid annually to Farm Bureau members who hold charter life insurance policies purchased from Farm Bureau Life during the company's formative years in the early 1950s.

Today, the special charter dividends, combined with

regular dividends, exceed the charter policyholder's annual premium each year.

Also effective January 1, 1980, increased dividends scales have been approved for all life policies issued in 1980, all pre-1964 life policies, and all participating annuity policies.

And, effective December 17, 1979, the interest rate Farm Bureau Life is paying on flexible premium annuities also increased.

### ATTENTION 60 YEAR MFB MEMBERS!

Please complete this coupon and return to the address below for your 60-year-member gift of appreciation. Return to: Michigan Farm Bureau, Information and Public Relations Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Branch County FB Oil Wins Trophy for Tire Sales



Employees of Branch County Farm Bureau Oil who were recipients of the top tire team trophy were (l to r) Bob Acmoody, Jr.; Bob Acmoody, Sr.; Lois Green; Roger Smith; and Manager Jim Buehrer.

Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Company employees were recipients of the Top Tire Team Trophy for their outstanding tire sales.

A three-month contest was open to Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. tire dealers within the state. The Top Tire Team Trophy is awarded to the co-op with the largest increase in tire sales over the previous year during the same three-month period.

"A co-op must be able to give good customer service to have top tire sales," said

Farmers Petroleum Sales Manager William Rockey. "It also takes team effort to have a successful tire program. Branch County Farm Bureau Oil employees have proven their team is working together."

The Top Tire Team Trophy will be a traveling trophy sponsored by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. This was the first statewide tire sales contest and another one is scheduled for this spring.

Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Company was established in 1932 as a farmer cooperative to supply

petroleum products to farmer-stockholders in Branch County. In addition to delivering liquid fuels to farms and homes in the area, they offer on-the-farm-tire service and complete service station facilities at 2446 W. Chicago Road, Coldwater.

## Wendler, Hoefler Appointed to Natural Resources Commission

Paul H. Wendler of Saginaw has been appointed to the Natural Resources Commission by Gov. Milliken, who also reappointed Dr. Jacob Hoefler.

Wendler is president of the Michigan Wildlife Foundation and replaces Carl T. Johnson of Cadillac, who is retiring from the commission after 17 years. Subject to Senate confirmation, Wendler's appointment is

for a four-year term beginning on January 1.

Hoefler was reappointed to the commission for a term expiring December 31, 1983. Hoefler, assistant dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and assistant dean of the College of Natural Science at Michigan State University, was initially appointed to the commission January 1, 1979.

## Up-Date on Workers Comp.

(Continued from Page 6)

weekly wage would be the highest 39 weeks of earnings out of the 52 weeks preceding the injury or death. If employed less than 39 weeks benefits would be based on actual earnings.

- Other provisions include a definition of permanent and total disability, statute of limitations and special provisions for the retiree problem

which does not affect agriculture and is primarily a problem of the very large employers.

Many of the provisions in the governor's proposals would be helpful to agriculture, however, there are other provisions that should be included that would be helpful to agriculture as outlined in Farm Bureau policies.

## Beef Producers Voting on "Beefendum"

Beef producers will vote this month on whether they want a nationally coordinated beef research and information program. The program will include research, market development, consumer information and producer information to promote the beef industry. Funding for the program will come from producer assessments based on the value of cattle sold.

Announcement of this month's "beefendum" voting came from Assistant Secretary of Agriculture P.R. Smith, who urged beef producers to register for the producer ballot. Registration began January 28 and will close February 6. Voting on the proposed referendum order will take place February 19 - 22.

In other related USDA announcements, Ray Fitzgerald, administrator of the department's Agricultural and Conservation Service, said his agency would conduct the referendum. The department's Agricultural Marketing Service will monitor the research and information program and cooperate with the Beef Board comprised of beef industry producers and consumers. Program planning and appoint-

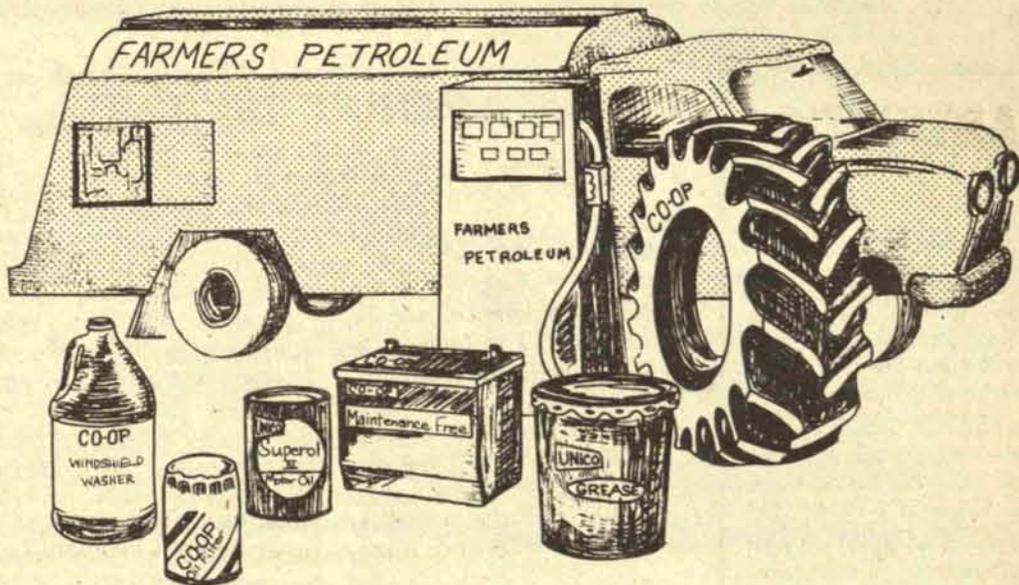
ment of the Beef Board will be activated if producers vote in favor of the promotional activities for their industry.

Rules for registering and voting in the referendum have changed since a similar order was issued in 1977. According to Fitzgerald, the USDA determined that 10 days (eight working days) would be sufficient for all producers to register and that a four day voting period would result in a more efficient voting procedure and reduce administrative costs.

Previous referendum orders have required a two-thirds majority of the registered producers for approval. The 1977 referendum order was defeated under this rule, despite a favorable vote by 56.4 percent of the voting producers. Since that time, the Beef Research and Information Act has been amended by Congress so that a majority of producers will be sufficient to approve the referendum order.

Producers may register and vote at local ASCS offices. Registration and voting can be completed by mail if information and ballots are requested in advance.

## Farmers Petroleum has your complete energy needs for 1980.



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**Reminder: Eliminate spring break-down problems. Service your farm machinery now at your local Farmers Petroleum Dealer.**

Watch for notice of spring sales



# Township Government

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager, Member Relations

### History

Most historians believe that township government was brought to England by the Anglo-Saxons. The first written reference to it dates back to the year 890. In 1620, by order of the Mayflower Compact, it became the first form of government in America when the Pilgrims established a colony at Plymouth.

The Continental Congress, unable to pay its soldiers after the Revolutionary War, decided to aid the veterans by land grants in the Northwest Territory. The territory was divided into townships, usually six miles square. The townships were then subdivided into 32 sections, each containing 640 acres. Each township and section was numbered so that all tracts could be readily located by the migrating pioneers. (Due to annexation in changing natural boundaries, townships today have no uniform legal size.)

Congress then passed the Ordinance of 1787, officially creating the Northwest Territory and dividing it into counties. Wayne County was formed with boundaries encompassing most of what is presently Michigan, as well as large portions of Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana.

In the beginning, townships were the only form of government in Michigan. Each was named by its inhabitants, sometimes after an early settler, or a creek or river, or some Old World location.

The officers of newly formed townships had the responsibility of maintaining good government for the migrants. Many perished as they attempted to serve the people and their names are mostly forgotten.

Township supervisors used to control county government as members of the Board of Supervisors. Now, control of county government rests with the county Board of Commissioners elected from districts—"one man, one vote."

### Township Government Today

Until 1947, townships were organized only under the provisions of the Constitution and general law. Then, in 1947, the Charter Township Act was enacted into law, providing that a township having a population of 5,000 or more inhabitants, or a township bordering on a city of 25,000 population with a township population of 2,000 or more, could incorporate as a Charter County, which "shall be a municipal cooperation." Amendments now make it possible for any township with a population of 2,000 or more to become a Charter Township.

Each incorporated village is part of at least one township, and sometimes two or more. The exception is that when village boundaries become coterminous, township government passes out of existence and only village governments remain. However, no city is part of any township, nor is any township part of any city. The Constitution permits townships to be "consolidated" as "provided by law."

Townships, as governmental units, have only such jurisdiction and power as may be granted by specific constitutional or statutory authority, or reasonably applied therefrom.

### Electors and the Township Board

Up to the end of the World War II, electors literally had the power of life and death over a township board in its conduct of the affairs of the township in

which they resided. They could appropriate money for any number of services and utilities, hire and fire numerous officers and agents for the township, and raise and lower salaries at will, as well as promulgate many rules, orders and regulations. All of this was accomplished at the annual or special meeting of the general township electorate.

However, at the end of the war, there was a tremendous increase in the demand for services by township government for their citizens. Many new statutes were introduced and others already on the books were amended, taking more and more power from direct control of the electors at annual and special meetings. As population increased in townships, it was recognized that the electorate control could no longer be maintained, and that authority had to be vested in the elected township board.

Consequently, today most actions taken by the citizens at township meetings are advisory only. The citizens, however, still look upon these meetings as the one place they can make themselves heard with their dissatisfactions over higher property taxes, poor services, etc., and have some say about how their money is spent.

Township residents should be aware that their actions at township meetings are advisory only. Although the board may consider this advice during its deliberations, in certain situations, it is not binding upon the board. A simple guidance to observe is that if the enabling statute provides that "the township board at any regular or special meetings called for that purpose, may (or shall)....," then the matter of jurisdiction is solved — the citizens have no responsibility or authority to act at the meeting, and their only recourse is by petition and referendum in certain cases.

### Duties and Responsibilities

A township's board size and the services it provides determine the number of elected or appointed officials and employees required. A typical rural township is governed or serviced by a board consisting of a supervisor, clerk, treasurer and two trustees; appointed officials include a Board of Review, volunteer firemen, traffic officers, etc.

The Township Board also appoints zoning and/or planning commissions. In contrast, a typical urban township has an elected board consisting of a supervisor, clerk, treasurer and four trustees. The board appoints the same officials indicated above, as well as others such as a police commissioner, building superintendent, zoning board, director of public works, chief engineer, fire commissioner, police chief, attorney, auditor, and so on. Any General Law Township may appoint a township manager and a Charter Township may appoint a township superintendent. Supportive clerical staff are employed as needed and finances permit.

The duties and responsibilities of the elected officials covers many areas. Some of these are:

**SUPERVISOR**— The title of the position and the fact that he/she functions within a broad spectrum of operation places a township supervisor in the area of responsibility enjoyed by few other government officials. The office is comparable to that of chairman of the board of directors of any large corporation. The supervisor is charged with the conduct of all township board meetings and must see that proper action is taken regarding correspondence, petitions, and such other matters as may be properly brought before the board, and also

serves as moderator for township meetings.

The Michigan General Property Tax Act requires that the township supervisor be the assessing officer for all taxable property in the township. However, even though not certified as an assessor by the State Assessors Board, he/she would not be in any way disqualified from holding the office. The statutes provide several methods for taking care of such a situation, including the employment of a certified assessor from **other townships** to do the assessing, compiling the assessment roll, and perform all other functions required under the Tax Act, in another township as well as his/her own.

**TOWNSHIP CLERK**— This officer serves as secretary of the township board, the township Board of Health, the township Board of Canvassers (when there is one), and all township meetings. He/she also serves as chairman of the township Election Commission, treasurer of the township Board of Health with regard to cemetery perpetual care trust funds, and is in charge of voter registration.

**TREASURER**— The treasurer keeps records of receipt and disbursement of township funds, receives and deposits in the bank all funds which belong to the township, disburses township funds, makes scheduled reports, collects all real and personal property as for specific assessment taxes, in most townships sells dog licenses and trailer park licenses, prepares delinquent tax rolls, serves as a member of the township Election Committee, and performs such other duties as may be directed by statute or by the township board.

**TRUSTEES**— Township trustees basically function by helping make decisions in two areas — legislation (ordinances) and policy establishment (rules and regulations). Additional duties may be imposed upon the trustees from time to time by statute (fence viewer) or by direction of the township board (Commission of Noxious Weeds, supervision of Department of Public Works, members of Park Commissions, etc.).

### The Future

In 1952 there was a threat of political annihilation of township governments. Certain theorists advocated the abolition of township government "because it no longer served the needs of the majority of the people."

The advocates of abolishing township government generally agree that the ills of local government can be cured, but they question whether the voters are willing to, or the cure would require strong medicine—the kind which up to now most citizens have refused to take.

Among other things, the proposed cure would require two things—first, laws to allow the merger of a number of governments into one; second, the voters would have to give up some of their luxuries of running their own little Tom Thumb governments. Larger units would take over some of the tax income, land use planning enforcement powers, etc.

Has apathy among the citizens of townships reached the point where they are no longer interested in retaining their local government unit? Only time will tell for certain. But, the very poor attendance at township annual meetings in recent years would seem to indicate the majority of the citizens have little interest in what their local elected officials do.

# 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

**NEW ALL WIRE RABBIT CAGES** and equipment now available. We can build cages to meet your needs. Dettmers Bunny Patch, Carson City, MI 48811. 517-584-3765. (5-11-25b)

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

**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. (4-11-25b)

**MANURE PUMPS;** pump direct from lagoon to field. Utilize traveler or movable guns. Plummer Supply, Bradley and U.S. 131 Exit, P.O. Box 177, Bradley, MI 49311. 616-792-2215. (10-11-26b)

**FARROWING STALLS**-Complete \$104.75-1" tubular steel construction. **ROUND BALE FEEDERS FOR 1500#** 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. (2-11-36p)

**FOR SALE:** Sears Best Solid State Electronic Fence Charger, 25 mile range. \$35.00. 4 pulley stretcher hoist \$10.00. 19203-26 Mile Road, Albion, MI. Phone 517-629-5797 (2-11-25f)

**WANTED - 6 ROW NEW TYPE IH BEET AND BEAN CULTIVATOR.** Rumble Bro's, 4933 Kirk Road, Akron, Mich. 48701. Phone 517-691-5253. (2-11-20f)

**FOR SALE - 16 ft. transport Oliver Drag** with folding wings. Jerry Hartenburt, Eaton Rapids, Phone 517-663-3084. (2-11-16f)

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**FOR SALE: J.D. FRONT ROCK SHAFT LIFTING ASSEMBLY** for 3010-4020. \$35.00. Also two J.D. bean puller legs, 4 knives, \$100.00. Frankenmuth, MI Phone 517-652-6612. (2-11-24f)

**FOR SALE: HESSTON STACK HAND 10,** and mover. One set of 8 x 10 Feeder panels and lick tank, good condition. Call Sebewaung, 517-883-3856 (2-11-22f)

**33 JOHN DEERE MANURE SPREADER.** Good condition. Jim Langley, 11306 E. Stanley Rd., Davison, Michigan. Phone 313-653-8109. (2-11-17f)

**WANTED: 300 GALLON BULK MILK Tanks,** or less, not running. Also 2 Saw Edger. John Ware, Route %2, Burr Oak, MI. Phone 616-489-5589. (2-11-22f)

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**FOR SALE: Landrace Boars and gilts,** also Duroc Boars and Gilts. George Carpenter family, 6545 Cogswell Rd., Romulus, MI 48174. Phone evenings (313) 721-0240. (9-11-23f)

**LICENSED, DEPENDABLE, LIVESTOCK HAULING,** to Marlette, Cass City, and Sandusky. Call Orvy Jelneck, (313) 395-7296, Capac, Michigan. (5-11-17f)

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**MILKING SHORTHORNS -** Young bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, R.R. 2, 3248 Powell Hwy., Ionia, Michigan 48846. (12-11-28f)

**STAMP'S DUROCS -** Boars for sale. Ready for service. Big, sound, aggressive. Groups or singles. PRV free. Guaranteed breeders. Delivery available. Tom Stamp, Decatur, Michigan. 616-423-7508. (2-11-25f)

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**FOR SALE: TWO FIFTEEN MONTH OLD 1/2** Simmental x Hereford bulls. Sire Abriocot 1979 calving ease and weaning weight trail leader. William Garvey. Phone 517-543-2938. (2-11-24f)

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**REGISTERED & GRADE HOLSTEIN BULLS** for sale. Complete records. Clarkstead Holstein Farm, 819 Tamarack Road, Pittsford, Michigan. Phone 517-567-8626. (2-11-19f)

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**FOR SALE: A.K.C. - SHELTYE (MINIATURE COLLIE) PUPS.** Shots and wormed. Good watch dogs and good with children. Ardyth Schroeder, 7080 Billmyer Hwy., Tecumseh, MI 49286. 517-423-3069. (2-11-25f)

## MISCELLANEOUS

**LAND CLEARING and Bulldozing -** By the hour or by the job. Tom Tank, Eagle, Michigan 48822. Phone 517-626-6677. (4-11-18b)

**1000 GUNS IN STOCK.** Buy, sell, trade. Long guns, pistols, black powder, bows. 500 GUNS, Duane Buckner, 11155 Sherman Blvd., Ravenna, MI 49451. Phone: 616-853-2527. (12-10-25p)

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**SHOCK BROTHERS LUMBER COMPANY** has hardwood saw dust for sale. \$1.50 per yard, picked up. 26800 Bunert, Warren 48089. 313-777-6201. (10-11-20b)

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**WANTED: DUMP HAY RAKES, OR TEETH.** Also pipe 1 inch O.D. 8 ft. long or better, and 2 Indian Runner Ducks for sale. Phone 313-727-1431. (12-11-25f)

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**FOR SALE: OLD 2 PIECE TELEPHONE,** battery radio, heavy buzz saw shaft. 11 hoe grain drill, chicken crate, manure spreader and metal hog feeder. 4 holes. Phone 517-725-7686. (2-11-25f)

**1968 KAISER-JEEP ARMY TRUCK,** 1 1/4 ton 4 x 4 - 24,000 miles, good condition. JD #115 Chuck Wagon, JD #300 Elevator 44 feet. Eversman 12 ft. land leveler. 313-659-6535. (2-11-25f)

**1967 FORD 600 TRUCK,** 2 speed rear end, with 14' Kentucky Stock rack & top. \$1800.00. Jim Langley, 11306 E. Stanley Rd., Davison, Michigan. Phone 313-653-8109. (2-11-25f)

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**FOR SALE: 40 ACRE FARM IN U.P.,** half wood-ed. Older five bedroom house, remodeled. New log home. 30x50, full basement with fireplace, outside complete, inside incomplete. Metal building, 46x64, 13' ceiling. Other small buildings. Four cylinder International diesel tractor with 3 pt. hitch. Allis Chalmers H-3 bulldozer. Numerous implements for tractor. \$95,000.00. By private owner. Phone 906-524-6089 or 524-6889, evenings. (2-11-251-34b)

## HAY & SILAGE LISTING

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU is making this Hay and Silage Listing available as a service to Farm Bureau members. Buyers and sellers can list their needs and offerings in the classified section of the Michigan Farm News. The service is free to Farm Bureau members. If you have hay for sale or want to purchase hay, simply mail your request to Hay and Silage Listing, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909. Your ad, 25 words or less, should include the amount of quality of hay or silage you want to buy or sell plus your name, address and phone number. (11-51-10f)

**ALFALFA HAY,** Second Cutting, also first later on. Phone 517-521-3332. (11-51-10f)

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**FOR SALE: A.K.C. - SHELTYE (MINIATURE COLLIE) PUPS.** Shots and wormed. Good watch dogs and good with children. Ardyth Schroeder, 7080 Billmyer Hwy., Tecumseh, MI 49286. 517-423-3069. (2-11-25f)

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