

## IN THIS ISSUE

### FBF Convention New Orleans



### National Farm Policy



### Michigan Farm Bureau Brings Home 5-Star Honors



Farm News coverage of convention speakers, workshops and programs begins on page 4.

## Delegates Reaffirm Belief in Market-Oriented Agriculture

Delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation 62nd annual meeting in New Orleans set forth a plainly-worded statement on national farm policy that reaffirmed belief in the strength of a market-oriented agriculture and which outlined a new profile for government programs.

In the policy, delegates said, "... We believe a market oriented agriculture is the most efficient means of producing food and fiber and provides farmers with the greatest opportunity for economic well being. This means that farmers and ranchers must be granted the freedom to produce for a profit. Government intervention should be eliminated to allow market forces to function."

Delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation 62nd annual meeting in New Orleans set forth a plainly-worded statement on national farm policy that reaffirmed belief in the strength of a market-oriented agriculture and which outlined a profile for government programs.

Delegates recommended that U.S. farm policy be directed toward minimizing the need for, and use of, price and income support measures for agriculture. Other recommendations were specific in identifying areas which would complement a market-oriented agriculture.

By their recommendations, delegates seek to obtain:



- Assurance of unrestricted access to domestic and world markets so farmers can receive the highest possible market prices;
- Programs to help farmers obtain needed crop and market information, research, education assistance and credit;
- Programs to provide workable grades and standards and to safeguard product quality through inspection services;
- Programs to help farmers eradicate or control plant and animal pests and diseases;
- Programs to encourage conservation of land and water resources;
- Programs to prevent the exercise of monopoly power;
- Assurances of reliable, unfettered transportation for agricultural commodities; and
- Programs to strengthen farmers' power to bargain for a price.

AFBF delegates warned that government programs should

be carefully designed and implemented to avoid conditions which are self-perpetuating or which exert an undue influence on market directed adjustments in production and marketing.

The delegate body resolved to "seek an economic climate in which farmers can produce and market without the threat of government-controlled surpluses being used to manipulate markets."

"A national farm policy carried out in this manner will assure a positive future for America's family farms which are presently unequalled anywhere in the world in terms of performance and opportunity," they said.

Finally, delegates called upon the USDA to make early program announcements to facilitate effective program implementation. Delaying the announcement is counterproductive to the agricultural sector, they said.

## Reagan Extends Best Wishes to AFBF Conventioneers

President-elect Ronald Reagan sent the following telegram to Robert B. Delano, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, as AFBF's 62nd annual meeting opened Jan. 12. Delano read the telegram to the 7,000 delegates assembled for the opening session in the Louisiana Superdome.

*Congratulations on your 62nd annual meeting. As we form a new administration in Washington, I look forward with enthusiasm to working with the American Farm Bureau Federation and each of the individual state Farm Bureaus. The over 3 million families you represent are vitally important to this nation.*

*Our victory in November was made especially gratifying because of the strong, positive support we received from the farm and rural communities throughout the entire country.*

*As we move ahead, I am counting on you to help us expand and strengthen our agricultural economy. We must do this in the interest of farm families, rural communities, and also for the benefit of all Americans.*

*Best wishes for a highly successful convention.*

Ronald Reagan

From the Desk of the President

Policies . . . Directives for Action

We have spent the past several months surfacing the concerns of the farm community, tapping the expertise of specialists in our search for the best courses of action to solve problems, and formulating position statements on issues.

We've discussed - even had heated debates - on the positions our organization should take on key issues. This is healthy and effective and very appropriate for our system of policy development, a system which encourages input at several levels and from farmers with varying viewpoints and interests.

I am proud of the professional manner in which our farmers conduct this annual activity, providing us with a firm foundation for action. Imagine how indecisive and ineffective we would be without clearly-defined positions as a guide.

The searching, the discussion and debates, are over for this Farm Bureau year. We have completed the task of mapping out the direction for our organization at the local, state and national levels. Much time and effort were invested in developing these policies which will now serve as a guide for the activities we undertake through our county Farm Bureaus, our Michigan Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

There are no "time outs" nor recesses between policy development and policy execution. With the many challenges farmers will face in '81, we can't afford the lux-

ury of inactivity while we admire our handiwork - those policies provide us not only with direction, but directives - directives for action.

Farm Bureau has the most effective, knowledgeable, highly-respected lobbyists anywhere, and certainly, they use our policies as a directive. But it takes more than their expertise, alone, to get the job done. It takes a united effort by farmers to influence the decision-makers in the county courthouse, in the capitol building in Lansing, and the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Our policy books provide a directive for action to every community action group, every county, state and AFBF committee. It wouldn't be realistic - or even effective - for county Farm Bureaus to develop a program of work based on the entire contents of their county, state and national policies. Priorities are needed and these will - and should - vary from area to area.

Protection in bankruptcy proceedings may be of crucial concern in areas where farmers have actually experienced financial losses. The need for right to farm legislation may be felt more acutely in areas where rural and suburban people have become close neighbors. Farmland preservation is sure to be a priority of those who live in an area where prime agricultural land is threatened.



I think the Eaton County group (see farmland preservation story in this issue) proved how effective local action can be when a priority is determined and a united effort is made to make it happen - even against great odds.

Policy execution meetings have been held throughout the state to give you the opportunity to learn how to be most effective in your efforts. State and national legislative seminars are scheduled to provide you with the opportunity to meet with your elected representatives in Lansing and Washington, D.C. and share your concerns and positions with them so they can make intelligent decisions.

In Farm Bureau, there is a time for consideration and a time for action. We have entered the season for action. Be a part of it; you are needed!

Elton R. Smith



DONNA

No matter how far removed a person gets - in miles and years - from the old hometown, the emotional attachment seems to remain. If it's a small village like mine, there's always a particular interest in the hometown-boy-or-girl-made-good (or occasionally, bad).

I think my hometown has scored pretty well, or maybe it just seems that way after years of having people say: "What's an Ovid?" While it hasn't yet produced any U.S. presidents, it has turned out some shiny Farm Bureau stars, giving me something to brag about.

For example, our last Farm Bureau Queen, Bunny Semans, hailed from an Ovid dairy farm. During her reign

she gave me and the entire organization lots of reasons to be proud. Bob Craig, manager of MFB's Commodity Activities and Research Department, got a royal welcome from me when he joined our staff; he can now help me handle those "What's an Ovid?" putdowns. Now that he's one of those select Michigan Agriculture Leadership Program participants, I have even more reason to proudly say, "I knew him when."

Most recently, the first woman to win our Young Farmer Discussion Meet lists Ovid as her address. I nearly busted my buttons when Marsha Brook won the state contest and got a special surge of pride when she did so well in New Orleans - third in the nation!

Although I haven't moved into the star category, there are a lot of my high school teachers who are surprised that the dizzy blonde grew up to be an editor. That's almost as satisfying as putting Ovid on the map.

.....

In these days of equal rights, it's hard to imagine what it would be like not to be as liberated as we are. Not being able to vote would be bad enough, but when Ken Wiles was researching material for this month's discussion topic (page 12), he came across a real can-you-believe-that tidbit. Did you know that, once upon a time, a man, who had absolute authority over his household, could actually sell his wife or children into slavery?

It got me thinking, if such a practice were acceptable today, how many times I might have gotten sold by my father or husband.

The first time that I can remember was when I was four years old and "helped daddy" by filling the gas tank with water. (When you're out on the prairies of South Dakota, that's not good!). The last time was yesterday when my husband's beloved 100 Years of U of M Football book got inadvertently thrown out with our trash and he had to scrounge through a

commercial-size bin containing the garbage of 11 other families (yech!) to retrieve it.

The times in between those two goofs when I may have been in danger of being sold causes me to give thanks that it's now against the law!

.....

Funk's G-Hybrids recent Early Riser publication had this advice for farmers who get riled by headlines about rising food costs:

The next time you hear a

news commentator talk about 'runaway food prices,' don't just say nasty words and grit your teeth. Take down the commentator's name and address, then mail him these facts on what U.S. factory workers bought with one hour's pay . . .

Food Item	1950	1979
White bread	10.1 lbs.	15.8 lbs.
Frying chickens	2.4 lbs.	9.8 lbs.
Milk	7.5 qts.	13.5 qts.
Butter	2.0 lbs.	4.1 lbs.
Eggs	2.4 doz.	8.0 doz.
Pork	1.9 lbs.	4.6 lbs.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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# OPEN LETTERS

**Andrea Hofmeister**  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
1980 Outstanding  
Young Farm Woman



Dear Hubby,

I've taken the kids to town. Be back by noon. If you're going to see about a farm loan today, perhaps you'd consider asking for a little bit more than you calculated. I've gathered a few ideas that will save us money on taxes, but they require more capital outlay.

I read recently that a solar collector could save us money on fuel. We could build a 12'x24' solar collector for only \$700, according to this ad I read in a magazine. We'd heat our tool shed so you could do repair work in the winter. Of course, we'd need to insulate the tool shed, partition a workshop and reposition the roof for a southern exposure, but how much more could it be? Best of all, we get an energy tax credit. Then, a more expensive solar drying unit for grain is a must these days. I don't know the exact cost, but it would all be depreciable. Of course, we'd need storage facilities first.

Before we get too far into the energy crunch, we ought to consider our own ethanol production system. We grow plenty of corn and the set-up doesn't seem all that complicated. After all, during prohibition even the simple minded could concoct a still, so why not us? I saw a figure put out by the Department of Energy of about \$107,000. Seems high, but it's all depreciable.

Then, to augment that, why not try using methane gas to power the place? I've heard of feedlots that power their whole operation on methane from animal wastes. First, we'd need some stock, maybe cattle, but surely we could swing it. What can a few steers cost? I think they depreciate, too.

And we must invest in a computerized data bank for each tractor. It will tell you exhaust and oil temperature, PTO rpms, engine rpms and tire pressure. It gives you a cleanliness rating on all filters and beeps when it's time to hose down the exterior. Sounds great for a novice like me. Could save a lot on repair bills and you know what a nut I am about neatness. You guessed it - depreciable.

Speaking of computers, how about a direct marketing hook-up? The equipment can't be that expensive. We can't really afford our own marketing analyst, but these new TV hook-ups sound like fun. The hardware must wear out eventually, so we can depreciate that, too.

The way I figure it, if we can depreciate enough items, the government will owe us money. Just think - Acapulco, the Riviera...

I'll leave it to you to add up all these figures. I've got no head for this sort of thing. See you at noon.

P.S. Please pick up some milk if you can find a gallon for under \$2.00. I'd appreciate it.

## What's Happening?

Feb. 2-5	Farm & Orchard Show	Hilton Inn, Grand Rapids
Feb. 5-6	Michigan Pork Producers Association Meeting	Long's Convention Center, Lansing
Feb. 12-13	Presidents' Conference	Holiday Inn, Mt. Pleasant
Feb. 12-15	Mall Display	Fashion Square Mall Saginaw
Feb. 16-17	MFB Spring Commodity Conference	Harley Hotel, Lansing
Feb. 26-March 1	Mall Display	Genesee Valley Mall Flint
March 4-6	Young Farmer Leaders' Conference	Valley Plaza Ramada Inn, Midland
March 18	MASA Annual Meeting & Farm Labor Conference	Pick Motor Inn, Grand Rapids
March 21	MMPA Annual Meeting	Michigan State University East Lansing
March 23-27	Farmers' Week	Michigan State University East Lansing
March 26	District 6 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Colony House Cass City
March 30-April 2	Washington Legislative Seminar and Heritage Tour	Washington, D.C.

## Survey Will Sample Member Interest in Financial Cooperative

Farm Bureau Employees Credit Union officials are considering extending the services offered to Farm Bureau employees since 1933 to Farm Bureau members.

According to Harold Scharp, Credit Union president, a random survey of Farm Bureau members is being taken to measure the need and acceptance of this added membership benefit.

"This proposed member service is basically a 'financial cooperative,' owned and operated by its members," Scharp said. "The Farm Bureau Employees Credit Union has traditionally offered better than competitive rates on its savings and loan services, giving its members an advantage in this inflationary economy. We'd

like to offer this same advantage to Farm Bureau members."

Scharp said that in addition to already existing services, consideration may be given to other services which Farm Bureau members indicate will be of value to them, such as automatic transfer of insurance payments, including Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and participation in a statewide automatic teller machine for easy access to funds.

If you are one of the members who received the survey card, Credit Union officials are anxious for your response. If not, you have the opportunity to fill out the form below to indicate your interest in this proposed member service. Survey results and recommendations

will be presented to the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors at their April meeting.

Please return survey to: Farm Bureau Employees Credit Union, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

## Young Farmers Can Build Skills at Conference

The 1981 Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leaders' Conference will be held in Midland March 4, 5 and 6 at the Valley Plaza Ramada Inn.

Conference workshops will include stress management; financial and debt management; legal rights and responsibilities; partnerships, wills and trusts; tax breaks; and communication skills.

Cost of the three-day conference is \$85 per person. Reservations should be sent to Don Currey, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909, prior to Feb. 20.

Yes, I would be interested in participating in a Credit Union.

If yes, select the **five** services you would most like to have available to you through your credit union.

<input type="checkbox"/> Loans	<input type="checkbox"/> Group Legal Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Interest Bearing Savings Drafts (checking)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Deposit of Social Security Checks
<input type="checkbox"/> Savings	<input type="checkbox"/> Free Notary Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Club	<input type="checkbox"/> No Fee Money Orders
<input type="checkbox"/> No Fee Travelers Cheques	<input type="checkbox"/> Free Financial Counseling
<input type="checkbox"/> Group Travel Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Free Consumer Seminars
<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Transfer Payment of Insurance Policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Transfer Payment of BC/BS
<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Transfer Payment of MFB Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificates of Deposit

No, I would not be interested in participating in a Credit Union. If no, Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently being served by a "Credit Union?"

Yes  No

## Save With New Car Discounts

Thinking of purchasing a new car or truck? If so, Farm Bureau members should remember that their membership entitles them to special discounts at four different dealers in the state, said John VanderMolen, manager of the MFB Member Services Department.

According to VanderMolen, the recent addition of Huron Chevrolet-Olds-GMC Trucks, Inc. of Bad Axe to the list of dealers offering special member discounts, broadens this service significantly.

"With dealers in four key locations - Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, West Branch and Bad Axe - more members will be able to take advantage of this member benefit. When a purchaser can save hundreds, even thousands, of dollars, it's well worth driving a few miles," VanderMolen said.

Participating dealers offer new cars out of stock or ordered by MFB members at \$150 over dealer cost. This price includes all dealer services and prep charges. Light trucks, vans, medium-size and heavy-size trucks range from \$150 to \$900 over dealer cost.

"When contacting dealers for price quotations, members should be sure to ask for the listed contact person and give them the member-number from their Farm Bureau membership card," VanderMolen said.

Current participating dealers are:

Dealer	Location	Phone Number	Contact Person
Huron Chev-Olds-GMC Trucks, Inc.	330 E. Huron Ave. Bad Axe	517-269-9968	Al Hanson or Roger Ewald
Seelye Ford, Inc.	3820 Stadium Dr. Kalamazoo	616-375-3820	Mike Seelye or Ken Vos
Ben Hodges Chev-Olds	2265 S. M-76 West Branch	517-345-1022	Terry Hodges
Jack Keller Ford	3385 Alpine, N.W. Grand Rapids	616-364-7531	Bernie Lenau

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# Leaders in Government and Agriculture

## Delano Estimates Embargo Price Tag at One Billion Dollars

Calling the year-old grain embargo against the Soviets "an economic and diplomatic disaster," AFBF President Robert Delano asked President-elect Ronald Reagan to give high priority to his campaign promise to end the embargo.

Delano opened the American Farm Bureau Federation's 62nd annual meeting in New Orleans with his annual address Jan. 12, telling some 7,000 delegates that the embargo had cost the nation's farmers and ranchers a minimum of one billion dollars in cash grain income and resulted in "permanent disruption of grain trading patterns."

"Should further Soviet aggression require sanctions, we ask for a full embargo of all trade, technology, services and cultural contacts," Delano said, adding that American farmers and ranchers will proudly endure economic hardships involving all segments of the economy in dealing with any national crisis.

Calling attention to the substantial increase in membership in AFBF during the past year (to more than 3,200,000 member-families), Delano said he sees this growth as a mandate for Farm Bureau to seek solutions to a long list of pressing farm problems, including improved farm income, the



AFBF PRESIDENT ROBERT DELANO

right to farm without undue regulations, priority for adequate farm energy supplies and a stronger voice for farmers and ranchers whenever agricultural decisions are made.

Delano singled out inflation as the number-one farm and national problem. He said citizens everywhere "must insist that Congress, the executive branch and the Federal Reserve System join in accepting full responsibility for bringing inflation under control."

In defense of farmer and rancher rights, the farm leader said Farm Bureau has become

involved in more legal controversies with federal agencies than at any time in the past 30 years.

Legal action has included moves against the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation; the Department of Agriculture's Forest and Park Services; the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Department of Health and Human Services.

## U.S. Agriculture Must be Reliable World Supplier, Brock Tells Delegates

Secretary of Agriculture-designate John Brock told farmers and ranchers attending the American Farm Bureau Federation's 62nd annual meeting in New Orleans Jan. 12 that food can be an effective economic tool in promoting world peace and stability.

"Let's not sell this agricultural industry short," Brock said. "Let's be positive and move forward."

He cautioned that this economic tool can only be effective "if we are a reliable supplier of products; if we are consistent in our supply; if we don't give it out and pull it back like a carrot - because then, no one will count on us."

Block said that we need to use this "great asset" to bring nations closer together and create an interdependency even across ideological lines.

"Let's take advantage of the strength that agriculture has,"

the secretary-designate urged.

Block also pledged to help return profitability to agriculture. He said that without a healthy and prosperous agriculture, the economic problems confronting this nation cannot be turned around.

He indicated he personally favors a new four-year farm program rather than an extension of the present one, and that he would work to cut federal government regulations which are "tying us in knots."

Block said that the nation needs expanded agricultural research. Without such research, he predicted, the country cannot meet the many challenges of the 1980s.

Block also said that he planned to work with other agencies of government so they would understand the potential impact of their actions on food production.



JOHN BROCK, U.S. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

## Economic Recovery Can Include Federal Tax Relief

Addressing delegates to the AFBF annual meeting Jan. 13, Congressman Henson Moore (R-La.) outlined a plan that he believes can help enhance the nation's economic recovery.

"We can lower taxes without (it) being inflationary," he said. "We need to examine and modify the very onerous inheritance tax, capital gains tax laws and IRS regulations which make it difficult and sometimes impossible for one generation of family farmers to pass their farm down to the next without paying huge taxes."

Moore, who serves on the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, also called for replacement of the outmoded "useful life" depreciation schedule.

This would involve a five-

year phase-in of fixed depreciation periods for commercial and industrial buildings (10 years), equipment and machinery (five years), and cars and light trucks (three years), he explained. The so-called 10-5-3 bill would provide 160,000 jobs the first year and create over \$100 billion in new private investment when fully in place after five years, he said.

Another recommendation is to make adjustments in individual tax rates to help relieve "bracket creep," resulting from inflation. "This across the board reduction in tax rates helps reverse inflation thrusting the taxpayer into a higher tax bracket while at the same time his earning power remains the same or actually declines by inflated costs of goods and services."

## Young Farmer Discussion Meet

### Views on Free Enterprise Earn Third Place for Brook



Clinton County's Marsha Brook finished third in the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers discussion meet finals held in New Orleans Jan. 12.

Brook had won county and district meets prior to becoming the first woman to win the state contest in December.

In New Orleans, she competed against 25 other state Farm Bureau winners, advancing from quarter and semi-final matches to participate in the finals.

The topic for discussion in the final was "Why is a free enterprise system essential to a highly productive agriculture?"

"A free enterprise system is very essential to our agriculture. It allows us to produce more and be more efficient,"

Brook said. "I love my farm. I love it because it's mine and what we do there and what we produce is ours. There's a basic need for everyone to have self-worth, to be important and know they're doing the best they can... and I think this is what a free enterprise system is all about."

Brook and her husband, Doug, operate a dairy and cash crop farm near Ovid. They have three children.

Winner of the national contest was Dennis Deonardi, a dairy farmer from northern California.

Contestants were judged on their ability to define and analyze the topic, their problem-solving ability, delivery and cooperative attitude.

# Look Ahead to New Administration

## Americans Will Face Hard Choices in Fight Against Inflation

Predicting that inflationary forces will remain strong, Paul A. Volcker, chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve System, said that he has no choice but to continue his present tight money and credit policies.

In an address before the AFBF's 62nd annual meeting, Volcker said he could not predict assuredly that the country's financial woes are over.

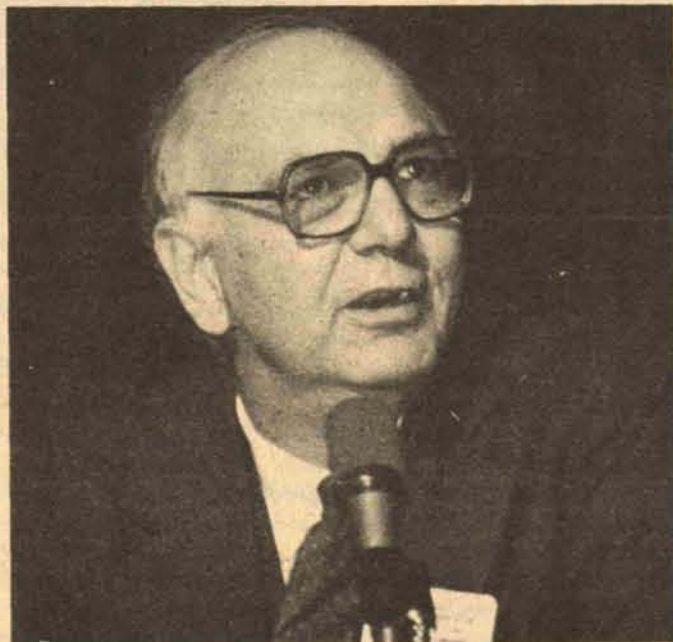
He said beating back inflation must become the first national priority and that "effective actions will require hard and painful choices by the incoming administration, Congress and the American people."

Volcker pointed out that reduced growth in government spending is essential to controlling inflation and suggested that a vast array of other government programs outside the budgetary area also need to be brought under control.

He said that besides monetary and credit restraint, other fiscal and financial policies are needed in an effort to ensure financial stability.

What is necessary, he said, is a change in "attitudes and policies across a broad range of private and public behavior."

He suggested that control of



PAUL A. VOLCKER

federal spending, a balanced budget, tax reform and regulatory changes are among efforts that must be undertaken now.

Volcker said America's farmers and ranchers know first hand the devastating effect of inflation. He encouraged the agricultural community to look carefully and constructively for ways to improve the effectiveness and critical farm programs and to find ways of reducing costs and eliminating "those

that may be distorting investment decisions."

He predicted that if federal spending is brought under control and taxes are cut, that the private sector would respond with more jobs and greater productivity.

"Our basic objective is to increase productivity, to efficiently utilize more of our human resources and to resume economic growth," he concluded.

## Michigan Celebrates Five-Star Honors

It's not every day that a dairy farmer from Michigan gets to ride into the famous New Orleans Superdome on a float... but that's what happened to MFB President Elton R. Smith at the AFBF convention.

Sharing this experience with President Smith were other award-winning state presidents in the spotlight for their states' member program achievements.

In a special recognition program Jan. 13, held in conjunction with AFBF's 62nd annual

meeting, Smith received a special plaque with five gold stars for outstanding programs. While Pete Fountain and his famous jazz band provided background music, Michigan was recognized for its outstanding membership, information, young farmer, marketing and policy development programs.

Reaching membership quota was a requirement to qualify for the star awards.

The top state in the nation was the Iowa Farm Bureau with eight gold stars.

## For Cost and Quality, U.S. Diet is Tops

It is a time for renewed public confidence in the food Americans eat, according to the medical doctor who heads Nutrition Society Today.

Dr. Cortez F. Enloe Jr., who is also editor and publisher of *Nutrition Today*, made his comments Jan. 12 during the AFBF women's conference.

"It is true that we still have much to learn about the relation of food and disease," Enloe said, "but we should be encouraged by the recent findings that many of our basic foods are a lot safer than we've 'heard tell' in the past 10 years."

"The American food supply is safe," Dr. Enloe said. "No one in the world consumes a diet that is better balanced for variety and is more nourishing

than that eaten by the average American."

He noted that food in the United States is also reasonably priced, requiring only a modest percent of the average person's disposable income.

He also declared that "the government should not be telling the American people what to eat." His reasons are:

- Government doesn't know any more than scientists do.
- Bureaucratic opinions are apt to be shaded by ideological or political considerations.
- Government is too powerful and too prone to use the hundreds of little tyrannical bureaucrats at their disposal to coerce acceptance of opinions and to back whims with the force of law.

### Dairy Conference

## Price Support Program in Jeopardy

"The question is not 75, 80 or 90 percent of parity, but rather how to save the present dairy price support program," Hollis Hatfield, director of AFBF's dairy department said Jan. 12 at the dairy conference in New Orleans.

The current dairy price support program expires in September and opposition to the program is increasing from consumer groups and the food industry complex. Hatfield pointed to government purchases of 8.2 billion pounds

(milk equivalent), the largest since 1962, with a record dollar value of \$1.3 billion as one of the reasons that the program is in jeopardy. Dairy men have increased milk production to a record 128 billion pounds while demand for the product has decreased.

"Why should cow numbers increase when demand is decreasing?" Hatfield asked. Currently, cow numbers are up with 1980 being the first time in 27 years that the dairy industry has been confronted with an increase in cow numbers.

Hatfield advocated modifying the present program to tie the support level to Commodity Credit Corporation purchases. Such modification would put flexibility back into the program, he said.

"It would provide more pronounced signals to dairy men for production adjustments - up or down. It would also indicate producer and industry responsibility and enhance the credibility of the program," Hatfield said.



Delegates to the AFBF annual meeting in New Orleans enjoyed over 1,200 pounds of fruit distributed by the MACMA Direct Marketing booth. Red tart and dark sweet cherries, sliced strawberries, apple cider and grape concentrate were promoted in addition to the blueberries, which were distributed by Karen and Pat Lause.

## International Markets Expanding for U.S. Fruits and Specialty Crops

While attention has been focused on expanding export markets for grain and oil crops, export levels for fruits and other specialty crops have been growing just as rapidly, according to Timothy Regan of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Regan, speaking at the AFBF horticultural crops conference said the United States is now exporting specialty crops to overseas markets that were thought to be inaccessible 10 years ago.

"In 1970, nearly 60 percent of all fruit, vegetable and specialty crops went to one country - Canada," Regan said, noting that 1980 horticultural exports totaled \$2.7 billion - up from \$394 million in 1970.

Regan cited Eastern Europe, the Middle East and dramatic export growth in Japan and the Far East as the primary source of new export trade. He credited aggressive marketing and the devaluation of the dollar as principle forces behind the increases.

Regarding imports to the United States, Regan charged that the Trade Act of 1974 is not adequate to protect horticultural producers from injurious import competition. "Unfortunately," he said, "the way law is written, the (U.S.) government simply cannot act quickly enough to relieve producers of perishable products from injury before producer returns for an entire season are affected."

# Conferences Focus on Management Trends and Markets

## Livestock Conference

The livestock conference at the 62nd AFBF annual meeting was highlighted by reports from experts on animal health, electronic marketing, market promotion and expansion of red meat consumption.

Neal Black, president of the Livestock Conservation Institute, urged farmers and ranchers to be vigilant in protecting livestock against the ravages of a dozen or more diseases that cause economic losses. Eight to nine percent of gross livestock receipts are lost to diseases each year, losses which can and should be prevented, Black said.

Black also outlined the objectives of groups which are now promoting "animal rights" for livestock and poultry. Their proposed restrictions on management practices would erect barriers to efficient production which growers would find impossible to live with and would all but eliminate all forms of confinement rearing of livestock and poultry.

Dr. Dennis Henderson, an agricultural economist from Ohio State University, described some of the new techniques in use - and being developed - for the electronic marketing of livestock. Henderson said there are three primary systems that now appear feasible.

They are the telephone auction, the teletype auction and a completely computerized system that would require buyers and sellers to have access to computer terminals to participate. All would eventually be less costly and more efficient than present methods of marketing, Henderson said.

National Live Stock and Meat Board President John Houston alerted the producers to the need for consumer education and market development for red meats.

Houston underscored his point by calling attention to the fact that vegetarianism, which was regarded as a fad not too many years ago, has now ex-

panded its influence to the point that it has penetrated to congressmen and nutritional advisors. Houston noted that most family physicians have a very slight familiarity with human nutrition, especially as it concerns the role of red meat in the diet.

## Natural & Environmental Resources Conference

Unsound and unchecked federal laws and regulations governing our environment can make farmers and ranchers themselves "endangered species," according to AFBF General Counsel Allen A. Lauterbach.

Lauterbach told an audience at the AFBF natural and environmental resources conference that "the area of environmental law has significantly affected farming methods and operations."

He noted that Farm Bureau had responded to threats against agricultural production posed by environmental groups by creating a legal fund to be used for litigation on behalf of farmers, and by increasing Farm Bureau's legal staff.

Lauterbach said that Farm Bureau, as the voice of the American farmer and rancher, has the responsibility of trying to offset and reverse the trend towards overregulation by the federal government.

"If we are unhappy with some of the successes of the environmentalists in the courts, then let's use our best efforts in 1981 to get the laws changed or eliminated," he said.

America hasn't made the hard decisions necessary to reduce its heavy dependence on foreign oil sources, but there's hope the new administration will do so.

That observation was offered by Stanley Hathaway, former Wyoming governor and former interior secretary, to farmers and ranchers participating in AFBF's natural and environmental resources conference.

Hathaway warned that the United States needs to quit

"procrastinating" and begin developing its many valuable resources. He didn't recommend an exploitation approach but said hard decisions tempered by "reasonable environmental regulations" are needed.

The Wyoming attorney said, "The only way to get ourselves out of that terrible dependency on foreign oil is to produce the resources we have. It is not going to be any single resource but all of those available, including coal, nuclear, wind power, solar power and all the rest."

He noted that the Carter administration had done little to increase energy resource production, but instead helped delay action by its anti-water development and environmental extremist attitudes.

Hathaway predicted that the Reagan administration's more favorable attitude toward the free enterprise concept provides hope that a more realistic multi-use resource policy will be pursued in this critical area of national concern and security.

## Poultry Conference

"The single most important factor that contributes to the profitability of the egg business is people," said Dick Chilson, president and general manager of Chilson's Management Controls Inc., at the AFBF poultry conference in New Orleans.

"People who can make the right decisions and people who can make things happen are needed in the egg business," he said, adding that the egg industry is very dynamic. "It is a capitalistic high risk business where, if you're good, you can earn a lot of money. If you're not efficient, you can lose a lot of money."

Also speaking before the conference was Lee Campbell, president of the Poultry and Egg Institute of America. Campbell said that there are many issues facing poultrymen, one of the biggest of which is the growing issue of animal welfare.

Campbell termed the growth of this issue "vocal, shrill and, in some areas of the world, occasionally violent." He said this issue, along with others such as the Delaney Clause and the use of antibiotics in feed, should be monitored closely by poultrymen.

Daryl Natz, director of public affairs for Allied Mills, Inc. of Chicago, said a particular bright spot for the broiler industry is the recent development of chicken sandwiches. He said most of the major fast food chains have added or will be adding chicken to their menus.

"For the long term we are



Chuck Burkett (left), MFB Field Operations Division director, receives congratulations from John Datt, secretary-administrator of the American Farm Bureau Federation, at the AFBF annual meeting in New Orleans. Michigan Farm Bureau was honored for achieving membership goal, obtaining a membership increase in all county Farm Bureaus and for achieving an increase in the number of farmer members.

optimistic that the broiler business can continue its dramatic upward curve," Natz said.

## Sugar Conference

"How sweet is the future?" was the question asked by representatives of the sugarcane, sugarbeet and corn-sweetener industries during the 62nd AFBF annual meeting.

According to Alvin E. Gilbert, an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service, the future for sugar is unclear.

"In the longer range, the future of sugar will be heavily affected by the development of other sweeteners and alcohol and gasohol industries that would use sugarcane as a primary source of raw material," Gilbert said.

The vice president of American Crystal Sugar Co. agreed that the sugarbeet industry's future may not be strong.

"I'm not one of those ready to write off the sugar industry, but I'm realistic enough to recognize that the sugar industry in the U.S. is not a growth industry," Aldrich C. Bloomquist said.

Things are sweeter for the fructose industry.

Martin L. Andreas, president of Archer Daniels Midland Co., which produces fructose sweetener and alcohol from corn, sees a bright future. Andreas predicts 2.5 percent of the total U.S. fuel supply will come from corn within the next several years.

He anticipates ethanol production in the United States will reduce dependence on Persian Gulf oil by 25 percent.

## Soybean Conference

Farmers attending the soybean conference at the AFBF's annual meeting heard a discussion on improving soybean quality in international markets and an encouraging review of the outlook for oilseed markets.

Allen Housh, division vice president of Cargill, Inc., said that steady increases in world fats and oil production through the 70s will continue at the same rate of about four percent per year in the 80s.

Dynamic growth in demand for oilseed crops in this decade will come from a combination of increased world population and higher per capita consumption, Housh predicted. He said a world population growth of about 20 percent in the next 10 years, most of it in less developed countries, will result in a 50 percent growth in demand for soybeans between 1980 and 1990.

Improved transportation of grain will require major improvements in the nation's railway system, Dr. Phillip C. Baumel told farmers at the AFBF annual meeting soybean conference.

The Iowa State University economist said that the United States has too many railroad companies, most of them unprofitable.

Baumel said that the few rail systems that consistently operate profitably are in sparsely populated areas of the country where they do not have competition from water transportation or excessive amounts of under-used trackage.

In the more heavily settled Midwest and Eastern states, most of the railroads are either marginal, unprofitable or bankrupt, he said.

"The solution lies in reducing the amount of track," Baumel said. He cited surveys showing that "farmers recognize that they have to make a profit to stay in business." They want the railroads to stay in business and to make money, he said.

"Forcing railroads to operate unprofitable services leads to defacto abandonment and loss of service," Baumel said.

"In areas where a rail company has abandoned unprofitable trackage in order to stay in

(continued on page 7)

## Women's Voting Delegates



Meeting prior to the AFBF Women's meeting were MFB Women's delegates (left to right) Jeanette Houghton, Mecosta County; Mary Weidmeyer, Washtenaw County; Faye Adam, Sanilac County; Myra Hand, Cheboygan County; Vivian Lott, Ingham County; and DeAnna Casler, Jackson County.

# AFBF Conferences (continued from page 6)

business, the ability to move grain improved dramatically, railroad company earnings went up, freight rates improved and farmers enjoyed higher bids for their grain, he said.

### Safemark Conference

"An increase in sales of \$70 million in just 15 years of operation is an excellent indicator of a bright future for Safemark products," Eldon Schnoor, general manager of the American Farm Bureau Service Co. said at the Safemark conference.

Schnoor said that sales of the company increased to \$76.2 million in 1980, up from \$6.8 million in 1966.

Safemark agricultural supplies include tires, tillage tools and lubricants and are sold to Farm Bureau members as a service of AFBF.

Schnoor predicted that Safemark sales for 1981 will reach a new record high because of increases in Safemark product lines, including newly designed radial tires, lighter batteries for smaller cars and diesel oils that will meet the expected strict standards for diesel tractor emissions.

### Local Affairs Conference

Farmers and ranchers attending the AFBF annual meeting were told that they should be involved in local health and safety programs.

"The first wealth is health," said Mary Wiersma, director of the Kansas Farm Bureau Rural Health Care Division, "Your health needs your attention."

Wiersma stressed the need for rural residents to get involved with local hospital boards, with health service agencies and in recruiting medical practitioners. "We face a growing shortage of nurses. Local people can help encourage recruitment and financing of persons to be nurses," she said.

"Farmers have always cared about people. But perhaps they haven't shown enough concern about safety, both personal and public," said Ray Forsythe, Iowa Farm Bureau safety director. "This has led to much well intentioned but overly restrictive legislation and regulation."

Farmers were urged to recognize potential safety problems and take voluntary action to alleviate those problems.

Jack Justus, Arkansas Farm Bureau vice president-executive assistant, told the group that in addition to health related matters, they ought to work with local governmental groups on issues such as roads, bridges, taxes and zoning.

### Wheat & Feed Grains Conference

Government involvement in the marketing system usually has goals of improved prices, market stability or improved access to government dominated foreign markets, but generally fails to accomplish any of them, according to ag economist Dr. Lowell Hill.

Hill, professor at the University of Illinois, speaking at a wheat and feed grains conference at AFBF's 62nd annual meeting, said that comparison of grain market situations in the United States to several countries that use some type of national grain board favors the system used in this country.

Argentina's use of national trading has led to problems of price declines and excessive carryover, while Canada has found its share of the world market declining when prices were favorable and increasing in years of unfavorable prices.

## Iron Range First in '81

# Blow Your Own Horn



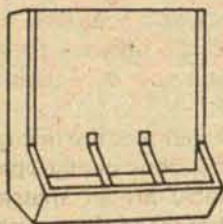
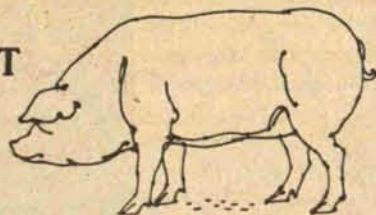
One of the highlights during the Michigan Breakfast at the AFBF annual meeting was the presentation of a gift symbolic of New Orleans to the first county attaining 1981 membership goal. Accepting the award from Chuck Burkett (right) were Jack and Wendy Honkala of Iron Range Farm Bureau.



Featured entertainment at the AFBF Recognition and Awards Program was Pete Fountain.

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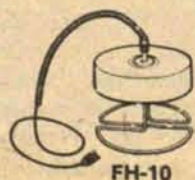


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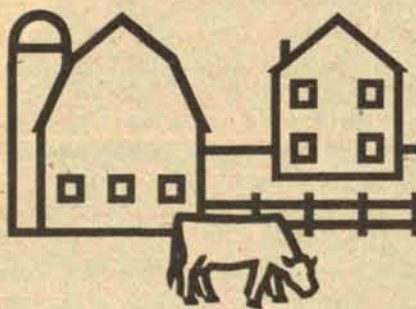
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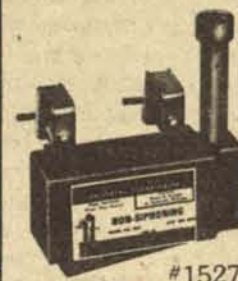


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## Blue Cross-Blue Shield Enrollment in March

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 Jan. 31, 1981.

Farm Bureau offers a choice of plans designed to meet your health care needs. You can choose a full coverage Comprehensive Plan or a share-the-cost Econo Plan.

The BC-BS Comprehensive Plan provides a full range of benefits including Master Medical. Complete details are available at your county Farm Bureau office.

The BC-BS Econo Plan offers coverage for health care requiring long-term treatment.

### Appointments Made to Bean Commission

Eric Bailey of St. Louis has been appointed to the Michigan Bean Commission and Gerald Elenbaum of Owendale and F. Dale Kuenzli of St. Johns were reappointed to the commission.

Bailey, who farms 1,270 acres in partnership with his father, succeeds the late Kenneth O. Graham. Bailey will serve as a grower representative from District 2. He is a member and past president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau, chairman of the advisory board of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, secretary of the Breckenridge School Board of Education, a member of the Breckenridge Future Farmers and a member of the B & W Co-op Elevator Advisory Board.

Elenbaum, chairman of the commission, was first appointed in 1978 and serves as a grower representative from District 6. He farms 1,900 acres of beans, sugar-beets and feed grains and has a herd of 135 dairy cows. He is a member of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, the Michigan Live Stock Exchange, the American Farm Bureau Sugar Committee, the Sebawaing Sugar Beet Growers Board, and the Pigeon Cooperative Board of Directors. He is chairman of the Production Research Advisory Board.

Kuenzli, president of the Valley Marketing Cooperative, Inc., has served as a shipper representative since 1978. A member of the Michigan Farm Bureau for the past 21 years, he is past president of the Michigan Bean Shippers Association and is industry representative for the Michigan Crop Improvement Association.

However, the plan does require some out-of-pocket expenses when care is needed. Rates are lower than the Comprehensive Plan.

Both of these plans can be

continued after retirement to complement Medicare programs.

In these days of inflation and high medical costs, few can afford to be without health care

coverage. Contact your county Farm Bureau secretary soon and take advantage of the upcoming enrollment opportunity - March 1 through 15, 1981 with an effective date of May

20, 1981.

It will be your last opportunity to enroll in the Farm Bureau group, or to make changes in your current coverage until March 1 through 15, 1982.

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Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer

**Farm Bureau Services, Inc.**  
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## State of the State Message

# Milliken Encourages Growth for State's Most Stable Industry

Gov. William G. Milliken delivered his 13th State of the State message to a joint session of the Legislature Jan. 15. In the 102-page message, the governor said that Michigan is suffering from "economic pneumonia" and that not since the Great Depression has Michigan been "so affected by the state of the nation's economy." However, he said, we must not let "fear of the future overwhelm us."

He said that despite Michigan's economic slump, which is worse than most states, a balanced budget, as required by the constitution, was achieved.

In the past 12 months we have "cut more than \$1 billion worth of programs out of the budget, resulting in a roughly 20 percent cutback in our activities." While Milliken recognized that 1981 will be another problem year, he was optimistic for Michigan's future. The message put strong emphasis on the need for new state programs to help create jobs and spur economic recovery. Some of the major recommendations were:

### Agriculture

Milliken's agricultural proposals were very much in line with Farm Bureau policies adopted by delegates at the state annual meeting in December. He said that Michigan agriculture is "stable and growing" and that "gross farm income in Michigan has grown 10 percent or more annually since 1970."

He pointed out that agriculture "employs about 200,000 full time and 40,000 seasonal

workers." He said that "agriculturally-related food businesses account for an additional 250,000 jobs and forest product firms employ 60,000 people full time.

"In 1980 agriculture contributed \$12 billion to the state's economy. Michigan grows more than 40 commercial crops," and he said that this diversity is one of the reasons for agriculture's stability. He outlined several specific recommendations that he will support:

- Job legislation to permit the Job Development Authority to issue agricultural, commercial and industrial bonds. This will be an effort to increase productivity in agriculture and forest products.

- Strengthening the agricultural support system and also to expand markets and promote related businesses.

- Convene an agricultural conference this year to assess the current status of agriculture in Michigan and to evaluate its potential for expansion. He has asked the Department of Agriculture to assemble leaders from agriculture, agribusiness, forest industries, colleges, universities and the Michigan Department of Commerce. The conference goal will be to design a plan to develop the food and fiber capabilities of Michigan to their fullest.

- Increased budget expenditures for agricultural research and development as an investment to assure agriculture's future, which Farm Bureau has supported for some time.

- Consumer understanding of the value of farming to the

state's well-being. The MDA's long-range program of promoting agriculture and its products will be continued. He urged other groups to become active participants in the "Good Things Growing in Michigan" promotional program.

- Programs for preservation of essential land. He said that Michigan has lost a greater percentage of agricultural land to development than any other state in the Midwest and that "we cannot afford to continue to lose this valuable agricultural resource" and that such essential lands must be protected from "irreversible development." He said that state departments can help preserve farmland by examining their policies and programs for their affect on agriculture. He supports the Michigan Resource Inventory Program under the leadership of the Department of Natural Resources. He urged that technical assistance and public educational programs be expanded to encourage local action such as improved zoning to give agriculture its proper place among communities' other land uses and that rural and urban dwellers must understand that their mutual well-being depends both on farmland preservation and urban revitalization.

- Amendments to the Subdivision Control Act to more effectively preserve agricultural land and direct development in those areas that are better suited for it.

- Right to farm legislation which is one of Farm Bureau's priorities this year. He said that increased commercial and residential development often threatens farmers' livelihood by restrictive ordinances and lawsuits related to odor, noises, etc. He said he supports "right to farm" legislation to protect Michigan's agriculture from such lawsuits which result from disputes about agricultural practices.

- Legislation to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Drains as was supported by the MDA, DNR, farm and conservation organizations. Farm Bureau was represented on this Task Force during the past year or two.

- Solutions to water use problems in Michigan. He said that while the state is blessed with an abundance of water, it is a critical resource that must be guarded. He had received the Task Force report on agricultural water uses and "commended the Michigan Farm Bureau for its leadership in completing this initial phase."

stituents in his district, he is aware of the problems of both those segments of society.

"His introduction of the 'Right to Farm' bill indicates that," Smith concluded.



## CAPITOL REPORT

By  
Robert E. Smith

He is directing the DNR to examine the extent of water use problems and recommend a plan to assure suitable water distribution for farming, industry, recreation and other needs.

- Solutions to the problems that have been created for farmers because of bankruptcies of various processors, elevators, etc. Farmers have lost payments for crops because of such business failures. He said that he supports action by those affected to develop safeguards to "assure producers of reasonable prompt payment for their commodities." He has asked the MDA to work with others "to develop methods to insure the proper security of payments to producers."

- Agricultural energy promotion. He said that Michigan is fortunate to have the establishment of three new gasohol plants and that he has directed the MDA in coordination with the Energy Administration, to continue assistance to potential fuel producers and to the general public regarding gasohol use.

### Budget and Tax Relief

The governor pointed to the \$1 billion that has been cut from the current budget despite double digit inflation. Many of the cuts will be long-term, if not permanent.

Milliken proposed a \$1.1 billion property tax relief plan, saying that additional tax relief is needed "above and beyond the nearly half-billion dollars already refunded under the present circuit breaker" property tax relief plan.

He pointed out, however, that property taxes are strictly local taxes, usually voted on by local people with all revenue being used by local government (county, township, school, etc.) The plan would mean an overall 45 percent reduction in residential property taxes and more than 90 percent of senior citizens would pay no property tax at all. The details are:

- All property taxes for operating millage on homesteads would be reduced 35 percent across the board. There would be a limit of \$1,400 on the credit any taxpayer could receive. This limit would be indexed to increase as values rise.

- Senior citizens would be completely exempted from the first

\$1,400 of property taxes on residents. Credit would also be indexed. The combined across the board 35 percent reduction together with the senior citizen credit would mean more than \$1.1 billion in tax relief.

- Renters would be able to increase from the present 17 percent to 25 percent the proportion of their rent that they could count as property tax in computing their "circuit breaker" credits. This would be sufficient to cover the property taxes that are included in rental payments.

- At the local level, as property values increase, millages would be rolled back so that the local unit of government could receive no increase in revenues unless the local governing board (county, school, township, etc.) held a public hearing and then voted to allow the inflationary increase. This would address one of the key irritants in the current tax system - the fact that as valuations increase, property taxes can increase without vote of the governing body. This would be "truth in taxation" and would help to improve the accountability of the local property tax system.

- Local governments would be substantially reimbursed for the revenues lost through individual tax bill reductions. The reimbursement would cost about 90 percent of the revenue lost, leaving about \$125 million to be absorbed by local budget reductions.

- The state would absorb the same amount of cuts in its budget as local units of government, roughly \$125 million. This, combined with the reduction in revenues to local units, would mean a total cut in government spending of a quarter of a billion dollars.

- The program would be financed by a 1 percent increase in the sales and use tax. This would raise about \$535 million annually to pay for about half of the tax relief program. This would require a vote of the people. The governor requested that a vote be held in June. The existing "circuit breaker" would stay in effect. Lottery revenues would be constitutionally mandated for education. Farm Bureau is working with the governor's office to assure that tax cuts would apply to whole farms rather than just residences. Several other tax programs will be proposed.

## Lewis Dodak Named House Ag Chairman

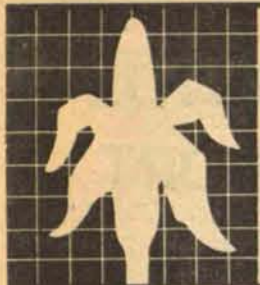
Rep. Lewis N. Dodak (D-Montrose), who was born and raised on a Saginaw County farm, is the new chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. He replaces Rep. George Cushingberry (D-Detroit).

"I'm pleased with the appointment," said Robert E. Smith, MFB's senior legislative counsel. "Mr. Dodak has proven he is very interested in agricultural problems and recognizes that agriculture is really the number-one industry in the state because of its diversity and stability. He has shown a great deal of interest in promoting some bills in the past that have been of importance to the farmers in this state."

Smith said that because Dodak serves rural and urban con-



LEWIS DODAK



# AGRINOMIC UPDATE

Report of the Commodity Activities & Research Department

# Growers Need Legislation

policy which pledges the support of the entire farm organization for legislation to protect Michigan farmers from "slow pay - no pay" practices in the future.

MFB delegates approved two related policy statements, as follows:

### Prompt Payment

"We deplore the practice of some processors and handlers of farm commodities of operating on producers' money due to delayed payment for commodities delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more.

"We therefore, urge producers to develop firm business policies concerning contracts

on overdue accounts including an appropriate interest charge to any account not paid in full after 30 days.

"We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing farm commodities from producers to make full payment within 30 days of date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract."

### Bankruptcy of Agricultural Handlers

"Agricultural producers are often severely affected when handlers of agricultural products file for bankruptcy, as agricultural producers are regarded as unsecured creditors. Therefore, we demand that all claims for ag products delivered within two years prior to the filing of the federal bankruptcy or state insolvency petition by the handler should be given the same priority as labor in the distribution of the net assets of the agricultural handler."

Legislation is being prepared that will assure processors and producers fair treatment under the Bankruptcy Code as well as require prompt payment by

processors purchasing fruit and vegetable products grown in Michigan. A producers' lien may be included in the legislation to help protect producers against processor bankruptcy as well as other provisions to provide for reasonable interest charges to processors on delayed payment accounts.

This legislative proposal would also prohibit the removal, sale or other disposition of any agricultural products upon which a legal lien has been attached. A processing firm, however, may proceed with deliveries provided that a portion of the product or product inventory equal to the value of the firm's outstanding liabilities, is retained. A processor may also continue sales of the raw or processed product, so long as all proceeds of the sale are applied to satisfy obligations to agricultural producers.

On Jan. 22 and 23, leaders of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association fruit and vegetable committees met in Grand Rapids to discuss industry solutions to the "slow pay" problems and to review legislative efforts to date.

Michigan fruit and vegetable growers say they're tired of subsidizing Michigan processors through extending credit for produce purchases beyond a reasonable 30-day period.

The "slow pay" arrangement has been commonly practiced by many Michigan processors, but producers say high interest rates for farming operations have forced them to take action to assure themselves of prompt payment for agricultural products delivered to processors.

The "slow pay" practice and cash flow problems for farmers

are compounded because many Michigan processing firms are facing serious financial difficulties. A few firms, e.g. Silver Mills Frozen Foods, Inc., are in bankruptcy under provisions of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

This situation poses an additional threat to producers who are waiting for settlement of processor accounts. These growers who have extended credit may find that "slow pay" means "no pay."

Delegates at the MFB annual meeting in December adopted

# Fight to Save Farmland Continues

Because a group of Eaton County farmers believed local action does pay off, even against seemingly unsurmountable odds, they may have saved thousands of acres of prime agricultural land.

In the latest episode of the four-year long battle between the Eaton County group and the Michigan Department of Transportation on where to locate a stretch of I-69 from Charlotte to Lansing, U.S. Transportation Secretary Neil Goldschmidt supported the group's position.

The Michigan DOT wants to locate the highway through farmland in Eaton County and the Citizens Concerned About I-69 believe it should go along its temporary route on U.S. 27.

Even though the state DOT is in no way legally bound to follow the federal recommendation, the citizens group does consider the recent U.S. Department of Transportation vote of support a "tremendous victory."

Eaton County Farm Bureau member Allen Caughey, who chairs Citizens Concerned, has challenged state officials to follow through on their earlier commitment to saving prime farmland.

"The big question now is what is state government going to do? Are the governor and lieutenant governor going to ignore the needs of Michigan as far as prime and essential farmland is concerned?" Caughey asked.

"Their rhetoric in front of any agricultural group has been

very plain that they are very deeply concerned about farmland preservation. Now, here is an excellent opportunity for them to indicate they are willing to do something about it."

If the state decides to continue its proposed route through the Eaton County farmland, Caughey said the group will not give up.

"We intend to continue with our court cases - one in Eaton and another in Ingham - and we may, if necessary, initiate a third," he said.

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## Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Michigan Farm Radio Network Honor 'Farmers of the Week'

# Power-Packed Program for Commodity Committees

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 local news media, award winners receive a plaque and award buckle and belt from the local FBIG agent.

The Farmer of the Week Award recipients for December 1980 were:



**JOSEPH BACIAK**

**Week of Dec. 1** - Joseph Baciak, 67, a dairy farmer from Norway in Dickinson County. A lifelong farmer, Baciak farms 250 acres and milks 52 cows. He is a member of the Iron Range Farm Bureau and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norway. He served as committeeman for the ASCS, was named 1979 Farmer of the Year for Dickinson County by the Norway-Vulcan Civic Club and he was the Iron Mountain Kiwanis Club's Outstanding Family Farmer in 1979. Baciak and his wife, Fran, have three children.



**JACK TENBRINK**

**Week of Dec. 22** - Jack TenBrink, 35, who operates a dairy and fruit farm near New Era in Oceana County. He farms 280 acres, raising cherries, plums and asparagus, and has about 60 cows. He is a member of the local zoning board, the New Era Reformed Church, the Oceana County Farm Bureau and the 15,000 Pound Milk Club in Oceana County. He is treasurer of the local dairy committee. TenBrink and his wife, Vicki, have two children.

**Week of Dec. 8** - Bud Leigh, 35, who raises cash crops and feeder cattle near Filion in Huron County. Leigh, who farms 500 acres, serves on the Hospital Board for Huron Memorial Hospital in Bad Axe. He is a member of the Huron County Farm Bureau and the Presbyterian Church in Bad Axe and sponsors a local young men's basketball team. Leigh, a graduate of Michigan State University, moved from Detroit to Huron County over five years ago to fulfill his dream of owning and operating his own farm. He and his wife, Theda, have three children.



**JAMES SCHWASS**

**Week of Dec. 29** - James Schwass, 51, a Scottville dairy and cash crop farmer who farms 600 acres and milks about 50 registered Guernsey cows. He is an active member of Our Savior Lutheran Church and the Mason County Farm Bureau and is president of the local FB community group. He also serves as a board member of the Scottville State Savings Bank and is a past member of the county FB board. He and his wife, Alice, were named Outstanding Young Dairy Couple of Michigan in 1957. They are the parents of five children.



**ROBERT NEELAND**

**Week of Dec. 15** - Robert Neeland, 41, a dairy farmer from Rosebush who farms nearly 200 acres and milks 80 cows. He serves as a trustee on the Isabella Township Board and as a 4-H leader in dairy, an activity he has been involved in for the past eight years. He is a member of the Isabella County Farm Bureau where he served on the board from 1973 to 1979. He belongs to the Clare Church of the Nazarene and is a past member of the local ASCS committee. The Neeland Family Farm is a registered Michigan Centennial Farm. Neeland and his wife, Shirley, have three children.

A line-up of distinguished speakers and knowledgeable agricultural experts has been scheduled for the 1981 Michigan Farm Bureau Spring Commodity Advisory Conference, Feb. 16 and 17 at the Harley Hotel in Lansing.

Open to MFB commodity committee members and MFB members who serve on American Farm Bureau Federation commodity advisory committees, the two-day session will address the various challenges faced by producers in 1981.

The conference will begin on Monday, Feb. 16 with noon registration, followed by the *State of Farm Bureau* address from MFB President Elton R. Smith.

Illinois Farm Bureau has long been recognized as an innovator in marketing services for its members and Mike Wagner, coordinator of the *AgriVisor Marketing Service*, will be on the afternoon program with a report of what's going on in that state. He'll be followed with a *state and national legislative update* from MFB's lobbyists, Al Almy and Bob Smith.

*Agricultural finance issues* will be the focus of a four-person panel Monday afternoon. Dean Pridgeon, Michigan Department of Agriculture director, will discuss *bankruptcy protection for farmers: problems and possible solutions*. John Craig of the Farmers Home Administration will give an *ag lender's viewpoint for farmers*. William Henquinet of the Production Credit Association will tell participants *what the new Farm Credit Act amendments mean to Michigan farmers*, and Roland Baumann II, MFB assistant general counsel for MFB, will speak on *bankruptcy protection and prompt payment legislation*.

The keynote speaker for the evening banquet will be *Barbara Keating*, founder of Consumer Alert and member of President Reagan's transition team on consumer affairs. Rumored to be a possible replacement for the USDA's Carol Tucker Foreman, Keating has gained the reputation of being a welcome contrast to the more prevalent consumer advocates who demand cradle-to-grave

government protection. "People making well-thought-out decisions - not government agencies - are the best regulators in the market place," she has said.

Individual commodity committee sessions are scheduled

for Tuesday morning, followed by a noon luncheon featuring Tom Reed, assistant manager of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange and MFB's "Friend of Agriculture" who was elected to the MSU board of Trustees. Reed will present the *State of Michigan* address.

## Homelite. The Chain Saw King.

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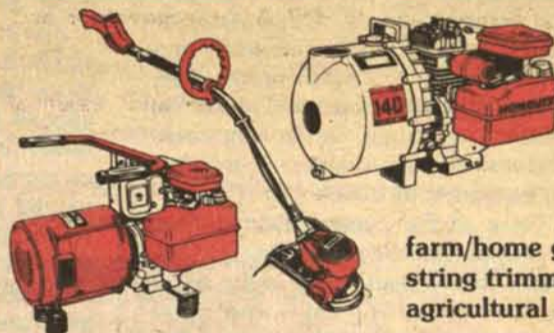
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# Who Owns Your Land?

*This land is mine, mine to use and enjoy, mine to treat as I wish.* This sentiment characterizes the feeling of many owners concerning their rights and land. It reflects a traditionally popular attitude about property ownership. It expresses what some have described as the "human territorial imperative."

Land owners obviously possess many rights in the properties they hold. But do they really have all the rights they claim? Various actions by governments and courts in recent years suggest that the property rights of private owners are shared with the public and that these rights can be limited, or taken for public use.

In an economic sense, owners often possess and use property in which mortgage lenders hold major financial interest. From an ecological and philosophical view, one can go even further to assert that no living operator is more than a temporary tenant on this earth, that we are all part of the overall resource base and that, far from owning the land, it is we who belong to the land.

## The Nature of Property Rights

Property involves the recognized and defensible rights of individuals and other "legal persons" to possess, enjoy, use and dispose of economic goods such as land and buildings. The existence of property implies the presence of an owner or owners, property objects that can be appropriated to ownership and a sovereign power (government) that will protect and defend the property rights.

What we commonly call property really involves a number of separable rights. These rights can be likened to a bundle of sticks, with each stick representing a separate right. Some of the more important sticks represent the right to sell, to lease, to grant a mortgage, to subdivide, to lease to an heir through a will (devise) and to grant easements. Other sticks involve interests such as air, water, mineral and development rights. Each of the rights represented by sticks in the bundle can be separated from the others and exercised separately, as is commonly done when one leases property to a tenant or grants a mortgage or an easement to others.

When owners have all the rights individuals are permitted to hold in property, they are called fee simple owners. As such, they possess most of the rights in property. They can exercise and enjoy their rights to the exclusion of others. (While other owners in fee simple enjoy exclusive rights, their rights are not absolute.) There are four property sticks that never get into the private owner's bundle of property rights. The powers represented by these sticks are reserved for society and are exercised by its agent, the state.

The four powers reserved for the public include the right to tax, the right to take for public use, the right to regulate or control the use of, and the right of escheat.

In addition to these formal rights in land, governments can utilize other auxiliary powers to influence operators in their use of land. Important among these are the public spending power, the proprietary or public ownership power, and the powers of example, persuasion, and public opinion.

## American Views About Property

Most of the settlers who came from Europe were motivated by opportunities for acquiring land. The first settlers had a whole continent before them with thousands of acres available for the taking. Yet, they ordinarily took the modest allotments assigned to them without questioning whether this was the best land for them. They took what was offered to them because this was the accepted behavior in the European societies from which they came.

However, frontier life bred new attitudes towards land as well as the spirit of independence that blossomed with the American Revolution. The leaders of that period were enthusiastic supporters of the concept of fee simple ownership. They were also men of intellect who sought religious, philosophical, legal and economic justifications of their views. Bibli-

cal support came from the Old Testament which speaks approvingly of man dwelling beside his own vine and fig tree.

An additional philosophical basis for their views was provided by the writings of John Locke, an English political philosopher. In his now famous *Treatise on Civil Government*, Locke argued that man has a natural right to life, liberty and property. As he saw it, the earth was given to mankind in common, and individuals by combining their labor with the land found in nature could convert it to private property. This natural right concept of property gained wide acceptance in America.

Legal support for a rugged, individualistic view of rights in land was provided by Sir William Blackstone, a great British legal analyst, whose *Commentaries on the Laws of England* appeared in 1765. Blackstone defined property as "that sole and despotic dominion which one man claims and exercises over the external things of the world, in total exclusion of the right of any other individual in the universe." This much-quoted definition was accepted by many as the final word on property rights.

Adam Smith, a Scottish moral philosopher and economist, added an economic justification for a broad view of property rights with the arguments advanced in his book, *The Wealth of Nations*, published in 1776. Smith argued for a laissez faire economic system. He felt that a minimum of governmental regulation would facilitate operation of an economic system under which the activities and decisions of thousands of independent operators, each attempting to maximize his personal returns, would be coordinated by "an unseen guiding hand" to provide a maximum in public benefit.

Public policy in the United States emphasized both complete private ownership rights and a laissez faire economic philosophy until recent decades. These two concepts complemented each other and each tended to feed on the other. But, over time, demands have risen for more public direction of both the way in which private property rights are exercised and the manner in which the nation's economy operates.

Many citizens still cherish the individualistic views that were popular on the American frontier. Review of the many programs adopted by the state and federal governments in recent decades, however, indicates we have moved to acceptance of a larger role for government.

## Acceptance of a Larger Role for Government

Why has the prevailing attitude concerning public and private rights in land changed so much in this country in the last 200 years? Some of the more important reasons involve:

- Increasing population numbers: Two hundred years ago the nation had a population of 4 million people. With today's population there is far more pressure against the available supply of land resources.

- Rising incomes and levels of living: Increasing worker productivity has made it possible for the nation's citizens to enjoy steadily increasing real incomes. These incomes have been used to finance higher levels of living and have prompted greater individual demands for varied diets, better housing,

modern transportation facilities, recreation opportunities and the maintenance of a pleasant environment.

- Increased competition for our available resources: Increasing population numbers and rising per capita demands have fueled expanding economic growth and have called for larger and larger supplies of raw materials. This has brought increasing competition for possession and ownership of the nation's relatively fixed resource base. Sharp competition for these resources has brought conflicts of interest that governments have been called upon to mediate.

- Broader education: Much of our population of 200 years ago could hardly read or write. Students are now expected to go through high school, and about the same proportion of people in the 25 to 29 age bracket are college graduates as were high school graduates 50 years ago. This increase in educational training has affected the attitudes of most citizens. Among other things, it has caused many of them to demand more of government than earlier generations did.

- Wider Suffrage: During the late 1700s, the right to vote was limited to male property owners. Fifty years later during the Jacksonian era, this right was extended to qualified males over 21. Women secured the right to vote during the next three quarters of a century, and suffrage for people between 18 and 21 has been accepted in recent years. Extension of the right to vote has made it possible for groups of citizens who lacked this right in the past to effectively demand new public services and new regulations that may affect the rights of property owners.

- Conservation and environmental concerns: Newfound affluence and growing awareness of the negative impacts that various activities can have on environmental quality have prompted demands for public and private self discipline in those uses of resources that affect the quality of the environment. Environmentalists also are demanding that public and private action be taken to protect our limited resources so that we may extend opportunities to future generations to enjoy a standard of living comparable to that we now have.

## Significance of Our Changing Rights in Land

Several observations may be made concerning the present and future significance of our changing rights in land. Individuals may feel that their rights are sacred and inviolate, that they are God given, or that they have been endowed by natural law. In practice, however, the nature of one's rights always depends upon the interpretations accepted by the society in which one lives. Rights are real only when the sovereign power, which acts as the agent of society, recognizes them and is willing to defend them.

It may also be noted that subtractions from fee simple ownership do not necessarily mean that property is less valuable or that it provides fewer satisfactions to its owners. Most residential owners grant easements to utility companies to service powerlines over or under their properties. These easements are a subtraction from fee simple ownership, but they make properties more valuable because owners need access to power and other utilities. Similarly, zoning

(continued on page 15)

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager, Member Relations

# Governor Makes Appointments to Ag Labor Commission

Dr. J. Franklin Bobbitt of Okemos has been appointed to succeed Dr. Allen Shapley on the Agricultural Labor Commission for the remainder of a term expiring Nov. 6, 1981. Dr. Bobbitt, a professor of agriculture and natural resources education at Michigan State University, is chairman of the commission.

Reappointed to the commission were Sharon Steffens of Grand Rapids, Ruth M. Rigg of Coldwater and Horacio Vargas Jr. of Detroit, Steffens, a farm wife and

Women, has served on the commission as a producer member since 1979. She is a member of the board of directors of the Kent County Farm Bureau and is information committee chairman and news-

letter editor. She has served as state chairman of Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan and as national coordinator of American Agri-Women.

Rigg, a homemaker and Ba-

tavia Township clerk, has served as a grower member since her appointment in 1977. She and her husband have a 1,200-acre dairy farm and 400 head of cattle. She has been active in the Farm Bureau

Women and on the Branch County Fair Board.

Vargas, director of the Latino Affairs Division of New Detroit, Inc., has served on the commission as a public member since 1977.

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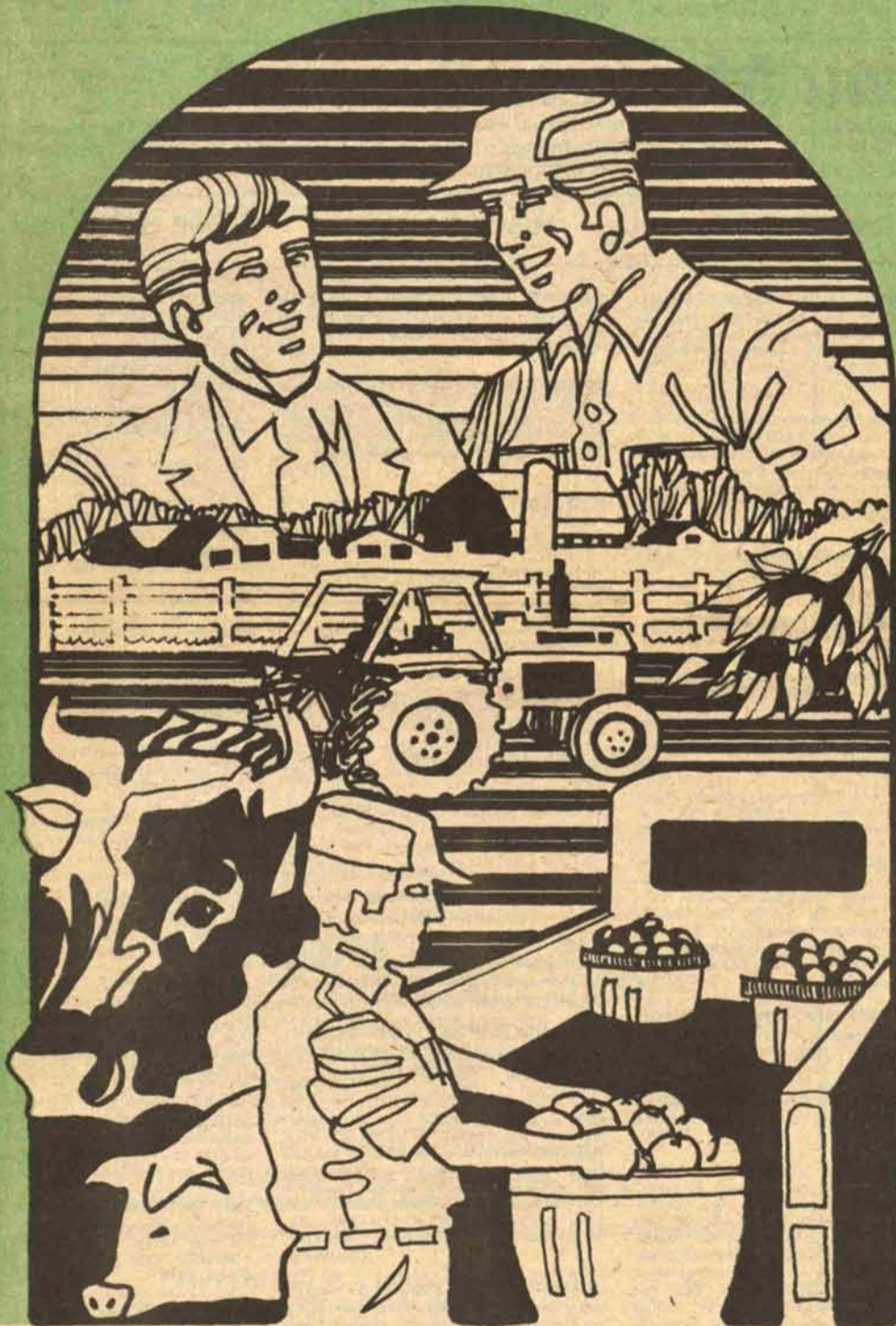
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