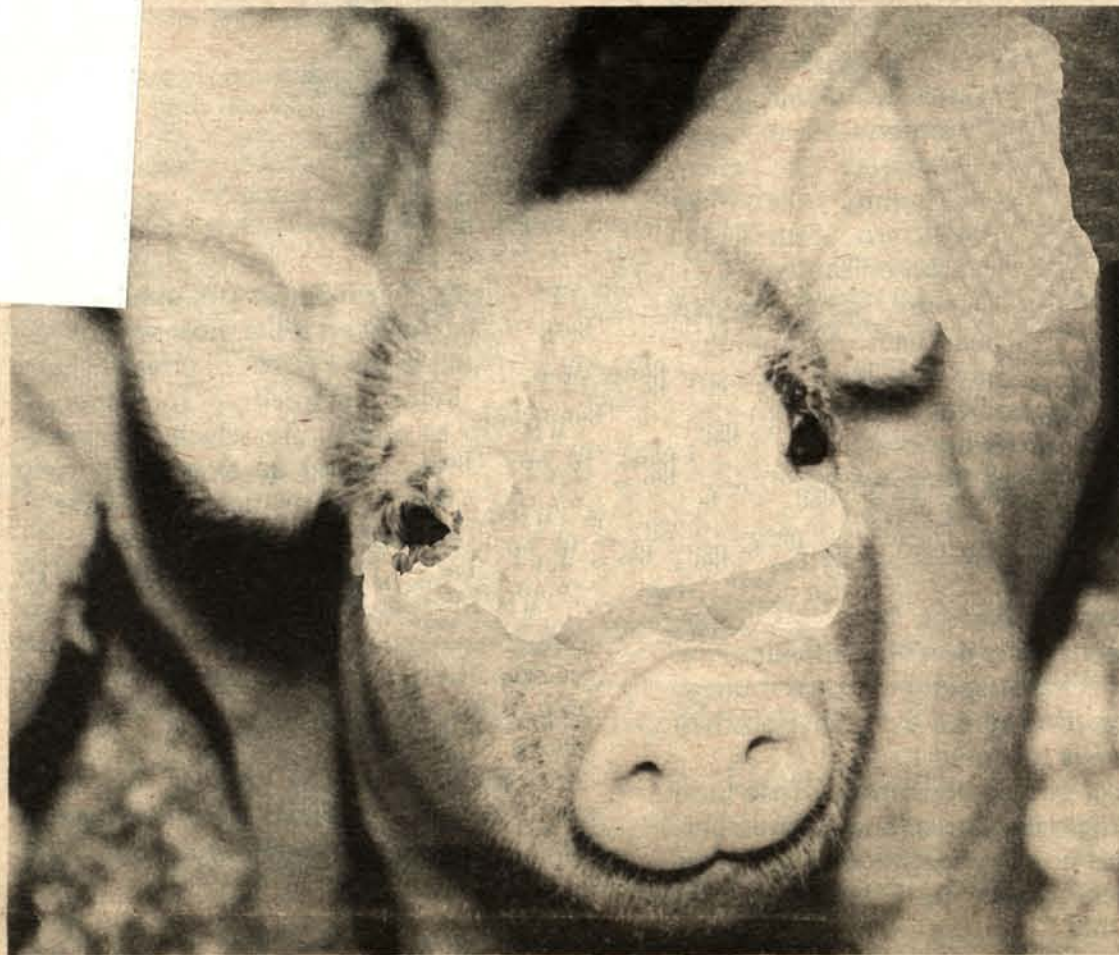


## Animal Rights Movement Concerns Producers



Would this baby pig be happier in a muddy pigsty? Some animal rightists contend he would. Farmers say he's better off in his heat-controlled hog parlor, with clean, slatted floors, stanchions to protect piglets from being mashed by their mothers, an automatic water supply and carefully planned diets. (See this month's Discussion Topic on page 10 for further information.)

At a recent annual meeting of the Humane Society of the United States, the theme was "Animals - It's Their World, Too." One speaker called the issue of animal rights - moral, ethical and legal - "the central issue of the 80s."

It has also become an issue of concern to farmers because this relatively new animal rights movement is much broader than preventing cruelty to animals. The more radical of the animal rights groups believe that all animals should be turned loose to run in the woods, to be "free" and to mate and grow in a "natural" setting.

The animal rights movement has been gaining momentum in recent months, with their "message" spreading into the schools. And, the message has expanded from keeping animals free to not eating or wearing them.

Neal Black, president of the Livestock Convention Institute, appeared before a Farm Bureau group recently and told them about a pilot program being carried out by an animal rights group in Minnesota schools.

He said the curriculum was developed by the National Association for the Advance-

ment of Humane Education, which is a division of the Humane Society of the United States. The material would have teachers ask the question, "How many animals did you eat today?"

Black said that throughout the teaching guides, there are few references to eating meat; the references are always to eating animals and wearing animals.

A lesson suggested for kindergarten would have teachers "create a small enclosure in the classroom and then put one of several children in it to see how they feel. It is suggested that one of the enclosures be so small that the child can't raise its arms, an obvious connection with caged layers," Black said.

He said the attempt is to humanize animals and ascribe the human thought process to animals in the child's mind.

"Raised with that kind of philosophy, Mary and Johnny would no more eat a cow or a pig than their classmates," Black said.

According to Black, if a pilot program in Minnesota is all that is involved there would be no need to worry, but the group

(continued on page 6)

## FB Cheers Reagan for Lifting Grain Embargo

After 15 months and 20 days of restricted U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union, President Reagan lifted the embargo declared by his predecessor, Jimmy Carter, in January 1980.

Reagan's April 24 action fulfilled one of his campaign promises, a promise that farmers were confident he would keep if he did not allow himself to be influenced by Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Haig had maintained the embargo should not be lifted for fear such action would send the "wrong signal" to the USSR regarding the delicate situation in Poland.

MFB President Elton R. Smith reacted to the lifting of the embargo with enthusiasm for what he called "long overdue action."

"This long overdue action will allow farmers to make wiser management decisions regarding their future plantings," Smith said. "It also sets the stage for us to start rebuilding our image as a reliable source of agricultural products

in the world market. Perhaps now we can begin to gain back some of the \$3 billion loss the grain embargo has cost American farmers.

"President Reagan's action reinforces our faith in his word - and our hope that he will leave future decisions regarding agriculture in the hands of his secretary of agriculture and not the secretary of state," he said.

Smith said the embargo had hurt American farmers more than it did Russia, especially the image of the United States as a reliable trading partner.

"There's no question it hurt U.S. farmers more," Smith said. "Any time you make a contract and then it cannot be filled because somebody in government decides it isn't good policy strategy right then, it's bound to create the reputation of being an unreliable supplier - especially in the grain trade.

"Every embargo that's been imposed has hurt us in building our reputation as a reliable supplier. The embargo on soy-

beans to Japan, for example, really built a soybean industry in Brazil because Japan could no longer rely on the U.S. to supply all their soybeans.

"Embargoes should not be used except for national security reasons when we're at war, in actual conflict with another country," Smith said.

President Smith sent a telegram of commendation, on behalf of MFB members, to President Reagan for lifting the grain embargo and "removing the costly, unfair burden farmers have borne alone."

AFBF President Robert Delano also heralded Reagan's action, saying that American farmers would rather produce for profits born of healthy and unrestricted world markets than to have the government using food as its primary diplomatic weapon.

"One thing that should not be lost to the rest of the world is the fact that the Soviet Union would not be buying food, or anything else, from us if they did not have to," Delano said. "We are, after all, their enemy,

and the success of capitalism anywhere in the world is an embarrassment to them. If their system worked as well as they want the world to think it does, they would not have to import food. Yet, even during the embargo, they bought the entire eight million tons that we would allow them."

Despite the embargo, U.S. agricultural exports totalled

more than \$40 billion last year and the farm trade surplus of more than \$23 billion in fiscal 1980 reduced the nation's deficit trade balance by half.

"Imagine how much better off the nation and its farmers could be today had we been allowed to sell the additional 17 million tons cancelled by the embargo," Delano said.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS FOR 1981 FARM PRICES**

**ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT CONCERNS AG PRODUCERS**

**REAGAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN PASSES IN CONGRESS**

As we go to press - In a special election May 19, Michigan voters rejected Proposal A

by a 3 to 1 margin. Michigan Farm Bureau had supported the property tax cut proposal.

## From the Desk of the President

# Tell Congress: Trust Us With Our Money

The effectiveness of Farm Bureau's policy development-policy execution process, when it involves the strong commitment of members, was illustrated by the recent victory of the president's economic recovery program in the U.S. Congress.

Certainly, it represented a landmark victory for the president. But it also stands as a tribute to Farm Bureau's grass-roots activated power. Throughout the nation, members took the words they had drafted into policy for monetary restraint and fiscal responsibility and turned those words into ACTION.

They sent letters and telegrams to their congressmen urging support for the president's plan. They took their message to Washington and made effective personal pleas to their elected representatives. They solicited support from other citizens through information meetings, news releases and letters to the editor.

Our congressmen were under tremendous pressure from beneficiaries of liberal, irresponsible fiscal policies and I sincerely hope members will consider letters of thanks as part of their follow-through action. In this issue of *Michigan Farm News* is the voting record of Michigan's congressmen. Please express your gratitude to those who voted YES.

It is important that we recognize this victory for the administration's budget plan is only the first step in what must be a continuing citizen campaign against inflation. At

this time, the tax cut portion of the total four-point economic recovery program is in danger. There are congressmen working to convince other congressmen and the public that a tax cut would be inflationary. It is their contention that we would spend that money the government doesn't take from us rather than save it.

In his syndicated column, writer Mike Royko of *The Chicago Sun-Times* summed up the situation brilliantly:

"...Congressmen are now worried about what we will do with our money - money we've worked for. They are upset at the terrible possibility that we might actually spend our own money.

"...There's one thing we can be sure of: If we don't get a tax cut, and the money is paid in taxes instead, Congress will definitely spend it.

"And that's what is bothering those congressmen. They don't like the idea that we might decide to spend our own money. They'd prefer to take it from us - so they can find ways to spend it.

"...Most people have more sense than your average congressman. Remember, most of this country's economic problems were either created by Congress or are problems that Congress has been unable or unwilling to solve.

"So do us a favor - trust us with our money the way you ask us to trust you with our money."

Well said!



For years, Farm Bureau members have insisted that inflation is the most serious national threat to our system of private enterprise and individual freedom. It is especially deadly to agriculture which, on price-inflated land, earned an average of only 2.4 percent on investment last year - down from 4 percent a year earlier.

Farm debt has been expanding by 15 percent a year for the past four years as cash expenses rise faster than cash receipts. Last year, cash receipts rose by only 6.9 percent as cash outlays increased nearly 11 percent.

As farmers and as citizens, we have much at stake in efforts to control deficit federal spending, the primary cause of inflation.

I commend you for the efforts you have contributed toward this vital issue and ask that you continue your commitment to seeing that the total economic recovery program is cleared through Congress.

Elton R. Smith



## DONNA

Probably, if I hadn't become educated about commercial farming during my years of service with Farm Bureau, I would have been one of those kooky animal rightists who are the subjects of this month's Discussion Topic (see page 10).

Since I was a wee tot roaming the prairies of our South Dakota ranch, I have loved animals. At 2½, I escaped the alert watch of my mom, crawled into the corral to pet the hind legs of a horse that was too feisty for even our toughest hands to ride. The usually bucking bronco merely shivered nervously as I stroked the "nice horsey." I couldn't figure out why my mother was so agitated when she found me.

# Have You Hugged Your Hog Today?

Later, on a Michigan dairy farm, we could never have chicken for Sunday dinner like most folks did because my brother and I had made pets out of the entire flock - even had names for them all. There were two, Red and Scrawny, who followed us around the yard - and into the house, undaunted by Mom's broom.

As I grew older, I realized that if farmers made pets out of all their animals, we wouldn't have much to eat. Despite fond memories of Red and Scrawny, my favorite food today is chicken.

I've also learned that farmers and ranchers care about their animals, even if they are raising them for food. This was one of the things that impressed me most during our farm visits when I was an MMPA Outstanding Young Dairy Couple judge. The way those farmers touched their animals, called them by name, took pride in their achievements, and talked affectionately about their in-

dividual "personalities," left no doubt that they cared.

I noticed it, too, when we visited my mom back on that South Dakota ranch a couple years ago. She had 2,000 sheep and that meant a good number of "bum" lambs each year that she had to bottle feed and baby until they were old enough to go out on the range.

She loaded us into the pickup one day and took us for a ride out on the range. There were sheep all over the place and, to me, they all looked alike. But suddenly, she braked, hopped out of the pickup and yelled "Poopsie." Well, here came old Poopsie, one of her former "bums," lumbering up to see his foster mother. Any resemblance between the cute little lamb she'd cared for and this full-grown, freshly-sheared, unattractive animal wasn't evident to me, but somehow she recognized her and they had a joyful reunion out there in the middle of the prairie.

My mom knew Poopsie was destined to become mutton chops one day, but that didn't keep her from investing a lot of caring in the meantime. Would it have satisfied the animal rightists if she'd left the little orphaned lamb "free" to roam the prairie? For sure, it would have satisfied some hungry coyote.

Before this animal rights controversy is settled, there will

probably be a government study on the emotional and physical impact on animals in confinement. Or we could have animal adoption agencies. Social workers could investigate the prospective "parents" to determine if they are suitable and if the living quarters are acceptable.

And bumper stickers could be changed to read: "Have you hugged your hog today?"

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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# Support for Ag Evident in Legislature

By Robert E. Smith  
MFB Senior Legislative Counsel

## Right to Farm

H.B. 4054 continues to make good progress toward final passage. The Senate Agriculture and Environmental Affairs Committee has met and approved it for full Senate action.

Several amendments supported by Farm Bureau were added which broadened the bill. For example, fish and tree farming were added as well as other clarifying amendments.

## Right to Sue

H.B. 4691 and H.B. 4692 have been introduced by Rep. Stabenow (D-Lansing) to give individuals, small businesses, farmers, nonprofit agencies and professionals a kind of "right to sue" or hedge against frivolous or overzealous regulation. If passed, the bills would allow reimbursement of legal costs to small businesses that challenge over regulation in the courts - and win.

Eligible businesses would only include those who employ no more than 250 people and are worth no more than \$3 million.

The bills may not receive attention before the fall legislative session, but they serve as a warning to regulatory agencies not to go beyond the intent of the law.

## Inheritance Tax

Rep. Hillemonds (R-Holland) is preparing legislation to further amend the Michigan Inheritance Tax law by raising the exemptions.

Major amendments supported by Farm Bureau were made to the law in 1978 (P.A. 628). Exemptions were raised and one-half of the state inheritance tax was exempted if the farm was enrolled in P.A. 116 and remained in farming for at least 10 years. This is the same as a similar provision in the recent amendments to the Federal Estate Tax.

MFB has an eight-page detailed report free to those interested in knowing more about the present inheritance tax laws.

Farm Bureau is working with Rep. Hillemonds' office on the proposed legislation. Recommendations include broadening the Michigan law by totally exempting from all state inheritance tax a husband or wife who "made a material contribution to the adjusted value of the estate," provided the farm remains in agriculture by enrolling in P.A. 116.

Another recommendation would extend the law's benefits to the "beneficiary of a trust" or a "shareholder of a family farm corporation." A "family farm corporation" would be strictly defined.

## Bankruptcy and Prompt Pay

Farm Bureau is working with Sen. Hertel's office to amend and rewrite the bills introduced early this year - S.B. 110 on potatoes, S.B. 111 on milk, S.B. 112 on grain dealers and S.B. 113 on fruit and vegetable processing.

The rewrite process results from a combination of the testimony given at four public hearings held around the state, Farm Bureau policy and coordination with other associations, such as MMPA, MDA and Michigan Grain and Feed Dealers.

## State Youth Employment Standards

S.B. 35, introduced by Sen. Young (R-Saginaw), would have required that Michigan youth employment standards not be any more restrictive than the federal standards. However, this battle was won without legislation.

Farm Bureau and its affiliate, the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, have been leaders in opposing unrealistic and more restrictive youth employment rules issued by the Michigan Department of Labor. Farmers from around the state testified in opposition to the various sets of rules several times. The department has now adopted rules that are identical to the federal rules.

## Farm Labor Housing

Rep. Kennedy (R-Bangor) has introduced two bills aimed at solving the problem many growers face in trying to evict seasonal workers from housing.

H.B. 4425 amends the Revised Judicature Act to spell out eviction procedures for those owners who furnish housing free of charge or for a utility charge to people who agree to harvest crops and do related work as part of the housing agreement in exchange for a wage equal to that

paid others who do not live in such housing.

Under the legislation, the owner would have to give five-day notice that the utilities would be shut off and the housing facility closed. An owner would be entitled to get an eviction notice if the person living in the housing failed to perform the agricultural work agreed to when the housing was furnished without charge or for a utility charge.

The legislation would allow a court to issue a writ of restitution if it was shown that the

person in possession of the housing failed to perform the agricultural work and that others available to do the work needed the housing.

The bills are in the House Judiciary Committee. Farm Bureau policy supports this legislation.

## Gasohol

Farm Bureau supports H.B. 4333, a bill introduced by Rep. Kennedy (R-Bangor) that would remove "methanol" from the law passed last year to  
*(continued on page 7)*

## Post-Mortem Testing Shows Insecticide Caused Cattle Deaths

Fonofos, an insecticide used for control of corn rootworm, caused the deaths of 54 dairy cattle on a Sanilac County dairy farm May 12 and 13, according to Michigan Department of Agriculture officials.

The cattle losses occurred at the Triple P Dairy Farm near Marlette. The farm is owned by Farm Bureau member James Polen and his sons.

According to Polen, no fonofos is used on the farm and MDA officials, following exten-

sive laboratory tests, said the insecticide was not found in the mineral concentrate feed supplement. State Police are investigating the possibility of intentional poisoning.

Carcasses, and milk from the dead cows, were immediately seized by MDA so no contaminated products entered the food chain. Following testing, new milk from the farm was given a clean bill by the MDA on May 15.

## Economic Recovery Plan Passes U.S. Congress

On May 7 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Reagan bipartisan budget resolution (Gramm-Latta Substitute) by a vote of 253-176. It was offered as a substitute to the House Budget Committee resolution and decreases budget authority by \$23.1 billion, outlays by \$25.7 billion and revenues by \$31.1 billion, resulting in a \$31 billion deficit for fiscal year 1982.

The vote was considered significant because it represents support for President Reagan's economic package, turns aside higher spending plans and leaves room for larger tax cuts. Farm Bureau favored a YES vote.

Following is how the U.S. representatives from Michigan voted:

District	U.S. Representative	Vote
1	John Conyers (D-Detroit)	No
2	Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth)	Yes
3	Howard Wolpe (D-Lansing)	No
4	Mark Siljander (R-Three Rivers)	Yes
5	Harold Sawyer (R-Rockford)	Yes
6	Jim Dunn (R-East Lansing)	Yes
7	Dale Kildee (D-Flint)	No
8	Bob Traxler (D-Bay City)	No
9	Guy Vander Jagt (R-Luther)	Yes
10	Donald Albosta (D-St. Charles)	Yes
11	Robert Davis (R-Gaylord)	Yes
12	David Bonjor (D-Mt. Clemens)	No
13	George Crockett (D-Detroit)	No
14	Dennis Hertel (D-Detroit)	No
15	William Ford (D-Taylor)	No
16	John Dingell (D-Trenton)	No
17	William Brodhead (D-Detroit)	No
18	James Blanchard (D-Pleasant Ridge)	No
19	William Broomfield (R-Birmingham)	Yes

On May 13 the U.S. Senate passed its version of President Reagan's budget for 1982 by a vote of 78-20. The Senate budget totals \$700.8 billion with a projected deficit of \$50.5 billion. Farm Bureau favored a YES vote. Following is how Michigan's U.S. senators voted:

U.S. Senator	Vote
Donald Riegle (D-Flint)	No
Carl Levin (D-Detroit)	No

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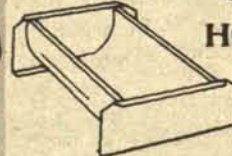
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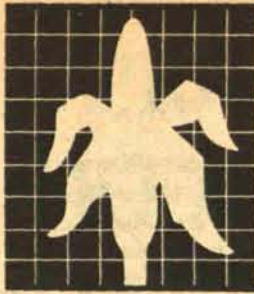
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# AGRINOMIC UPDATE

Report of the Commodity Activities & Research Department

Last year, 1981 net farm income was expected to reach a record \$35 billion.

However, grain prices have been declining since late last year and the upturn in the livestock sector has not developed as early as expected. Net farm income is now expected to reach only \$26 billion in 1981.

While some firming of prices is expected in the second half of 1981, production expenses will continue to rise at a rapid rate, particularly the cost of fuel.

The long awaited increase in livestock prices probably will not get underway until early this summer. Crop prices are anticipated to be a mixed bag.

Things will improve during the second half of the year. Production expenses will continue to increase at a 10 percent rate, but cash receipts are anticipated to be significantly higher for livestock and slightly higher for many crops.

Most of the increase can be attributed to the livestock side with most of this coming from beef and pork. Some firming in corn and soybean prices can be expected in the third quarter, but wheat prices will likely show no improvements.

Farm Bureau estimates that 1982 farm income will be \$27 billion, only marginally up from this year. This forecast assumes normal crop yields, hence no major shortages of grain. Carryovers at the end of 1981 are expected to be much higher than in 1980. This will result in declining prices for most crops.

Our forecasts indicate the following for the major commodities:

## CORN

Three factors caused corn prices to remain stronger than anticipated: rumors that the Soviet grain embargo was about to end; reports of substandard moisture in the key growing areas; and the USDA Planning Intentions Report of only 83.9 million acres, about 1.5 to 2 million acres less than traders anticipated.

But the embargo is now history and weather conditions have improved in many areas of the corn belt.

Farm Bureau forecasts show that farmers are more likely to plant 85.9 million acres of corn, 2 million more than the USDA estimated. Using this planting estimate with 75.9 million acres harvested, a yield of 102 bushels per acre, a very large crop of 7.74 million bushels will be produced. This

will result in a slight drop in prices, but ending stocks will still remain somewhat tight for at least another year.

However, if the USDA figure, with the more conservative yield of 96 bushels per acre, is used only a 7.2 billion bushel crop is computed. If this happens and export and domestic useage remains at 1980-81 levels, ending stocks will decline to very low levels and corn prices would easily reach much higher levels. This is not likely to happen as useage is not expected to remain as high in 1981-82.

Our estimate is that corn prices will decline slightly in the second quarter and then firm in the third quarter.

## SOYBEANS

The sharp decline in soybean prices last November was based primarily on sluggish exports. Since then, prices have attempted to rally on the same news that affected the bullish move by corn.

The USDA estimates that 69.8 million acres of soybeans will be planted and a yield of 29 bushels per acre is expected. Farm Bureau estimates that only 68.6 million acres will be planted.

Several factors cause us to believe that exports will remain weak. The dollar will remain strong for at least another three months. The European recession has resulted in declining demand for both soybean oil and soybean meal. Soybean exports have declined by 31 percent in Western Europe. Soybean production in South America is strong in 1981 and is likely to reach 22 million tons. The United States is likely to face fierce competition from Brazil in export markets for soybeans.

Forecasts of reduced acreage and possible dry weather can be balanced against the sluggish demand for soybeans. Considering these factors, we expect prices to average \$7.80 during the second quarter and slightly higher during the third quarter. Once the crop is in, prices will decline to the mid \$7.00 range. These projections are based on a moderate production of soybeans and an increase in exports. With increased production and/or slow demand, prices could easily fall below this level.

## WHEAT

Bearish sentiment generally points to lower prices for wheat in the second quarter. Factors

# 1981 Net Farm Income Forecast at \$26 Billion

supporting lower wheat prices are generally good production statistics and sluggish export demand in most major markets.

Wheat acreage planted is 87.1 million acres, up 6.7 million acres from last year. With harvested acreage of 72.2 million acres and a yield of 34.3 bushels per acre, we look for production of 2.47 million bushels.

In export markets, the European Economic Community is intensifying its marketing program to get rid of the 1980 crop through export subsidies, which will further cut into U.S. markets elsewhere in the world.

The Southern Hemisphere wheat crop is expected to be about 2.5 percent above year earlier levels and the second largest output ever. Canadian wheat acreage is expected to rise 8 percent from 1980 levels. Wheat acreage planted is reported to be higher in Western Europe, India and Pakistan.

Based on these estimates for world-wide production, we expect wheat prices to continue to decline for the remainder of the year. The pattern of prices for 1982 will depend on acreage planted next year and the actual yield for 1981.

However, based on the decline in prices for the rest of this year, we would look for a reduction of 2 to 3 million acres planted in 1982 and a further resumption in the growth in exports as the dollar weakens later this year.

This would push wheat prices marginally higher in 1982 by 20 to 30 cents per bushel. As long as adequate wheat stocks remain, further upside potential for wheat prices appears dim.

## BEEF

The big news in beef prices was the extremely bullish March Hog and Pig Report indicating that total hogs and pigs on farms was 9 percent below year earlier levels. Future prices moved up on that news, but cash prices did not change as rapidly because cattle slaughter numbers were running well ahead of year ago levels. In addition, the proportion of fat cattle is still much larger than usual.

This situation is now beginning to change. Cattle on feed for the first three months of 1981 has been well below that experienced in 1979 and 1980. However, the April Cattle on Feed Report shows a 3 percent increase over last year.

This should result in a decline in slaughter numbers during the early summer, with an

increase this fall. Also, the proportion of non-fed cattle sent to market should diminish in the second quarter as the weather and grazing opportunities improve.

These two factors should cause beef prices to increase during the summer and moderate this fall. Following this, prices could rise with inflation to a high of perhaps \$80 per hundred weight by fall 1982.

## PORK

The market outlook for pork is similar to that for beef. Following the bullish March Hog and Pig Report, futures prices moved vigorously upward, while cash prices have moved up only slightly.

Through the later part of the second quarter, marketings should begin to decline. Thus, price strength should begin to rally cash prices in June. By mid-summer, prices could easily reach \$50 per hundred.

Depending on the movement of beef prices, pork prices should continue to advance steadily to about \$56 per hundred in the third quarter as the economy improves.

## POULTRY & EGGS

While beef and pork prices have improved, broiler prices have declined. With the increase in feed grains and soybean meal prices, this pushes broiler operations very close to the loss point.

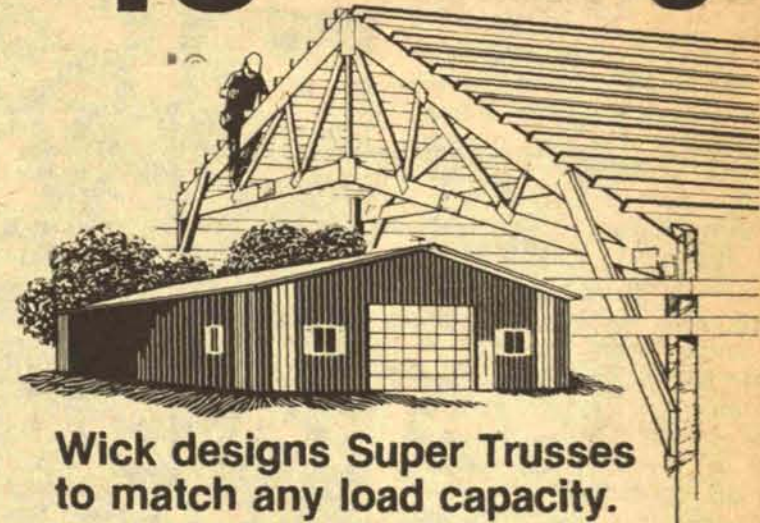
In view of our forecasts of higher beef and pork prices later in the year, we expect broiler prices to firm up somewhat to about 50 cents per pound by midyear.

As pork prices gain further strength in the third quarter, broiler prices should gain another 2 to 3 cents. But any further gains will be limited by large supplies, which will be running 12 to 13 percent above last year.

Egg prices normally fall during the second quarter of the year. This year it took a little longer for prices to decline, but this can be explained since cumulative replacements are running behind year ago levels.

Egg prices should firm up in the second half of 1981 as meat prices increase and supply of eggs is reduced.

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# Animal Rights Movement Concerns Producers

(continued from page 1)

promoting this curriculum is now seeking both state and federal funding.

## Are Confined Animals Miserable?

Farmers contend that their animals are better off today than they have ever been — healthier and happier. Hogs are one example.

Many of them are raised in a sophisticated, enclosed swine facility. Through confinement, baby pigs are prevented from being crushed by the mother as they once were when they were born and raised in an open hog lot out behind the barn somewhere.

The building in which they are now housed has the temperature controlled and electric fans ventilate the facility. No longer do they face ice and snow in the winter or mud in the summer.

They don't have to wait for the farmer to cut a hole in the ice to get water. Today, the hog has plenty of water through an automatic system that brings it to him whenever he wants it.

As for feeding, the hog of

1981 gets his nourishment systematically about the same time each day, and not just when the farmer comes to the hog pen to throw out a few ears of corn. Today's hog gets a better balanced food ration, more wholesome and nutritious, and

he doesn't have to root down in the mud to get it.

What is true for hogs is true for other farm animals, too. Controlled environment for livestock and poultry has helped lead to improvements in management, genetics, nu-

trition, housing, animal health and streamlined production methods that produce a healthier animal.

Recognizing that the animal rights movement could become an issue that needed to be addressed by Farm Bureau mem-

bers, the state Community Group Advisory Committee selected it as a discussion topic. Because of the complexity of the issue, the topic will be presented in two parts, in June and July. See page 10 for the first part.

## Working Together ... For A Better Future



Newton Allen, Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer of Farm Bureau Services & Farmers Petroleum with Wayne & Rodney Pennock on their 120 year old Holstein Farm — Mari-way. Three generations of Pennocks including Rodney have been county Farm Bureau Presidents.

## MFB to Offer Wheat Pool

For the 15th consecutive year, the MFB Wheat Pool will be offered to Farm Bureau members. The pool provides wheat producers with a simple and profitable alternative to wheat marketing.

The pool is designed to store, handle and sell the pooled wheat to increase the producers' net returns. Participating growers save time, effort and money by allowing a team of producers and professional grain marketers to evaluate market conditions and sell the wheat when conditions are most favorable.

To participate in the pool, a wheat producer must sign a Wheat Program Agreement (available from county Farm Bureau secretaries); deliver the wheat at harvest to a participating elevator; and maintain a Farm Bureau membership.

Shortly after delivery, the participant will receive an advance payment from Farm Bureau. The final payment will be made the following spring after the wheat pool is sold.

For additional information concerning this marketing program, contact your county Farm Bureau secretary or call or write the MFB Commodity Activities and Research Department, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909, phone 517-323-7000, ext. 548.

We don't take your patronage lightly. We've worked hard to lessen the problems of today's economy by offering you quality products and services. And, we're going to continue to earn your business by pooling our resources to meet the challenges of a changing economy. We've developed long range plans to guarantee the continuing success of Michigan Agri-Business in the decades ahead. We're improving products and services, making our facilities more efficient, and implementing marketing plans to serve you better. Agri-Business, it's our future . . . together.

### Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

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# OPEN LETTERS

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



Dear County Extension Agents of Michigan,

We have an emergency situation in Michigan. There is a rapid infiltration of cropland pests taking place right under our noses. The technical name of these hoards of destructive critters is "usurpis mineralis," more commonly known as the Petroleum Locust.

They have taken our entire county by surprise, gobbling up farmland at a terrifying rate. In case this infestation has not yet reached your vicinity, I will describe their patterns of behavior in detail.

The Petroleum Locust is difficult to identify immediately because of the wide variation in their external characteristics. They usually have strong western accents, presumably acquired when they devoured the richly endowed Plains States some 50 years ago. Some wear cowboy boots and stetsons, others sport business suits and ties. They may carry a briefcase and a county plat map, and are commonly seen around meal times at your front door.

However, all Petroleum Locusts have a few distinguishing marks. They always have a standard oil lease which they claim is sacred. They invariably assure the landowner that their infestation is temporary, and promise to leave by the weekend. And all of them have a third appendage, which they make clearly visible called the "upper hand."

Their life cycle is vicious. They stem from central hives often located in Southern climates which have a variety of names, depending on their point of origin. Names resembling Lunt Brothers, Sadley-Tarvey and Western Gates Oil are the most common origins for the Michigan locusts.

The locusts seen in the Northern climes are drones or workers for the hive. They devour the weak and unsuspecting first, keeping part of the spoils and returning a portion to the hive. Then they return relentlessly beating down the strong residents with their powerful persuaders.

They use three basic approaches toward their victims in their quest for prime farmland.

The most effective and diabolical attack comes from the two pockets which can be located on either side of the belt buckle. From these two openings they exude a sticky green substance called "money" which paralyzes or hypnotizes the victim.

If this approach fails, they will counterattack with a tantalizing aroma called "royalty." Although royalty may not even touch the victim, it seems to have a psychedelic effect, producing visions of yachts, mansions and fleets of 4-wheel drive tractors.

And if these two assaults fail, the deadly sting is used. The venom is only effective in the spring when farmers are particularly vulnerable. The farmer who is stung immediately believes that he is the only one left in the county who will need to borrow funds at the present exorbitant interest rates in order to plant. In a frenzied, he succumbs to the locust for fear of losing his only chance to survive.

Surprisingly enough, there are some coincidental benefits. The sticky green substance has proven to be useful for a variety of purposes. A great deal of it has been deposited throughout the Northern areas of Michigan already, and some farmers are actually welcoming the invasion. And that tantalizing aroma, when it does actually make contact with the landowner, can produce wealth beyond his wildest hallucinations.

But beware of the ominous side-effects. These pests often leave salt droppings in their wake, permanently damaging the soil. In their ravenous assault, the Petroleum Locust has been known to demolish forests, crops, and private lanes, and leave permanent trails called "pipelines" which obstruct the farmers fields.

In my opinion, the locusts are unstoppable. We have a 5,000 acre fortress in our area which is only holding out until we can negotiate the terms of surrender. We have sent an envoy right to the hive to present our terms and we await the armistice.

But for those of you who act as the eyes and ears of our county cropland security, the county Extension agents of Michigan, be forewarned. It is only a matter of time. The only defense is, at best, a delaying action. Prepare a two-part solution of legal advice and public awareness and apply liberally to all rural residents. The surrender is inevitable, but the terms of surrender are not!

# Ag Support Evident in Legislation

(continued from page 3)

lower the state gasoline tax by 5 cents a gallon on gasohol. Only "ethanol" could be used in gasohol and receive the tax break. Ethanol is made from corn and other agricultural products. Methanol is usually made from coal and oil. Methanol can also be harmful to some motor parts.

In testimony Farm Bureau pointed out that "ethanol" made from corn and used in gasohol has an excellent reputation among motorists and its use is increasing. However, there is some evidence that the cheaper "methanol" has been used in gasohol, which could damage gasohol's good reputation.

The bill has passed the House and is in a Senate committee.

### Uniform Commercial Code

Several amendments important to agriculture have been passed in last two years. One important problem with the Uniform Commercial Code remains.

A farmer, elevator or other buyer who buys grain or other commodities from a producer can be forced to pay for it a second time if the commodity has a lien on it that has not been paid. This can be especially hard on a farmer buying grain, hay, etc., for his operation.

Under the current code, the bank, Production Credit Association or other lending organization takes no risk at all.

H.B. 4533 and H.B. 4338, introduced by Rep. N. Smith (R-Addison) would amend the law to either eliminate the requirement (H.B. 4533) as has been done in some other states, or to set up another system limiting the responsibility (H.B. 4338). Farm Bureau's position is to eliminate the entire requirement or at least eliminate it for farmers buying from other producers.

### Agricultural Impact Statement

Sen. Arthurhultz (R-Whitehall) has introduced S.B. 261 which would require any state agency, local unit of government or individual seeking state financing (loans, grants, or loan guarantees) for a development to file an "Agricultural Impact Statement" with their application.

The impact statement would need to show the direct and indirect effect the development would have regarding agricultural land and the surrounding agricultural area.

Local Soil Conservation Districts would identify all "essential" agricultural land in the district and furnish a map to local governing bodies. Essential agricultural land means all farmland presently designated by the Michigan Resource Inven-

tory Act of 1979.

The Michigan Environmental Review Board and the Michigan Department of Agriculture would also be involved in the application procedure. The

legislation would apply only to those developments seeking state financing.

S.B. 261 is pioneer legislation. No other states have enacted such legislation.

# Energy Idea Search

Michigan Farm Bureau is again participating in the Energy Idea Search sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The Energy Idea Search is intended to surface innovative ideas and technology which save or use energy more efficiently around the house, in farm buildings or in farm operations, or produce energy needed for agriculture. The Idea Search is designed to stimulate Farm Bureau members to share their energy saving ideas with others.

Members wishing to share their ideas should request an entry form from MFB. After evaluation, energy ideas may be published in the member's county newsletter and Michigan Farm News. A member

whose idea is printed in Farm News will receive \$10.

Energy ideas submitted to AFBF will be evaluated by a panel of prominent individuals who are knowledgeable about energy conservation, engineering and agriculture.

Nationally, a maximum of five members will receive a cash award of \$500 each from AFBF for their ideas. Winners will be announced at the 1982 AFBF annual meeting in San Diego. Five ideas may be selected by AFBF for honorable mention and published in the AFBF News, with winners receiving \$25.

All entries must be submitted to MFB by Oct. 30, 1981. Entries selected by MFB for national consideration must be received by AFBF by Nov. 13, 1981.

## FARM BUREAU ENERGY IDEA SEARCH

Please send me the entry form for the Farm Bureau Energy Idea Search.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Energy Idea Search, Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909



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Production Credit Associations of Michigan

# Michigan Soybean Exports Continue to Increase

Hefty gains in soybean exports are occurring in countries where Michigan soybean growers are promoting soybeans. This is evidence that market development investment helps create new markets for U.S. soybeans and products, said Michigan Soybean Committee Chairman Donald M. Korte, a Farm Bureau member from Canton.

"Soybean producers have responded to profitable export markets. As a result, soybeans are now America's largest agricultural export commodity - with a value of \$8.6 billion in 1980," said Korte, a Wayne County soybean farmer.

"Our export volume has risen 58 percent in the past years," he said, noting that a recent USDA Foreign Agricultural Service study shows that the largest export gains have been in areas of the world where U.S. market development was stepped up.

Korte said that the seven farmer-directors of the Michigan Soybean Committee have invested \$50,000 of checkoff funds with the American Soybean Development Foundation. Michigan is one of 23 soy-

bean producing states where farmers invest a portion of their soybean profits in market development and research through a grower investment checkoff.

"Soybean growers aren't alone in their investment to expand demand. The \$5 million allocated in 1981 by the farmer-controlled American Soybean Development Foundation is matched by \$3.2 million investment by the Foreign Agricultural Service and \$5.2 million by the soybean industry in countries where market development programs are underway," he said.

Grower funds are invested in promotion programs that stimulate market growth. Carefully targeted activities show foreign nations how they can fulfill their human and animal food needs using U.S. soybeans and soybean products.

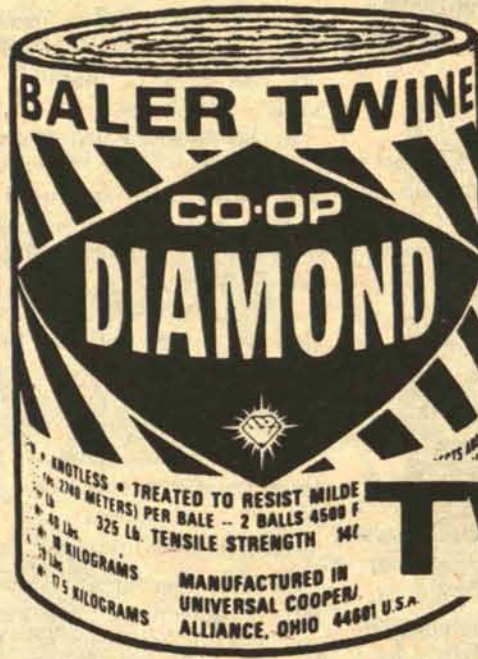
One fast-growing market is Southeast Asia where soy foods are a staple in the human diet. Now the livestock and crushing industries are also expanding rapidly. The area, which includes the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand, imported 37

million bushels of soybeans last year, up from 10.3 million bushels two years ago.

"We face stiff competition in

the world market, and it's essential that we continue our work to protect and expand our market share," Korte said.

An estimated 75 percent of the Michigan soybean crop makes its way to export via the Port of Toledo.



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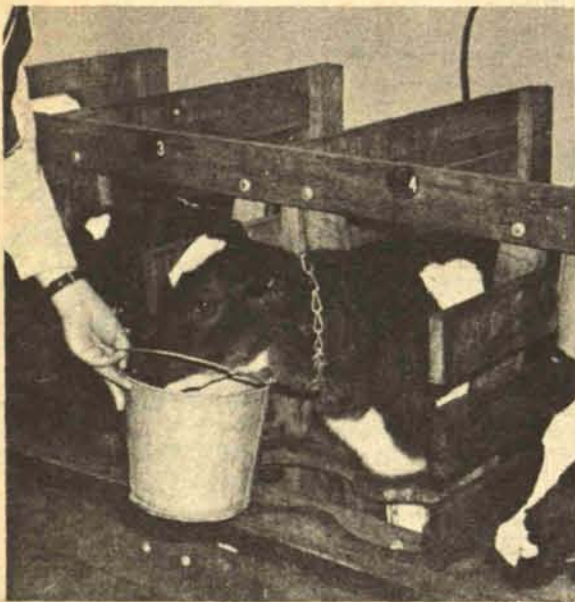
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## Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Michigan Farm Radio Network Honor 'Farmers of the Week'

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 April 1981 were:



**JAMES VANTINE SR.**

**Week of April 6** - James Vantine Sr., a dairy and cash crop farmer from Ortonville. Vantine, 67, a lifelong farmer, farms 500 acres and milks 70 cows in partnership with his son. He is on the Oakland County Farm Bureau board of directors and is membership chairman and a past president. He serves on the community committee of the local ASCS; is a director of the Lapeer Branch of the Federal Land Bank; has been a member of the MMPA for 42 years; and is on the local MMPA board. Vantine and his wife, Madeline, have three children.



**RANDY SOBER**

**Week of April 20** - Randy Sober, a dairy and cash crop farmer from North Adams who farms 425 acres and milks 100 cows. Sober, 27, is a member of the North Adams Public Schools Board of Education; past state vice president of the Michigan FFA; Hillsdale County Farm Bureau member and member of the county Young Farmers. Sober and his wife, Lacinda, have one son.



**EDWIN ESTELLE**

**Week of April 13** - Edwin Estelle, 42, who farms 1,200 acres and grows seed potatoes and corn near Elmira. He is on the Michigan Potato Industry Commission board; county ASCS committee chairman; Otsego County Citizens' Advisory Planning Committee member; active member of the United Methodist Church in Gaylord; Otsego County Farm Bureau vice president; and on the board of directors of the Production Credit Association of Traverse City. He and his wife, Judi, have four children.



**RALPH SETZLER**

**Week of April 27** - Ralph Setzler, 48, an egg farmer from LaSalle. He and his family run a large egg processing operation, handling every step from raising the poultry to marketing the eggs. He is a board member of the local Church of God and served as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent. He is a life member of the Monroe County Fair Association and received an award in 1979 for outstanding agricultural display exhibit. He is a Monroe County Farm Bureau member and served on the county FB board of directors for six years and now serves on the state FB policy development committee and as chairman of the county policy development committee. Setzler is active in the PTA and Band Boosters and received an award for outstanding seed corn. He and his wife, Jean, have six children.

## Lutz Renamed to FmHA

Calvin Lutz, an assistant director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, has been reappointed as director of the federal Farmers Home Administration for Michigan. Lutz held the same post from 1972 to 1977.

A full-time farmer for nearly 20 years, Lutz and his wife own a 650-acre fruit, vegetable and

nursery farm near Kaleva in Manistee County.

Involved with numerous, business, social and civic organizations, Lutz has been Manistee County Chamber of Commerce president, Manistee Berry Growers Association president, a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board and director of the Manistee Soil Conservation District.

# Money Market Fund Successful

Michigan Farm Bureau's Money Market Fund Program has completed nine successful months of operation. Members who entered the fund have enjoyed high interest earnings on their account ranging between 8.4 percent to 18 percent during this nine-month period.

John VanderMolen, MFB Member Services Department manager, predicted substantial growth during the next several months in the number of Farm Bureau members who participate in the fund. "The Money Market concept is becoming familiar to more and more members. They are realizing they can use Farm Bureau's Money Market Program to receive nearly the same Money Market yields that large investors have enjoyed for so long," he said.

When you consider that the Money Market Program is available at no additional cost to the member, liquidity of investment, low \$500 minimum investment, and no interest penalties assessed when you withdraw money, it is easy to understand why substantial growth is expected.

Two significant changes have been made to the Money Market Program in order to make it affordable to more members and speed up the redemption process. Effective immediately, Farm Bureau members may deposit as little as \$500 to open their account. Previously, a \$1,000 minimum deposit was required.

## Winne Named New Safemark Manager



Ladd Winne was named operations manager of Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc., effective May 11.

Prior to assuming his new position, Winne served three years as operations manager of Farm Markets Cooperative, Inc., the supply arm for the Michigan Certified Farm Markets Division of MACMA. Winne also worked for Farm Bureau Services in the Agricultural Chemicals and Fertilizer Division and the Egg Marketing Division for six years.

Check writing privileges are also being offered to program participants who want immediate redemption privileges. Members using the check redemption privileges will be able to take money out of their Money Market account in increments of \$500 or more to pay bills or to deposit money directly into their business or

personal checking accounts. In addition, the member's Money Market account will continue to earn dividends until the check clears.

Any MFB member who wishes to obtain more information about the MFB Money Market Fund Program should contact VanderMolen at 517-323-7000, ext. 536.

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Chesaning	Chesaning Farmers Co-op, Inc.	517-845-3040
Coldwater	Farm Bureau Services, Inc.	517-279-8491
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Jonesville	Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.	517-849-9502
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Scottville	Farm Bureau Services, Inc.	616-757-3780
Stanwood	Burden's ITCO Farm & Home Center	616-823-2607
St. Johns	Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.	517-224-7900
Traverse City	Farm Bureau Services, Inc.	616-946-5836
Yale	St. Clair County Farm Bureau Services, Inc.	313-387-2202

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

# Animal Rights Advocates Question Agricultural Production Practices

Have you eaten meat within the last 24 hours? If so, an animal lost its life in the process of satisfying your appetite. Was that morally right? Did that animal have rights which you violated by eating its flesh?

Animal rights groups are asking those kinds of questions. Farmers need to be able to answer them. Failure to do so can penalize animal agriculture with new regulations and controls.

There is concern developing over the conditions under which animals are being maintained and stimulated to perform for the benefit of mankind. There is animal welfare in agriculture's future and farmers cannot deal with it by ignoring the question. In this article, we will look at the animal welfare and animal rights movement and who is behind it.

Let's begin by identifying the supporters of animal welfare and rights.

- It is an assemblage of groups of people questioning the practices used in animal production, control, transportation and harvest.
- It is people questioning the moral or ethical basis of intense animal production systems.
- It is people asking if animals are happy the way they are being handled.
- It is people interested in preserving as much of wildlife as possible in a free roaming state.
- It is people opposed to the wholesale use of live animals for research.
- It is some people of vegetarian preference using this as a vehicle to sell their preference and belief.
- It is some people concerned about animal neglect and abuse.
- It is people concerned about the inhumaneness of certain hunting and trapping practices.
- It is people concerned about pet overpopulation.
- It is people concerned about the use of animals to train animals.

These diverse interests have come together under the banner of animal rights and welfare, a cause which is sure to attract lawmakers' interest. Under the scrutiny of lawmakers and regulatory agencies, animal agriculture may face regulation by people who are not familiar with production agriculture.

Farmers are also concerned because it is frightening to see these ideas and philosophies advanced on an emotional basis. As emotions often transcend facts, farmers must ask themselves what are their moral and humane obligations to animals that serve them.

It is also frightening because the power base for the animal welfare movement is coming from human disciplines, not animal disciplines. For example, in May 1979 at Virginia Polytech Institute, 32 speakers appeared on a program to discuss animal mortality. Of those 32 speakers, 25 were trained in human psychology, two had animal training experience and one was a veterinarian.

No one argues that animals have behavioral and environmental needs. Agriculture has been looking at that for years - providing food, water, shelter, fences and parasite control.

America has the distinction of having the first laws on the books to protect animals from cruel treatment. In 1641, Puritans who settled the Massachusetts Bay Colony adopted their first legal code, "The Body of Liberties." At a time when others considered animals as mere property, to be used or abused at the whim of man, the Puritans decreed:

"No man shall exercise any Tyranny or Cruelty towards any brute Creature which are usuallie kept for man's use.

"If any man have occasion to leade or drive Cattel from place to place that is far off, so that they be

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager, Member Relations

weary, or hungry, or fall sick or lambe, it shall be lawful to rest or refresh them for a competent time, in any open space that is not Corne, meadow, or enclosed for some peculiar use."

This law was far ahead of its time. In fact, humanitarians throughout the world, unaware of its existence, credited British Member of Parliament Richard Martin, who fought so fiercely for the enactment of the first anti-cruelty legislation in England (1822), as the primary author of all the laws that followed.

In 1836, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in London. Shortly thereafter, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in New York.

The Animal Transportation Act of 1906 specified the handling of animals traveling by rail. This so-called 28 hour law accomplished a great deal to eliminate long distance travel without adequate rest, food and water; however, the act was never amended to cover truck transportation. The Humane Slaughter Act of 1958 was amended in the late 1970s to include humane care of animals prior to and during slaughter. The Animal Welfare Act of 1970, as amended, refers to dogs and cats as well as laboratory animals. Thus far, birds, horses and farm animals have been excluded from the legislation. How long this will continue to be so is a matter open to speculation and debate.

In 1964, a London housewife and vegetarian, Ruth Harrison, published a book entitled *Animal Machines*, with a forward by Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*. This book was especially critical of the use and misuse of hormones, antibiotics, additives to animal feed and the care and handling of farm animals, especially hens in cages and veal calves in crates. Within a year of the book's release, Parliament received the Brambell Report which examined the welfare of animals kept under intensive livestock husbandry systems. As a result, the recommendations of five codes for the care and

treatment of chickens, turkeys, pigs, cattle and sheep were adopted.

The animal rights movement is a phenomenon of the mid 1970s. It is safe to say that this is largely an urban, vegetarian, philosophical movement. Much of this is based upon the philosophy of specieism presented in Peter Singer's book *Animal Liberation*.

Singer espouses freedom of animals through specieism, which is a prejudice or attitude of bias towards the interest of members of one's own species and against the the members of other species. The book *Animal Liberation* has enormous negative impact for the reader on factory farming and the use of research animals. The question of animal rights has been the subject of published works and conferences by many other philosophers since Singer.

Much of the new vigor in the animal rights and welfare movement has come from the participation of social activists. Such a person is Henry Spira, a teacher, self-educated farmer and former merchant seaman with a background in union reform, civil rights and the Vietnam war protest movements. It was Spira who introduced the methods of social activism to animal welfare reform.

Spira discovered sex experiments on cats were being conducted as part of a government funded research project at New York's Animal Museum of Natural History. He conducted an investigation which was flamboyantly reported in a small Manhattan newspaper under the headline, "Congress Pays for Sex Sadism at Museum." The public outcry caused 121 congressmen to ask the National Institute of Health for an explanation and ultimately forced the Institute to revise its guidelines for animal care. As a result of Spira's highly public protest, a 15-year research project as brought to a halt.

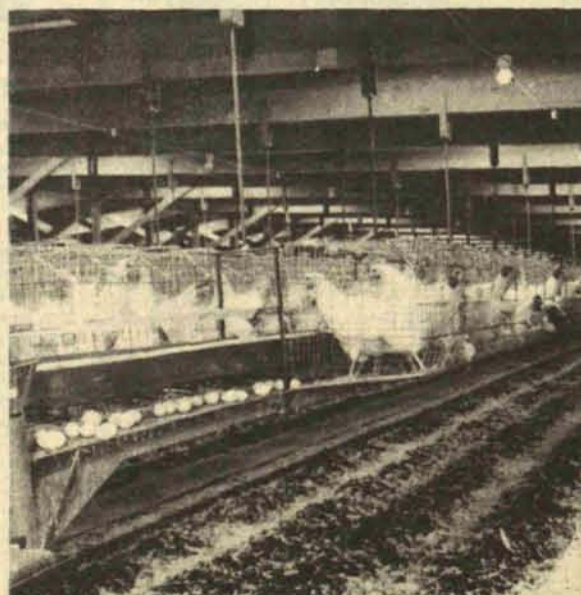
(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is based on remarks by John L. Skinner of the University of Wisconsin and Jack L. Albright of Purdue University. In the next issue, we will examine the advocate viewpoint of animal welfare and rights.)

## Correction on April Discussion Topic

In the April Discussion Topic on local action, it was stated that a goal of the League of Women Voters of Michigan was the elimination of township government in favor of county and regional government.

According to President Katherine Cushman, this has not been a position of the League of Women Voters of Michigan for four years and then referred only to townships in urban areas.

"The present position of the League... calls for support of the township form of government in rural areas where functional services are limited, and also as an alternative to cityhood when it meets such standards as separation of administrative and legislative branches, provision of long range planning, and delivery of services," Cushman explained.



Some animal rightists object to what they call "factory farming."

# Farm Bureau Market Place

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 Plainwell, Michigan 49080  
 Phone: 616-685-6851

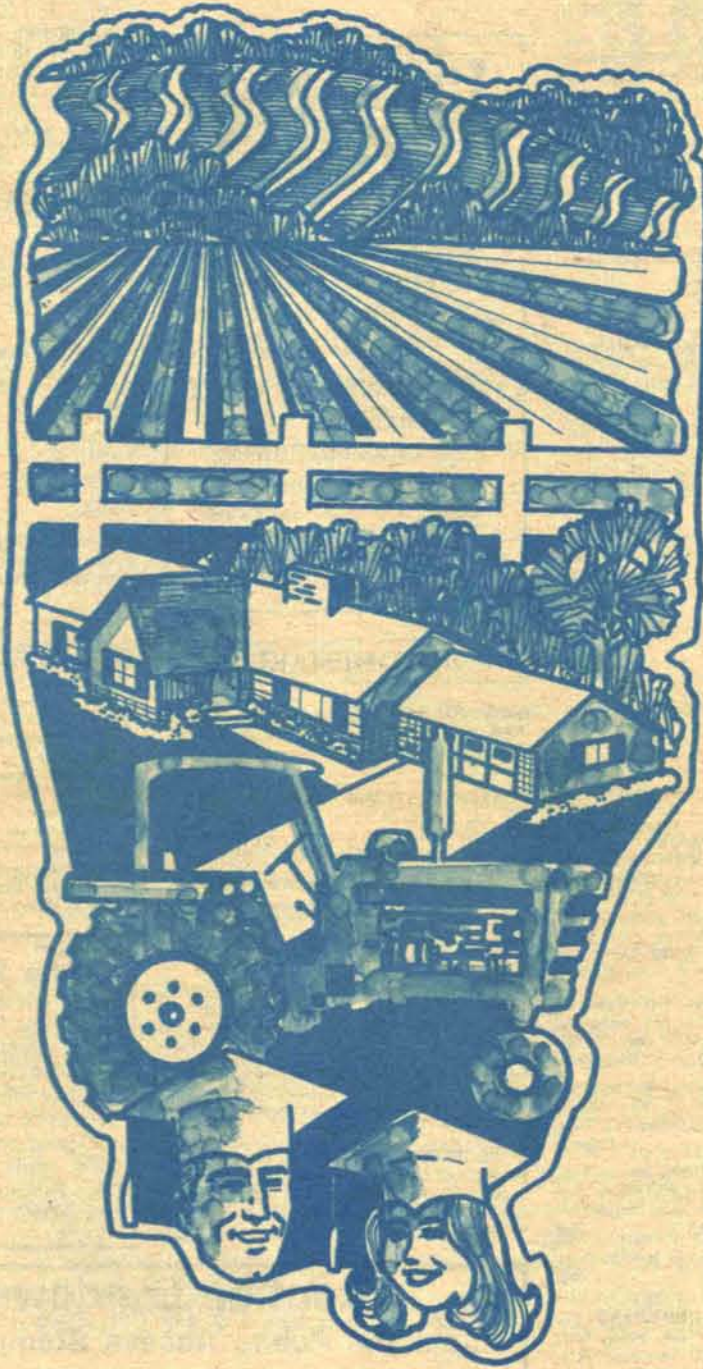
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 P.O. Box 218  
 Imley City, MI 48444  
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