



MFB Leaders Take Positive View of Reagan Plan



At least one special interest group is headed to Washington, D.C., with a message of support for the Reagan administration's economic plan.

Over 100 Michigan farmers, representing Michigan Farm Bureau and 51 county Farm Bureaus, will leave Detroit on March 30 to take part in the 21st annual Washington Legislative Seminar.

While in the nation's capitol, the group plans to meet with Michigan congressmen and representatives of the USDA. They are expected to urge support for the administration's economic plan and to outline issues of concern to Michigan farmers.

Leading the group's list of policy issues will be farm program legislation, which is scheduled for congressional action this year.

MFB President Elton R. Smith, who will lead the group during their four-day stay in Washington, said, "We support a market-oriented agriculture. As a result, we will be support-

ing proposals in the 1981 Farm Bill that will minimize the need for, and the use of, price and income support measures. Our emphasis will be in favor of programs which will eliminate government intervention and which will allow normal market forces to function."

The group will also be seeking support for national legislation which would allow producers to bargain in good faith with buyers of agricultural commodities where advance contracting is an important part of marketing.

Legislative leaders will discuss these issues and others during a breakfast with the Michigan congressional delegation and also in individual visits with their congressmen. Also on the agenda is a discussion with top personnel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A press conference has been scheduled at the Detroit airport prior to departure. MFB legislative leaders will also meet with the Washington press corps.

Delano Urges Market Orientation for Agriculture

AFBF President Robert Delano has called for a four-year farm bill that would make agriculture less dependent on government farm programs.

Testifying before the Senate and House Agriculture Committees in mid-March, Delano said a market-oriented agricultural system would minimize the need for government intervention with price and income support programs.

Delano said a new four-year farm program should move away from dependence on target prices, avoid support loan rates that would stimulate overproduction and protect farmers from any future commodity embargoes.

He said that Farm Bureau generally accepts the farmer-held grain reserve concept with reservations and favors administrative changes that would give market prices a wider range of movement to reflect supply and demand and minimize the impact of the reserves on market prices.

"Government programs should be carefully designed and implemented to avoid conditions which are self-perpetuating, to enhance our competitive posi-

tion in world markets and to avoid undue interference with market-directed adjustments in production and marketing," Delano said.

"We oppose any government efforts or programs which attempt to restrict agricultural exports in order to keep domestic prices lower than prevailing world prices.

"We 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," he told the committee.

Fundamental to this policy, Delano said, is a preference for a market-oriented agriculture which will provide producers with access to markets and the means to keep production in line with world demand at profitable market prices.

"We believe that any farm program is doomed to failure unless the federal government

comes to grips with the basic problems of runaway federal spending and inflation which result in increases in the cost of production to farmers."

With regard to the basic general concept of the new farm bill, Delano recommended:

- Moving away from dependence on target prices and resulting deficiency payments.
- Maintaining price support loan rates at levels which will not artificially stimulate overproduction or adversely impact our competitive position in international markets.
- Eliminating the normal crop acreage concept.
- Strengthening protective measures against any future embargoes.
- Revising the farmer-held reserve concept.

Delano also called for an increased commitment to agricultural research conducted at the nation's land grant colleges and universities. He pointed out that in recent years research emphasis has been on consumer and social concerns rather than on farm production needs.

"This trend must be reversed because the demands upon

production agriculture will intensify yearly as domestic and export needs grow. An expanding world population must be fed and clothed," he said.

In his testimony, Delano also called for a complete reevaluation of the food stamp program, which is part of the farm program law.

Delano urged Congress to carefully consider land conversion. "We believe the primary responsibility for wise land management rests with those who own or operate the land. We oppose any proposal to tie farm program eligibility to participation in soil conservation programs," he said.

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From the Desk of the President

Same Script... But New Hope

Inflation, although it's receiving major attention these days, is not a new issue. Neither is Farm Bureau's position on how to curb it, nor farmers' willingness to make their share of sacrifices in the tough battle that must be waged.

Back in 1951, the American Farm Bureau Federation appeared before the Senate and House Committees on Banking and Currency, outlining ways to control runaway inflation. We were concerned because the federal debt had risen from \$43 billion in 1940 to \$257.4 billion by 1950. (Today the federal debt is \$985 billion.)

We outlined steps that could be taken if we really wanted to control inflation, such as meeting increased demand with increased production, and eliminating all non-essential federal expenditures. To prove our concern and willingness to make personal sacrifices, we recommended a cut in the Department of Agriculture budget.

That was 30 years ago.

The people were not ready then for Farm Bureau's philosophy. They still thought they could have their cake and eat it too. They kept sending a forked-tongue message to Washington, D.C.: "Keep inflation in check, *but give us what we want,*" not realizing yet it couldn't be done. They seemed unaware - when they demanded their share of that seemingly bottomless cash box in Washington - that they were causing the inflation they wanted checked.

Members of Congress - who wanted to stay in office - kept promising federal

handouts to voters, voters who got more greedy with each "free" program or service. They kept putting the free-spenders back in office because their political choices were dominated by desire more than a willingness to face a reality that would demand personal responsibility for their own welfare.

Even though history had clearly shown them that every nation which promoted a continuously rising tide of inflation had gone down to ruin, they closed their eyes to the fact that real wealth can be created only through the inspired efforts of people themselves - not government.

Yes, the issue is the same. Farm Bureau's position is the same. And, in 1981, farmers have again expressed a willingness to make their share of sacrifices to stop the insidious, destructive tide of inflation.

However, some things have changed to give us hope. The people proved they had removed their rose-colored glasses when they voted in the last election. We now have an administration in Washington, D.C., which has illustrated its commitment to follow through on campaign promises to put America back on the road to economic health. It will be a long road back, but we have seen the beginning of a gradual effort.

We can't for a minute, however, sit back in satisfaction that after 30 years, "somebody finally listened to us." We dare not let our policy on inflation control remain only words in a book.



Everyone of us has a responsibility - as citizens, as farmers, as Farm Bureau members - during the difficult days ahead, to continually let our representatives in Washington know that we strongly support President Reagan's economic package.

They will be under constant pressure from special interest groups who are currently the beneficiaries of expensive government programs, and unless they know they have support from "back home," the plea for fiscal responsibility will again be lost in the din of stronger voices.

Let's not look back 30 years from now, shrug our shoulders and say, "Well, they just wouldn't listen." They WILL listen if ALL of us keep telling them.

Write to your congressmen today. Tell them you support across the board spending cuts to begin balancing the federal budget to control inflation.

Elton R. Smith



DONNA

If somebody bet you \$1,000 that you could not get through one day without communicating, chances are you'd lose.

Your first thought would be to simply quit talking. But there's more to communicating than spoken words.

"Communications," according to Webster, is a transmitting, a giving and receiving of information, signals, or messages by talk, gestures, writing, etc. Powerful word... etc.

Imagine getting up in the morning of the day you're not going to communicate. The alarm rings and you groan, clearly transmitting the signal that you're not ready to get out of bed. You shuffle (aha! body language!) into the bathroom, turn on the shower, step in and... Yeow! No hot water!

The icy needles of spray assaulting your shivering body stimulate both verbal and body language that leaves no doubt about the message.

No need to go on... you've already lost the bet.

My 5-year-old grandson tried, and failed, recently to earn a quarter if he could just be quiet for five minutes. He bounds out of bed in the morning communicating and never stops. He savors new words, rolling them over his tongue as though they had taste and substance, and presents them to the listening world with pride and authority.

He's in the process now of sorting out the information he's received about what factories and people make and what God makes. You might be interested to know that he's figured out that farmers and God work pretty closely together to make food.

Although the non-stop communications of this bright little boy occasionally make me long for just a brief recess, I'd surely shrivel up to a dry old prune without the messages he transmits to me. With words, or

without, he tells me I'm smart, beautiful, and one of the most important people in the whole wide world. I get that same message from his year-old brother. He tells me with his expressive brown eyes, his reaching, dimpled hands, and his clinging, chubby body instead of words - but the message comes through just as clearly.

Too bad we lose some of the honesty, spontaneity and effectiveness of our communications as we grow older. Somewhere along the line, as our audiences broaden and relationships grow more complicated, communications become a chore, a responsibility and sometimes a burden. Although we lose the ease with which we communicated when we were children, certainly the need doesn't lessen.

I'm sure getting out and communicating with the non-farm public on National Ag Day was an inconvenience for busy farmers. Transmitting the message about the importance of agriculture may also have been uncomfortable, frustrating and

challenging for some. Why are food prices so high? Why do you have to use pesticides? Food should be for people, not for profit! Why not a barrel of fuel for a bushel of wheat?

Those questions did not inhibit hundreds of our Farm Bureau members from Ag Day activities because they realized the importance of communication with the consumers of their products - and this is a tip of the editorial hat to all of them! (Did any of you use my grandson's God and farmers hand-in-hand approach?)

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A tip of the editorial hat also goes to the member volunteers who serve as editors and contributors to the county Farm Bureau newsletters and newspapers. Rated by members in a recent communications study as nearly the top avenue for gaining information about Farm Bureau, these publications reflect hours of hard work given freely by volunteer leaders because they realize the value of communications.

And don't kid yourselves - even paid professionals don't

(continued on page 10)

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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Producer Protection Bills Open to Public Comment at Hearings

Four public hearings have been scheduled by Sen. John Hertel to gain input from farmers, processors and elevator operators regarding four bills he has introduced to provide increased protection to producers against bankruptcy of agricultural handlers.

Farmers are encouraged to attend the hearing in their area to discuss any problems they have had in receiving payment for products delivered or their experiences in the bankruptcy of ag handlers (elevators, processors, brokers, etc.).

Hearings, which will start at 7:30 p.m., will be held:

- April 7, Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road Belleville
- April 8, Sparta Township Hall, 160 East Division, Sparta
- April 9, Spaulding Township Hall, 5176 East Road, Saginaw
- April 14, Van Buren County Farm Bureau Building, 3569 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw

The bills, S.B. 110 through 113, introduced by Hertel, who serves as chairman of the Senate Environmental and Agricultural Affairs Committee, would amend existing state laws. Basically, they would require certain security arrangements to ensure the payment of producers, and to prescribe powers and duties of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to carry out the law.

If passed, the bills would prohibit a license from being granted to a wholesale potato dealer, a dairy product manufacturing plant, a grain dealer, or a fruit or vegetable processor, unless clearly defined security arrangements are filed with the MDA to ensure that the applicant has the financial ability to pay producers when payment is due.

Any licensee would be required to notify producers every six months of the financial basis on which his license was issued, and a licensee would be prohibited from receiving more agricultural products than he has security for under the law, without notifying the MDA.

If any producer were not paid by a licensee, they could file a claim with the MDA, which would then make an audit. If the claim is allowed, the MDA would collect funds from the licensee, or bonded trustee, and pay the producer. In the case of bankruptcy of the licensee, producers would receive equal preference with labor in the liquidation.

Farm Bureau policy as established by voting delegates calls for some type of legislation to assure farmers, to the degree possible, of prompt payment and security in bankruptcy situations. The results of the public hearings will help determine the best methods to achieve these policy goals.

FB Tax Meetings Set

MFB President Elton Smith has announced three tax information meetings to provide members with a better understanding of the state's current tax structure.

Meetings have been scheduled for April 3 at the Marriott Inn in Grand Rapids, April 6 at the Chalet Motor Inn in Gaylord and April 10 at Walli's Restaurant in Flint.

"A discussion on Michigan's tax structure is important to provide information needed to make sound judgments on the

many tax proposals that are now being offered," Smith said.

"It is vital, for example, to understand and evaluate how a change in any one tax will effect other taxes."

The facilities reserved for the three meetings will accommodate 100 people, thus, advance registration is required. Members interested in attending one of the three meetings should contact their county president.

Task Force Appointed

Members of the newly appointed Michigan Farm Bureau Rural Task Force will be involved in the meetings.

Chaired by MFB board member Bill Spike of Owosso, the task force is charged with reviewing the overall tax structure, determining special problem areas pertaining to agriculture, and developing recommendations to solve those problems.

In addition to Spike, the

15-member task force includes: Edward Sill, Berrien County; Richard Godfrey, Hillsdale; Barbara Trolz, Washtenaw; Ruth Johnson, Kent; Keith Tirrell, Eaton; Joe Malburg, Macomb; Herman DeRuiter, Oceana; Stuart Reinbold, Saginaw; Don Gregory, Northwest Michigan; Fred Wegmeyer, Alpena; Robert Burie, Menominee; Bruce Leipprandt, Huron; Jan Stoner, Cass; and Joan Gould, Lenawee County.

MMPA's Glenn Lake Retires

Elwood Kirkpatrick Elected New President

"Leadership is a priceless virtue and Glenn Lake has it in abundance. I've seen him exert his leadership in critical times...when the dairy industry and its programs were under severe threat....It's that kind of leadership that really counts. I know he's given that to the nation, he's given it to all of agriculture for well over two or three decades. Glenn Lake, I salute you for a job well done."

- Dr. Earl Butz
Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

The salute by Dr. Earl Butz was just one of many received by retiring Michigan Milk Producers Association President Glenn Lake during the organization's annual meeting at Michigan State University March 21.

A special slide-tape tribute presentation took Lake on a "Sentimental Journey" from the settling of the farm homestead in Lapeer County by his great grandparents through his 25 years of service as MMPA president.

Lake's leadership at the helm of the state's leading dairy cooperative was brought to a test almost immediately in the mid-50s with the "Fair Share" movement and other attacks. He passed that test and became a well-known leader and spokesman for the dairy industry on the national level.

A major architect of the regional marketing group, Great Lakes Southern Milk, Inc., he served as its president since it was formed in 1960. He also served as president of the National Milk Producers Federation from 1960 to 1976 and remains a member of its executive committee. He was a leader in the formation of the United Dairy Industry Association and was elected its first president in 1970.

Lake has received numerous awards for his contributions to the dairy industry and agriculture, including the Distinguished Service to Agriculture awards from Michigan State University and Michigan Farm Bureau, and an honorary doctorate from MSU.

The latest honor is a scholarship at MSU in the name of Glenn Lake, administered by and through the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, which will provide a permanent, full tuition education for deserving students in dairy science.

Lake will also be honored at a dinner and reception at Kellogg Center, MSU, April 3.

At an organizational meeting of the MMPA board immediately following the annual

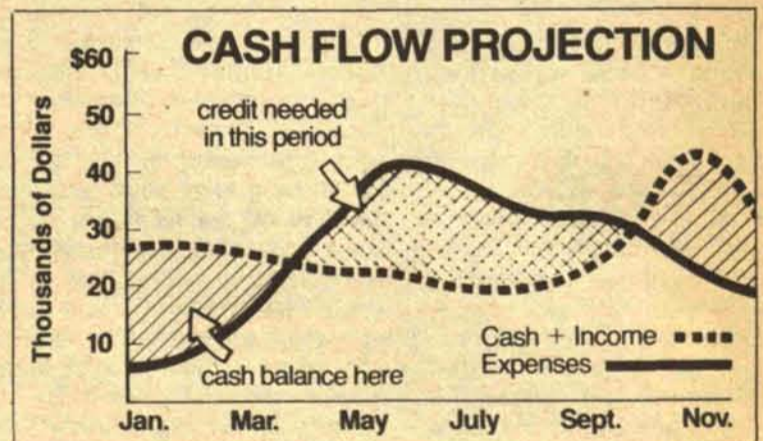
meeting, Elwood Kirkpatrick of Kinde was elected president.

Kirkpatrick, his wife Guydeane and their four children, farm 1,600 acres in the upper Thumb as a family corporation. They own 450 dairy cattle and milk about 175.

A former Huron County FB president, Kirkpatrick is a member of the National Milk Producers Federation, serves on the Michigan Beef Industry Commission and has been a member of the MSU dairy advisory committee for six years.



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Production Credit Associations of Michigan



CAPITOL REPORT

By
Robert E. Smith

Court Rules Property Income is Assessment Factor

A recent Supreme Court decision that actual income from property must be used when determining a tax assessment could have tremendous economic significance to Michigan farmers, MFB agricultural economist Robert Craig believes.

The state Supreme Court recently ruled on a case which had been in the courts for over 10 years, between CAF Investment Co. and Saginaw Township, and although it involved commercial property, the decision could possibly have an impact on the assessment of farmland, according to Craig.

"They used statutory language that also applies to farmland in saying that actual income must be used in determining assessment," Craig said.

"If we can apply that to agricultural land, it would have tremendous economic significance to Michigan farmers in terms of their property tax assessments. According to my economic analysis, if actual

farm income were to be used in determining property assessment, this would have the potential of reducing property tax assessments on Michigan farmland by 50 percent on a state-wide basis."

Craig said the impact would vary from one part of the state to another depending on the type of farmland and its productivity.

"The areas where we think it could possibly reduce assessments most are in those fringe areas around major cities where property assessments have been rising quite rapidly," he said.

"If it's still being used in agriculture and if it were based upon the actual income received from the property, assessments could be reduced by possibly as much as 75 percent."

Craig said legislation would probably be needed to apply the Supreme Court's decision to farmland assessment.

Tax Cut Proposal Will Go To Voters

Michigan voters will have an opportunity in a special election on May 19 to approve or reject a constitutional amendment reducing the property tax. The proposed amendment has been approved by a two-thirds vote of the state Legislature. The proposal changes the constitution as follows:

- Cuts property taxes for operating purposes 50 percent on homesteads and farms. The limit will be \$1,400. The resulting savings to property owners will total over \$1.2 billion, which will be returned to local governments by the state.

- Changes the present property tax relief program (circuit breaker) to 2½ percent of household income instead of the present 3½ percent. The present 60 percent rebate on the difference between household income and the property taxes on homesteads and farms would remain the same. Senior citizens and certain disabled people would continue to receive 100 percent of the difference. The present \$1,200 limit would also remain the same.

- Provides a 50 percent exemption from local income taxes. Savings for those taxpayers will be up to \$100 for each ½ percent of the local income tax. (Sixteen cities in the state have a local income tax.)

- Increases the present 4 percent sales tax to 5½ percent. This is an increase of 1½ percent which will be used to partially pay for the cost of the property tax relief. Over \$225 million will have to come from further cuts in the state budget.

- Limits the property tax revenue growth to 6 percent per year based on property classification. Any increase would require voter approval. This means that if local revenues from the property tax exceed 6 percent of the previous year, the local officials could not use the additional revenue unless approved by the voters. Because of this lower limit, the present "Headlee rollback" system would be eliminated. Limitation by class is also very important to farmers and homeowners.

- Permits "use value" assessment for farmland. The actual

1981 Lansing Legislative Seminars

Members Promote Policy

In a series of eight legislative meetings conducted in Lansing during February and March, county Farm Bureau members were involved in promoting Farm Bureau policy among the state's decision makers.

A major concern of both legislators and Farm Bureau members was the impact on services due to cuts in the state budget, said Ron Nelson, Farm Bureau legislative counsel who coordinated the regional legislative seminars.

Legislators told members that the state's revenue source is limited while the demand for services continues to increase. County participants discussed specific affects of the budget cuts on agriculture and Michigan farm operators.

Property tax reform, state and federal revenue sharing to local governments, school finance and the proliferation of licenses and special fees were also discussed.

"It is crucial to the successful execution of Farm Bureau policy that there be member representation from all the legislative districts at the seminars," Nelson said.

"The legislators value the opportunity to visit directly with their constituents.

"Talking with the lawmakers gives the members insight into the complexities of even seemingly simple issues," he said.



The 1981 series of regional legislative seminars concluded with the March 19 West Central Region seminar. Major discussion at the last seminar centered around the proposal to reduce property taxes. (The proposal was approved by the Michigan Legislature later that day. Details of the proposal are discussed on this page.) Other discussion involved the state budget and school financing. In the top photo, Sen. Phil Arthurhultz (R-33rd District), center, talks with Nancy Rottier, left, and Edna Edbrooke, right, both of Newaygo County. In the bottom photo, Gail French-Sundberg, aid to Sen. John Engler (R-36th District), talks with Bill Jernstadt, Mecosta County.

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•Provides indexing for some (continued on page 5)

Tax Cut

(continued from page 4)

of the provisions which means that they will be increased to make up for inflationary increases as time goes on.

Farm Bureau was very active in working with the members of the "quadrant" consisting of the governor and Democratic and Republican leadership from both Houses. This helped assure that the new tax relief program would not only be for homesteads, but would also include farmland, the same as the present circuit breaker rebate program does.

The other major Farm Bureau recommendation that was accepted was the change in the constitution to permit "use value" assessment for farm and forestry land. It was pointed out to the leadership that several nearby states, such as Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, are now using this system to determine property values for agriculture assessment purposes.

The property tax relief, up to the \$1,400 limit, will be subtracted from the taxes at the time they are due. The taxpayer will also still be eligible for the \$1,200 limit on the "circuit breaker" property tax rebate program. This means that in the case of farmers and others, it would be possible to have a property tax cut of up to \$2,600.

The proposed program does not affect P.A. 116 in any way. Farmers who have signed up for that program will continue to have the same benefits and exemptions from certain special assessments.

The May issue of the *Michigan Farm News* will carry a more complete report of the tax proposal along with examples of how it could work if the voters approve it at the special election on May 19.

Water Use Meeting Set

A conference addressing conflicting uses of water will be held April 4 at the Hilton Inn in Kalamazoo. Titled "Competition for Water in Michigan," the program will cover water sources, management schemes for agricultural practices and resolution of water use conflicts.

The afternoon session will consist of concurrent workshops where audience members will have the opportunity for direct exchange with the speakers.

Cost is \$7.50 with the conference proceedings or \$5.00 without it. The conference begins at 8:50 a.m. For further information or a brochure describing the day's activities, contact Laura Thompson at 616-313-1860 or Lois Wolfson at 517-353-3742.

AAMA Terminates Fowl Sales Program

The American Agricultural Marketing Association board of directors voted on March 1 to suspend the AAMA Fowl Sales Program as of June 30, 1981.

In an official notice to MACMA President Elton R. Smith, AFBF President Robert Delano cited poor cash flow,

accounts receivable and low prices - coupled with AAMA's guaranteed payment and no cash reserves as reasons for the termination.

"The board felt that all of these factors were too overbearing to continue serving the very small constituency that we

have in the fowl sales program," Delano said.

"We regret the necessity of terminating this program, but the board believed it was the proper course to pursue," he said.

The U.S. egg industry experienced a difficult year in 1980

and is currently facing strong financial pressures. This situation was aggravated when 65,000 metric tons of broilers, destined for the Moscow Olympics, were embargoed. The broilers were dumped into normal market channels and broke the hen market.



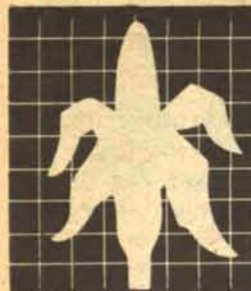
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AGRINOMIC UPDATE

Report of the Commodity Activities & Research Department

One-half of Michigan's total land area is covered by forests. This resource is rapidly being recognized as an important factor in improving the economic growth and diversification of the state's economy.

Currently the forest products industry is investing approximately \$1 billion in new plants and equipment in Michigan to utilize our growing timber resource. This investment will mean expansion in jobs and income and help to broaden our economic base. This will also mean increased demand for Michigan's timber resource.

An estimated 180,000 private landowners hold 54 percent, or 10 million acres, of forestland in the state. Farmers control approximately 3.5 million acres of this total. These private forests are our largest source of forest products, they are generally our most productive and will provide much of the material needed by the expanding wood products industry.

Unfortunately, most of these privately owned woodlots are not being managed or developed to their fullest, or they

are being mismanaged. This causes both the landowner to miss an opportunity to realize a financial return and doesn't contribute to Michigan's economic growth.

Many programs and services have been developed by several state and federal agencies to assist private woodlot owners in managing their resource. In many cases, the agencies and their responsibilities are not well understood by woodlot owners. In fact, there may be considerable confusion as to who does what for private forest landowners.

The following list of agencies and their duties should serve as a guide for woodlot owners interested in managing and developing their resource.

Department of Natural Resources

The Forest Management Division of the DNR is the lead agency for public forestry services, assistance and coordination in Michigan. Field level state foresters are available to assist landowners. Assistance might include help with tree planting recommendations,

Agencies Aid Woodlot Owners

marketing advice or development of a total management plan.

Cooperative Extension Service

This is the educational arm of the USDA and, in Michigan, is administered by Michigan State University. Extension provides a wide range of state-wide educational materials on forestry to individuals and groups. Group meetings, tours and publications are typical activities of Extension offices located in each county.

United States Forest Service

This agency of the USDA assists state agencies by partially financing and enhancing their ability to provide forestry services to the public.

Soil Conservation Service

This agency of the USDA is responsible for coordinating soil conservation practices through local Soil Conservation Districts. This service is often coordinated with assistance from local DNR foresters.

Soil Conservation Districts

Soil Conservation Districts are legally constituted units of local government administered by an elected board. The districts ensure that sound forestry practices are included in conservation plans for cooperating

landowners. The districts may hire foresters or technicians to provide forestry assistance. They also sponsor the sale of low cost, nursery grown planting stock.

Soil and Water Conservation Division

This division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture provides planning and staff services to the Soil Conservation Districts throughout Michigan. It administers state grants and coordinates technical and financial assistance to the districts from state, federal and other sources.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

This agency of the USDA administers two cost-sharing programs which reimburse landowners for a portion of the cost of performing certain approved forestry practices such as tree planting and thinning. These programs, Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), are often carried out with technical assistance from the DNR. A state ASCS committee develops major program policies and regulations that are adjusted for local ap-

plication by county ASCS committees.

Universities

Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Michigan Technological University are responsible for training and continuing education of foresters and other forest technicians. These individuals can then provide technical information to landowners.

In addition to these programs and services offered by public agencies, there are other sources of forestry information. In many areas, the timber using industries give technical assistance, loan tools and equipment, supply information and conduct demonstrations.

Private consulting foresters also furnish a variety of services to woodland owners for a fee. These self-employed professionals can, in many cases, provide more intensive forestry services than publicly employed foresters.

Owners of woodlands, large or small, who want to learn more about any of the public forestry assistance programs, should contact their county Extension office, county ASCS office or local state forester.

Farmers Applaud USDA Funding Increase

The Reagan administration's announcement March 11 that agricultural research and Extension program funds will be increased \$13 million in both budget authority and outlays in the proposed 1982 fiscal year USDA budget brought enthusiastic response from Michigan's agricultural community.

James Sayre, Wayne County farmer who serves as chairman of MFB's Consumer Affairs Advisory Committee, said, "The Reagan administration obviously recognizes that money spent in research and

Extension programs returns long-lasting benefits to farmers and consumers."

Sayre, who is a member of the MFB board of directors, said agricultural experiment stations have played and will continue to play a valuable role for both farmers and consumers.

"Historically, research done in these facilities has helped to increase efficiency in food production," he said. "Both farmers and consumers have benefited from developments in this system.

"The Cooperative Extension Service has also played a vital and successful role in the development of our nation's agriculture. With the help of Extension Service information and education programs, American farmers have developed their operations into the most efficient industry in the world.

"While this has benefited individual farmers, it has also helped make it possible for U.S. consumers to spend a lower percentage of their net income for food than any other consumers in the world."

Farm Bureau Accepts Cut in Dairy Price Support

MFB President Elton Smith says that while the state's dairy farmers are not happy about the financial losses they will experience with the elimination of the April 1 adjustment in the price support level for dairy products, Farm Bureau accepts the action.

On March 4 the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors urged the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry to favorably report S. 509, legislation to eliminate the April 1 dairy price support adjustment. AFBF also

asked the committee to take action to establish a quota for casein imports based on the average of total imports for the past five years.

"Farm Bureau supports President Reagan's economic recovery package and we realize farmers must make their share of sacrifices. Perhaps our acceptance of this one-time action will serve as an example to other segments of society when they are called upon to accept federal budget cuts," Smith said.

"Our acceptance of this ac-

tion does not lessen our very strong belief that the basic dairy price support program must be maintained in future years. It has proven its worth by assuring consumers of an adequate supply of wholesome milk and we hope that is recognized during consideration of the '81 Farm Bill."

Under the new Farm Bill, Farm Bureau is urging that support levels be determined on Oct. 1 and April 1 based on CCC net purchases for the preceding six months.

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Friendly Farmers Keep Volunteer Spirit Alive

They call themselves the Friendly Farmers and folks in Unionville readily agree that this group of seven young Farm Bureau couples have been a friend to the community.

Since 1975, when they held their first, very successful fundraiser, the Friendly Farmers

Community Action Group has donated thousands of dollars to community projects. Their donations have purchased new band uniforms, playground equipment and tennis courts for a community park and life-saving equipment for the area's volunteer ambulance service.

This year the group will

make a contribution to the ambulance service fund to purchase emergency extrication equipment used to free accident victims from car wreckage. They have also made a contribution to support Tuscola County's drug enforcement unit.

Group members agree that their most popular benefit fundraiser has been the annual polka dinner/dance held at the American Legion Hall in Unionville. This year's dance is planned for April 4 and the Friendly Farmers expect a full house.

"We get really good support from the community, too," says Donna Sting, who was among the originators of the polka dance benefit project. "We get discounts from area business people on our supplies and, of course, our Farm Bureau insurance agents, Bob and Ted Balzer, have been really great about donating door prizes."

After six years of successes, the dinner/dance has established its reputation for offering a good time. Many area people look forward to the annual event and it has been mentioned in a popular polka newsletter.

"We've had people come from as far as Saginaw, primarily because we are featuring a popular polka band. Farm Bureau members from Tuscola County are there and members from neighboring counties have come too. I guess because it's a Farm Bureau activity," Donna says.

Dave and Donna Sting, speaking on behalf of their community action group members, say the real secret to their success is that they have fun planning and sharing in the work for the dance. They say that there are additional benefits for their group - the kind that money can't buy.

"Before we started these benefit projects, we felt we weren't really accomplishing enough," says Donna. "We were fulfilling our regular community group obligations, but it just seemed there was more that we could do."

Now, they say, the group has a cohesiveness and view themselves as making a meaningful contribution to the community.

"Part of the reason we have contributed to ACW (Akron-Columbia-Wisner Townships) Ambulance Service is that we saw that our farming operations would keep us from becoming volunteer attendants. Even our families have trouble getting hold of us when we're in the fields, so we work on this benefit dance and make our

contribution in that way," says Dave.

The appreciation of the 24 volunteer ambulance attendants is obvious as expressed by Donald Schmuck, a village employee and volunteer attendant. "Until the Farm Bureau group started making these donations, we couldn't afford some equipment we needed.

Now, we can run with the best there is." Schmuck points out that since regulations went into effect requiring minimum equipment and attendant training for ambulance services, the ACW Ambulance Service has had to upgrade their volunteer service and equipment or be

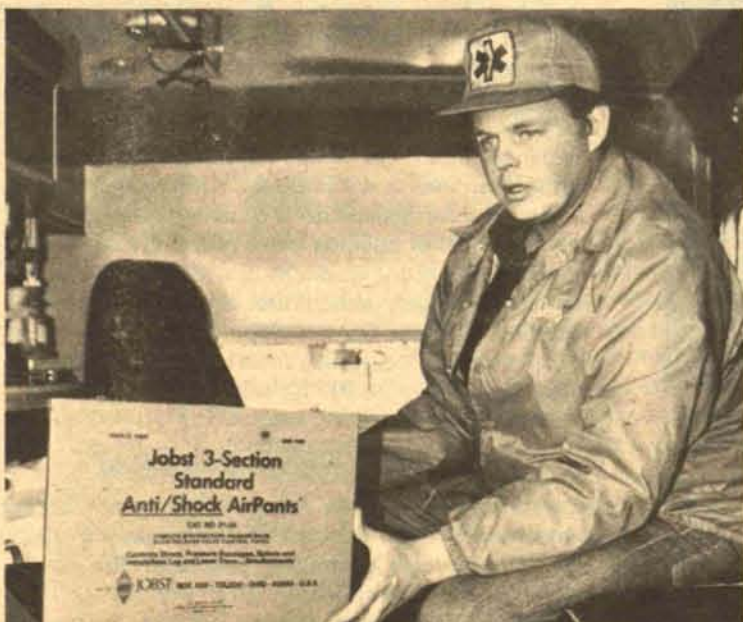
(continued on page 12)



The active history of the Friendly Farmers Community Group is recorded in candid photos and newspaper clippings. Group members Kathy Linzer and Dave Sting bring the scrapbook up to date.

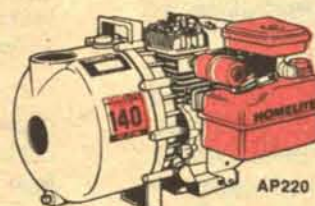


ACW volunteer attendant, Don Schmuck, explains the use and operation of a portable suction unit purchased with a donation from the Friendly Farmers Group to member Dave Sting.



"Until the Farm Bureau group started making these donations, we couldn't afford some (ambulance) equipment we needed. Now, we can run with the best there is," Schmuck said.

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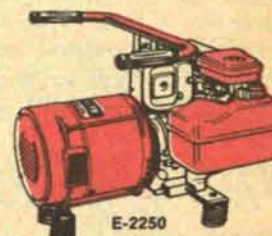


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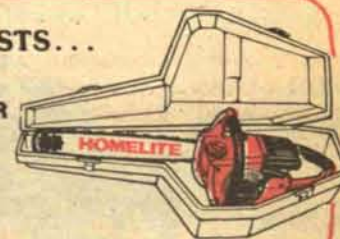
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'Blueprint for Growth' to be Developed

Michigan has long been nationally recognized as the auto state, with tourism and agriculture vying for second-place honors. While farmers may not have anticipated they'd someday claim, "We're number one," they had, over the years, enjoyed the widespread acclaim of being part of the most stable industry in the state.

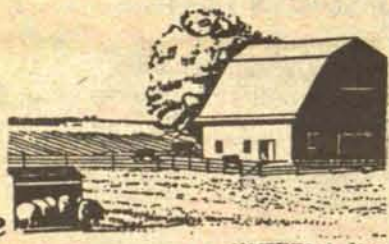
Nobody could argue that point, and that stability - during Michigan's current economic depression - may now have put agriculture well on the road toward the number one spot.

During his State of the State message in January, Gov. Milliken brought public attention to the importance of agriculture's stability and its growth potential, and called for a conference to design a plan "to develop our food and fiber capabilities to their fullest."

The Governor's Conference on Agriculture will be held April 1 and 2 at Long's Convention Center in Lansing. Representatives from production agriculture, agribusiness, Michigan State University and state agencies were appointed to eight committees which have been working on their assessments of the current status of various agricultural categories and evaluation of their expansion potential. These included: cash crops, dairy, horticulture-ornamentals-turf, livestock and poultry, horses, forestry, agricultural technology, and processing and food distribution.

About 1,000 people are expected to participate in the Governor's Conference on Agriculture, which opens with Milliken's address at 1 p.m. on April 1.

Current Status of Michigan Agriculture



Michigan's agricultural sector is an important and stable component of the Michigan economy. The total value added by farming, processing, wholesaling and retailing of food products represents roughly 10 percent of the state's gross product.

This sector employs between 400,000 and 450,000 people, approximately 10 percent of the labor force. Value added by input industries, farming and processing are approximately 5 percent.

About one-third of the state's land area is in farms and Michigan farmers produce approximately 50 percent of the food consumed within the state. Michigan produces a more highly diversified range of food products than most other states and certainly more than any other state in the Midwest or Great Lakes region.

In terms of revenue generated, dairy products are the most important (about 20 percent of total cash receipts), followed by corn (about 13 percent), with major production of cattle, wheat, beans, vegetables, soybeans, hogs, sugar beets and poultry products. Michigan also is in the lead or near the lead in production of many fruit and vegetable products.

With a diversified base, the existence of a relatively favorable climate, generally favorable soil conditions and accessible ground water, plus location close to markets, Michigan agricultural output measured in quantity terms has grown 1.5 to 2 percent per year over the past decade. Cash marketings reflecting both greater quantity of production and price increases have tripled during this same period.

Even with this healthy growth record, state officials and members of the agricultural community agree that there is potential for expansion, and it is this potential that conference participants will address.

Growth Inhibitors to be Identified



Dean Pridgeon, Director Michigan Department of Agriculture

Co-chairing the conference will be Dean Pridgeon, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and James Anderson, dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Pridgeon explains that he expects the conference will result in a blueprint for the growth and expansion of agriculture in this state, and also identification of current growth inhibitors.

The major inhibitor to agricultural growth in Michigan is public attitude toward the industry, Pridgeon believes. "There has to be a commitment to agriculture and this will show up if we pass a 'right to farm' law and commit ourselves to keeping essential land in agriculture," he said.

Following the conference, all inputs received will be compiled into a report, Pridgeon explained. An implementation committee, made up of the committee chairpersons, will be charged with compiling the report.

"This committee will meet with the governor and members of the Legislature and industry to identify those things that each needs to do," he said.

Pridgeon believes that follow-up action on the part of the agricultural community to assure that the conference reaches its objective will be identified during the two-day meeting. He expressed the hope that "there will be a greater realization that the agricultural community needs to determine and guide its own destiny."

Public Support of Growing Agriculture Vital



James Anderson, Dean College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dean Anderson sees the Governor's Conference as an opportunity to "call attention to key decision makers in the state, the need to change certain regulations and pass additional legislation to guarantee the rights of the agricultural community."

He shares Pridgeon's belief in the need for "right to farm" legislation and preservation of farmland, and has an added concern for adequate funding of agricultural research and education.

"It is imperative that we maintain adequate support for research and education programs which un-

dergird the agricultural industry," Anderson said. "We are living in a resource-limited economy and it is essential that we develop the technology to make plant and animal systems inherently more efficient."

Anderson believes the need for a follow-through process on the conference will be critical and urges a united effort of the total agricultural community to gain public support for a growing Michigan agriculture.

"We must be able to clearly articulate to groups outside of agriculture how they benefit from having a healthy agricultural industry in this state. We have a tremendous story to tell because there is not a single citizen in this state who is not affected by agriculture at least three times a day, because most of them eat at least three times a day.

"In the past, we have tended to talk too much to ourselves and complain about our problems. We need to be aggressive and indicate to the citizens how they benefit from this great agricultural industry in our state," he said.

Not Just 'Another Conference'



Paul Kindinger, Chief Marketing and International Trade

Paul Kindinger, chief of marketing and international trade for the MDA, and one of the conference coordinators, also sees a strong need for follow-up. "I do not want this to become just another conference or activity where, after it's over, a nice report is filed away and never looked at again," he said.

Kindinger hopes to see a recommendation to establish a continuing mechanism, such as a group consisting of various segments of agriculture, that will be given the specific charge to develop implementation strategies for the recommendations from the conference.

"What is happening now is really only Phase I; Phase II of this effort is the implementation," he explained.

"There is no question in my mind that agriculture has an unprecedented opportunity to grow in real terms and in terms of its visibility among the citizens of this state," he said. "If this opportunity is going to be fully developed, however, it will not happen as a result of projects or efforts by one or two organizations. The reason we hope the conference provides a blueprint for agriculture is so everyone can look at the same set of building plans and pitch in!

"The significant question in my mind is whether or not Michigan agriculture wants to take some quantum leaps in the development of a total industry or whether it is willing to sit back and let another state or country do it," he said.

Forestry Needs Identified

Adrian Hendriksma, Allegan County tree farmer and member of Michigan Farm Bureau's Forestry Industry Study Committee, serves on the conference forestry committee.

Hendriksma outlined some of the long-range projects of his committee: "encourage the Prime Forest Identification Program to insure that our best timber lands are not being converted to other uses;

... Conference Leaders Optimistic

amendments of plat act and zoning laws to discourage using our woodlots for building sites; property tax relief; encourage punishment of Christmas tree and firewood poachers; and urge woodlot owners to get management assistance."

The major challenges the forestry committee foresees in achieving the full potential for their industry include lack of funding for state foresters, high interest rates for new homes, high cost of workers compensation insurance, and loss of overseas markets.

"The Weyerhaeuser wood plant at Gaylord and Champion plant in the U.P., costing approximately one billion dollars to set up, are what we need to use our wood resources," Hendriksma said.



Regulations Are One Deterrent

Larry DeVuyst, Chr. Livestock and Poultry Committee

Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca hog farmer and former member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, serves as chairman of the conference livestock and poultry committee. DeVuyst says his committee members believe there is potential for considerable expansion in sheep, swine and poultry production in Michigan based on its closeness to packers, consumers and a supply of grain which is now being exported.

They also believe regulations and the high cost of labor has driven all the major beef packers out of Michigan.

"A study is needed to determine the value of all such regulations and labor laws before they are enacted," DeVuyst said. "Regulations which put Michigan producers and ag-related industries at a disadvantage to surrounding states are certainly a deterrent to expanding agri-business in Michigan."

DeVuyst's committee believes there is a need for a soybean processing plant in central lower Michigan.

"All soybeans grown here are shipped out of state and all the soybean meal used by livestock

producers as feed is being shipped in," he said. "We have the beans, the livestock to consume the meal, the labor to operate the plant, and a lot of energy and freight expense could be saved."



Labor Funding, Major Challenges

Wayne Wood, Member Dairy Committee

Wayne Wood of Marlette, a Sanilac County dairy farmer, serves on the conference dairy committee. He reports that the committee believes that while Michigan's milk supply must be "number one," there are challenges involved.

"The challenge we face in assuring high quality dairy products from the cow to the table is the lack of funding," he explained. "The Michigan Department of Agriculture is not currently being funded at a level high enough to carry out its responsibilities. Michigan State University does not have adequate funding to carry out research and education programs."

Those educational programs, Wood said, should involve everyone from the farmer to the processor "and include the stock boys and the consumer."

The committee also believes the industry must look at the changing milk market with less significance given to fluid milk and perhaps more emphasis on processed dairy products. Some long term projects in this area may include one or more hard cheese plants in Michigan, which surfaces yet another challenge.

"Another challenge we face in the dairy processing industry is labor," Wood said. "The fact that no school in Michigan offers this training, plus the restraints placed on an employer by union contracts, coupled with high workers compensation insurance rates, do not paint a rosy picture for a perspective company to locate in Michigan now."

Ag Day Proclaimed



March 19 was officially proclaimed "Agriculture Day" when Gov. William Milliken signed an Executive Declaration. Representing Michigan Farm Bureau Women at the signing was Vivian Lott, chairperson of the MFB Women's Committee, and MFB Vice President Jack Laurie. "Empty Plate Breakfasts," rural-urban dinners, mall displays, radio/television interviews and various other activities were conducted throughout the state by members in observance of the day.

Display Promotes Understanding



The farm was brought to the city in late February when Genesee, Lapeer, Oakland, Sanilac and Shiawassee counties sponsored an agricultural display at the Genesee Valley Mall in Flint. Above, two young visitors were attracted to the baby chicks at a "hands-on" display.

Smith Presents '81 Farm Bill Views at Policy Conference

MFB President Elton Smith told participants at the Michigan State University Food and Agriculture Policy Conference, held in Lansing on March 20 that Farm Bureau favors a market-oriented agriculture.

"We believe a market-oriented agriculture is the most efficient means of producing agricultural products and provides farmers with the greatest opportunity for economic well-being," Smith said.

"This means that farmers and ranchers must be granted the freedom to produce for a profit. Government intervention should be eliminated to

allow the marketplace to function."

A market-oriented farm policy, if effectively implemented, Smith said, would minimize the need for, and the use of, price and income support measures.

He said it should maximize agricultural efficiency and increase farm profit through:

- Assurances 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;

- Assurance of reliable, unfettered transportation for agricultural commodities; and

- Programs to strengthen farmers' power to bargain for a price.

Smith said that central to the entire discussion of farm programs is the need for assurances that the government will not interfere in world markets.

"American agriculture has become heavily dependent on the export market and any disruption in the access to markets causes American farmers and ranchers direct economic losses," he said.

"Imposition of a trade embargo, whether for short supply reasons or for national security, always places a burden upon farmers. This burden not only works to the detriment of farm income in the near term, but

also causes a shift in international trading patterns that affects farm income for many years following the embargo action," Smith said.

Farm Bureau will support legislation that would require the consent of Congress before an embargo could be imposed or that would assess a stiff penalty should any president declare an embargo, Smith said.

Such penalty could be in the form of an automatic, offsetting acreage diversion program when supplies are ample, as they were when the Carter embargo was imposed, he said.

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

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 February 1981 were:



BERNARD SCHWARTZFISHER

Week of Feb. 2 - Bernard Schwartzfisher, 55, a dairy farmer from Petoskey who farms over 420 acres and milks 60 cows in partnership with his son. Schwartzfisher serves as a trustee of St. Francis Catholic Church in Bay Shore, a position he has held for over 15 years; belongs to Emmet County Farm Bureau and the Knights of Co-

lumbus; served as a volunteer fireman for the Resort Township Fire Department for 23 years; and was awarded an Honorary Chapter Farmer Award by the local FFA Chapter. He and his wife, Ruth, have two children.



RUSSELL ANDERSEN

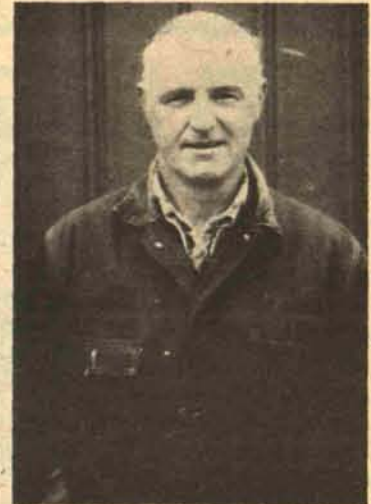


ARLO RUGGLES

Week of Feb. 16 - Arlo Ruggles, 38, a dairy and cash crop farmer from Kingston in Tuscola County. He farms 700 acres and milks 75 cows in partnership with his brother. Ruggles serves as president of the Kingston Village Council, a position he has held since 1974, and has been a council member for 14 years. He belongs to Caro-

Week of Feb. 9 - Russell Andersen, 53, who raises beef cattle and crops on 278 acres near Ludington. Andersen, who is chairman of the Mason County Board of Commissioners, is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and serves on various church boards and committees. He is a 30-year member of the Mason County Farm Bureau and a past member of the board; a member of the Mason County Mental Health Services board of directors; past school board member for Mason County Central Schools; and past director of the Mason/Lake Counties Soil Conservation Board. He and his wife, Mary Ann, have three children.

Methodist Church, is past president and treasurer of the Kingston Lions Club and is a member of the Tuscola County Farm Bureau. He and his wife, Ann, have one daughter.



CLARENCE DAVIS

Week of Feb. 23 - Clarence Davis, 48, a livestock farmer from Honor who farms about 460 acres. His operation includes a large herd of cows and calves. Davis is a Benzie County 4-H livestock leader; board member of the Benzie County Farm Bureau; member of the Empire Lions Club; immediate past president of the regional level 4-H livestock program; and past board member of the Benzie County Soil Conservation District. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Benzie County 4-H for 1980 and the Distinguished Service to Benzie County Agriculture award from the county FB in 1972. He is currently on a one-year leave from Benzie County Central Schools, where he has been a building trades teacher for seven years and a vocational agriculture teacher for 15 years. Davis and his wife, Carolyn, have three children.

DONNA

All You Do

(continued from page 2)

get to point where written communications flow freely from their pens or fingertips flying across the typewriter keys. During a recent "60 Minutes," sportswriter Red Smith spouted a truism that's mounted on my office bulletin board. I never put myself in the same league as Red Smith so it was a bit of comfort to learn we still bleed the same. He said: "There's nothing to writing. . . . All you do is sit down at a typewriter and open a vein."

That's the way I felt during my involvement in developing a fitting tribute to Glenn Lake, retiring after 25 years of service as MMPA president. How do you cover, in less than 15 minutes, a lifetime that's been as full and giving as his? Easy . . . all you do is open a vein.

Strange as it seems, when you do open that vein, it doesn't collapse like you might think it would. It's immediately transfused by responses of broader thinking, understanding, support, spirit, occasionally gratitude - things that wouldn't have happened if you hadn't opened that vein.

I learned that from my grandson.



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CUT YOUR FEED & FERTILIZER EXPENSES



VI Super 2 — 16" saw, 1.9 cu. in. engine, solid state ignition, 11 lbs. plus carrying case. Retail Value \$239.90

... And Get A FREE CHAIN SAW, TOO

Here's How . . . As a livestock feeder or cash crop operator, you know it takes a lot of money to get off to a good start each spring. For example, if you're a dairy producer with an average size herd and 200 acres of corn, your investment during spring planting is likely to be \$10,000 or more. Let the Farm Bureau people help you cut expenses. Make your Farm Bureau feed and fertilizer purchases between March 2 and April

30, 1981 . . . now at pre-spring prices! When your receipts total \$10,000, you'll qualify for a FREE Homelite® Chain Saw — a \$239.90 value, including carrying case.* Just bring the receipts to your participating Farm Bureau Dealer, along with the certificate below. Once your qualification is verified by Farm Bureau Services, you will receive your FREE Homelite Chain Saw as our way of saying "thanks" for your business.

See your Farm Bureau Dealer for all the details.

CUT YOUR FEED & FERTILIZER EXPENSES . . . And Get A FREE CHAIN SAW, TOO

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Attached are my receipts for Farm Bureau feed and fertilizer purchases between March 2 and April 30, 1981, totaling \$10,000 or more. I understand this qualifies me to receive a free Homelite Chain Saw and carrying case valued at \$239.90

Dealer Signature _____
 Farm Bureau Services Validation _____

Limit one free chain saw per farm enterprise.

*Not available to dealers.

Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

'I Need to Grow, Too.....'

Dear Nick and Jo,

I know that you are too young to read this, but I'll save it for you. Maybe you'll need to know how a parent feels someday. Maybe I'll want to recall how it felt myself to have two kids under three years of age and a whole world out there just beyond reach. Let me explain.

I know spring is coming because I can't get enough to eat. It is either nature's way of storing up energy for the busy months ahead, or a convenient excuse for a weary dieter, but I always eat heartily just before bathing suit weather. For three years now, I've opened up the front door to the first beautiful day of May, and felt just miserable. I was either pregnant, battling the three-month colic or in charge of an accident-prone toddler. This year I knew I couldn't bear it again. When the smell of wet earth comes in the window, I want to follow it. So, I've found a lovely woman who will take care of both of you for two or maybe three days a week. She's had four stair-step children of her own and she is fond of you. But there is so much to tell her.

Nick, you have such a precise nature. Your yogurt should be stirred just enough to see the fruit, but not so much that you can't find it any more. You like all kinds of food and lots of it. You talk constantly and need to be answered even when you should already know the answer. I guess as a big boy of 2 3/4, you figure you don't need a nap, but heaven help us all if you don't get it. You think raisins and mixed fruit are great, but don't put them in anything, then they're "yucky." All dogs are friendly and all roads are nearly empty around our house, so you're not afraid of either. You need to be watched like a hawk. But you're my beloved, blond clown, and when I'm away from you, the laughter stops and the worry starts.

And Mary Jo, my little brown-eyed imp with the cowlicks that make your fine brown hair stick straight up. Where do I even start to tell this lovely new sitter about you? You have a charge-and-crash personality. You don't care to stack blocks, but knocking them to smithereens is great sport. If there is a sharp corner or loose throw rug anywhere, you'll find it and wail with real or crocodile tears. You love to dance, just like Nicky does, but at 16 months your Godzilla stance is more comical than graceful. At times, when it's quiet, there is a peaceful, introspective side of you

OPEN LETTERS

Andrea Hofmeister
Michigan Farm Bureau
1980 Outstanding
Young Farm Woman

that most people never see. But I see it when you're away from me, and I wonder if anyone else has noticed it today.

It isn't easy to send the two of you away, but I can't learn to farm from behind the screen door. Soon, when you are just a little older, we will learn together. Meanwhile, Daddy and I are building a place for you to work, to play and to grow. I need to grow, too, so you don't leave me behind in the rush of childhood.

The irony of it is that all my concerns, all the hours on the tractor when I wonder what you are up to and in to, are useless. You come bounding in the house at night, spouting out the day's activities in a mad jumble of disjointed sentences. "Can we go again tomorrow? Can we? Pleeeeease?" I feel better and I feel worse.

It's a no win situation. Maybe, someday when you are grown, you'll tell me I should have stayed home. Maybe you'll tell me I should have worked five days a week instead of two. Most likely you'll say that you don't even remember the summer of '81 and who cares anyway. But maybe, just maybe, you'll say, "I thought I was the only one in the world who felt this way. Thanks, Mom."



Volunteer Spirit Alive

(continued from page 7)

forced to shut down.

With the donations from the Friendly Farmers Community Action Group, the ACW Ambulance Service has purchased 22 call monitor/pagers for volunteer attendants on duty. Lifesaving equipment purchased with the "Farm Bureau donations" include a sophisticated portable suction unit and shock treatment supplies for emergency treatment of victims. Schmuck says each of these needed lifesaving tools cost from \$400 to \$800.

"This kind of expenditure would really stretch the township budget," says Schmuck, "and a township budget is always tight. We're very grateful to the Farm Bureau group for their help."

Members of the Friendly Farmers Community Action Group are Donna and Dave Sting, Jim and DeAnn Sattelberg, Barry and Marlene Sting, Larry and Karen VanHoost, Frank and Dawn Linzer, David and Kathy Reithel, Bob and Gretchen Becker and Wayne and Marge Becker, all of Unionville.

Women Plan Display

Farm Bureau Women from Oceana, Muskegon and Newaygo counties are sponsoring their third annual mall display.

Set for April 24 and 25 at the Muskegon Mall, this annual event promises to be bigger and better than last year's.

Many different approaches to promoting the various commodities are planned.

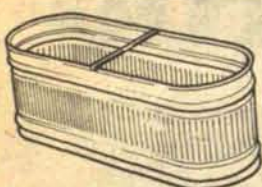
There will be give-aways, drawings, demonstrations and information on the many agricultural products grown in these three counties.

BARNYARD BARGAINS APRIL REPLACEMENT SALE

Table listing participating dealers and their phone numbers across various Michigan counties.

For other participating dealers in your area, call toll-free 1-800-292-2639, ext. 673 or 675.

(Some items may not be stocked at all participating dealers, but are available and may be ordered.)



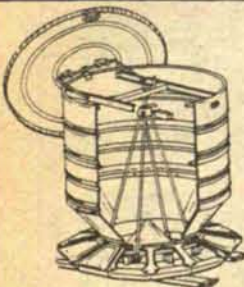
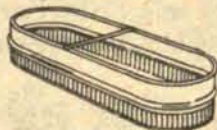
STOCK TANKS

- Galvanized
22 ga. sidewalls
20 ga. "double life" bottom

Table listing stock tank sizes and prices.

SHEEP TANKS

Table listing sheep tank sizes and prices.



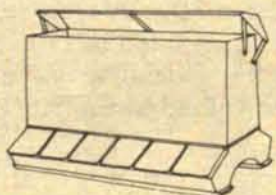
FEEDERS

- 12 door round Galvanized
1780 lb. feed capacity

NOW \$226.88 REG. \$257.82

Model BB-40

Table listing feeder models and prices.



Complete with top lid and doors

ROPE HANDLE BASKETS

Table listing rope handle basket sizes and prices.



FARM GATES

Compare our quality tubular gates

- Galvanized
All 50" high

1 1/2" diam. 18 ga. 2" diam. 16 ga.

Table listing gate sizes and prices.



5 PANEL STEEL

- Galvanized
All 48" high

Table listing steel panel sizes and prices.

FARM FENCE AND SUPPLIES

- Field fence
Studded T post
Barb wire
Poultry netting
Welded wire



PLUS MANY OTHER ITEMS

Young Farmers Raise \$1,600 for AgriPac

Young farm couples from 43 Michigan counties gathered in Midland March 4-6 for the Young Farmer Leaders' Conference, where they discussed the future of agriculture and their own farming futures.

The conference, sponsored by the MFB Young Farmer Committee, offered classes in legal rights, personal motivation, tax breaks, first aid and farm partnerships.

A highlight of the conference was an auction to raise funds for MFB's AgriPac. Over 150

young farmers participated in the auction, which raised \$1,600. The money will be distributed by AgriPac to designated "Friends of Agriculture" in upcoming elections.

MFB Young Farmer Committee members donated items for the AgriPac auction. Pictured is a quilt made by Terri Martus, wife of Louis Martus of Brown City. Committee member, Mark Smuts of Charlotte, left, helped auctioneer Gerald Hecht of Frankenmuth, right. Hecht, a Saginaw County FB member and professional auctioneer, donated his services.



Tough tankmix trio for dry beans.

Stop nightshade and other broadleaves and grasses.

For dry beans, tankmix AMIBEN, Treflan, and Eptam. AMIBEN® chloramben herbicide will give you the broadleaf muscle you need to control black nightshade, redroot pigweed, ragweed, lambsquarters, and others. AMIBEN also punches up the grass control you get from Treflan and Eptam.

For soybeans, tankmix AMIBEN with Treflan. You can do it! Tankmix, spray, and disk in AMIBEN with Treflan for excellent broadleaf and grass

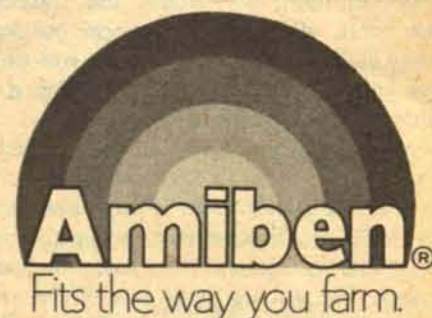
control in soybeans. Where broadleaf pressure is light, save money and piggyback AMIBEN over Treflan for clean rows.

For dry beans or soybeans, build on AMIBEN. For dependable weed control that doesn't brown beans and won't carryover!

Use AMIBEN chloramben herbicide and any other herbicide according to label directions and only on those crops registered for their use.

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Farm Bureau Services
Dealer

AMIBEN is a trademark of Union Carbide Agricultural Products Company, Inc. for chloramben herbicides.
Note: A tankmix of AMIBEN, Treflan, and Eptam is labeled for use in Michigan only.



CASH DISCOUNTS! APRIL 6-11

Discounts on all Co-Op® Farm Tractor and Implement Tires - Agri-Radial, Agri-Master & Agri-Power.

up to **\$150⁰⁰ OFF** list price

+10% OFF sale price if you pay cash

= SAVINGS FOR YOU!

SAVE at your nearest Farmers Petroleum Service Center or participating Farmers Petroleum dealer.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. Lansing, MI 48917

FB Committees Team Up for Local Action

The basic purpose of any level of government is to provide the necessary services (police, fire, social services, transportation, education, etc.) that the residents in that government's jurisdiction demand. Some services we agree with, some we don't. But it is important to remember that the services and responsibilities of government were given by action of our democratic society.

All of us agree that our free, democratic society is the best in the world. But what has made it the best? Why is it so strong? Is it because of American industry? Partly. Is it because of the labor unions? Partly. Is it because of American agriculture? Partly. All of these facets of our country have, as a group, contributed to the success of this free, democratic society. But the single most important common denominator is people.

People make up labor unions, industry, agriculture and every other facet of this country. If one particular group is gaining attention over another, it is because people involved with that group are utilizing their rights as American citizens and "talking" to their representatives about issues of concern to them. If they're the only ones "talking," then they will probably achieve their goal. The group may only speak for a minority of our society, but they state their views strongly and are willing to take responsibility. They become involved, leaving the rest of society to sit in their living rooms and complain about some unfavorable government action.

It would be impossible for each of us to get thoroughly involved at every level of government and still be able to make a living. When you joined Farm Bureau, you joined a group of people who are being heard in Lansing and Washington, D.C., through professional legislative counsel. However, at the local level of government, full time professional legislative counsel is impractical. At this government level, local residents can have the greatest impact.

Township Government

Local governments vary in form all across the state. At present, there are 1,245 townships and 83 counties in Michigan, each with its own local government structure. As indicated by the sheer numbers, it is very impractical for one state Farm Bureau to attempt to work on a daily basis with all local governments. Just as the American Farm Bureau Federation works with the federal government and Michigan Farm Bureau works with the state government, so should the county Farm Bureau work effectively with local governments. Working with local governments is not only good for the county Farm Bureau, it is also a healthy stimulus for local government.

Local government is primarily comprised of four different areas - county and townships, cities and villages. Local government is probably responsible for providing or administering most public services. Sewer, water, police and fire protection, education and waste disposal are just a few of the many services provided by local governments.

In the township, the Township Board of Trustees is the primary legislative body. The township has various elected officers - superintendent (chairman), clerk and treasurer - who sit on the township board along with two to four trustees. The township can also elect up to four constables, a fence viewer and a commissioner of noxious weeds. The township board has the authority to hire personnel as required to carry out certain government responsibilities. These could include an assessor, police chief, fire chief, a township manager and any others as deemed necessary. In addition to elected and hired officials, the township committees and commissions are filled with people appointed by the township board. These committees include, but are not limited to, the Board of Review, the Board of Health, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board and the Library Board.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by RON GASKILL
Local Affairs Specialist

If your township is a charter township, it has a slightly different structure and is required by law to carry out certain functions in a specific way. Your township clerk will have this information.

County Government

County government is slightly different than township government. While county government has its own responsibilities, it is required to carry out certain programs as an agent of the state. Conducting elections, enforcing state criminal laws, registering property deeds, issuing birth certificates, and the administration of justice are some of the areas where the county acts as a state agent.

The County Board of Commissioners is the governing and policy approval body of county government. One of their single largest responsibilities is the adoption of the annual budget, a process that takes many months. Many of the board's powers, duties and responsibilities are prescribed by law and carried out through commissions, boards, committees and independently elected officers. Elected officers include the sheriff, prosecuting attorney, clerk, registrar of deeds, treasurer and drain commissioner. Some of the appointed boards and commissions include the Board of Public Works, Road Commission, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Board of Health, Community College Board and Mental Health Board. As in township government, county government structure varies from county to county. Learn more about the structure in your own county government and find out how it functions.

Farm Bureau Member Involvement

As residents within a local government unit, we should be concerned with the various activities performed by that unit of government. It is very important that we don't let ourselves get into the position of playing "catch up" with government activities. The decisions that are made affect most of us almost immediately. Taking an active interest in local government proceedings will assure that your point of view is heard.

Recently, Michigan Farm Bureau staff has developed a plan that calls for increased Community Action Group involvement with local affairs activities. Many Community Action Groups identify issues that the county Farm Bureau Local Affairs Committee could be addressing. Unfortunately, the issue would be discussed and then dropped, never to be talked about again.

In the new plan, local members and the Community Action Groups are encouraged to report these discussions to the local affairs chairperson and suggest county Farm Bureau action.

Community Action Groups acting as the "eyes and ears" of the Local Affairs Committee would be very effective. The local affairs chairperson has the responsibility to coordinate all local affairs activities for the county Farm Bureau. Community Action Group or local members should not attempt to address an issue, on behalf of the county Farm Bureau, without the consent of the local affairs chairperson and the county Farm Bureau board of directors. Such activity could result in a loss of integrity for the county Farm Bureau.

Opportunities to monitor local government activities are plentiful. Attend meetings of the township trustees and the county board of commissioners. Attend the township annual meeting, meetings of various local government commissions, boards and courts of law. You'll be surprised how quickly you become familiar with your local government.

Many townships and counties have appointed positions which are filled by local residents. It is important to have agricultural representation on the Zoning Board, Planning Commission, Board of Review, Township Board of Trustees and County Commission. These boards have a major effect on the status of agriculture in your local area.

Involved people make up the government that directs our society. If attitudes of apathy and ignorance continue, local government can only take a turn for the worse. It has already been proposed to eliminate the township level of government. The future of local government depends upon the people's attitude about local government and how they work with it. If you want to solidify your local unit of government, start using it.

QUESTIONS

1. It has been shown that members of Community Action Groups often surface local issues quickly. Do you feel that Community Action Groups can perform a key role as the "eyes and ears" of the County Farm Bureau Local Affairs Program?

Yes No

2. There has been a trend towards citizen apathy about local government. Should we try to change the attitude of area residents? What are some ways this might be done?

Yes No

3. The League of Women Voters has stated that one of their primary goals is to eliminate township government in favor of county and regional government. Should township government be eliminated? Why or why not?

Yes No

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Dependable, Professional Assistance

Any service you receive is only as good as the people providing it. We realize that. And so do our agents who continually are involved in self-development programs which will help them help you more effectively. Professional assistance when you need it, where you need it—a Farm Bureau Insurance Group hallmark.

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