

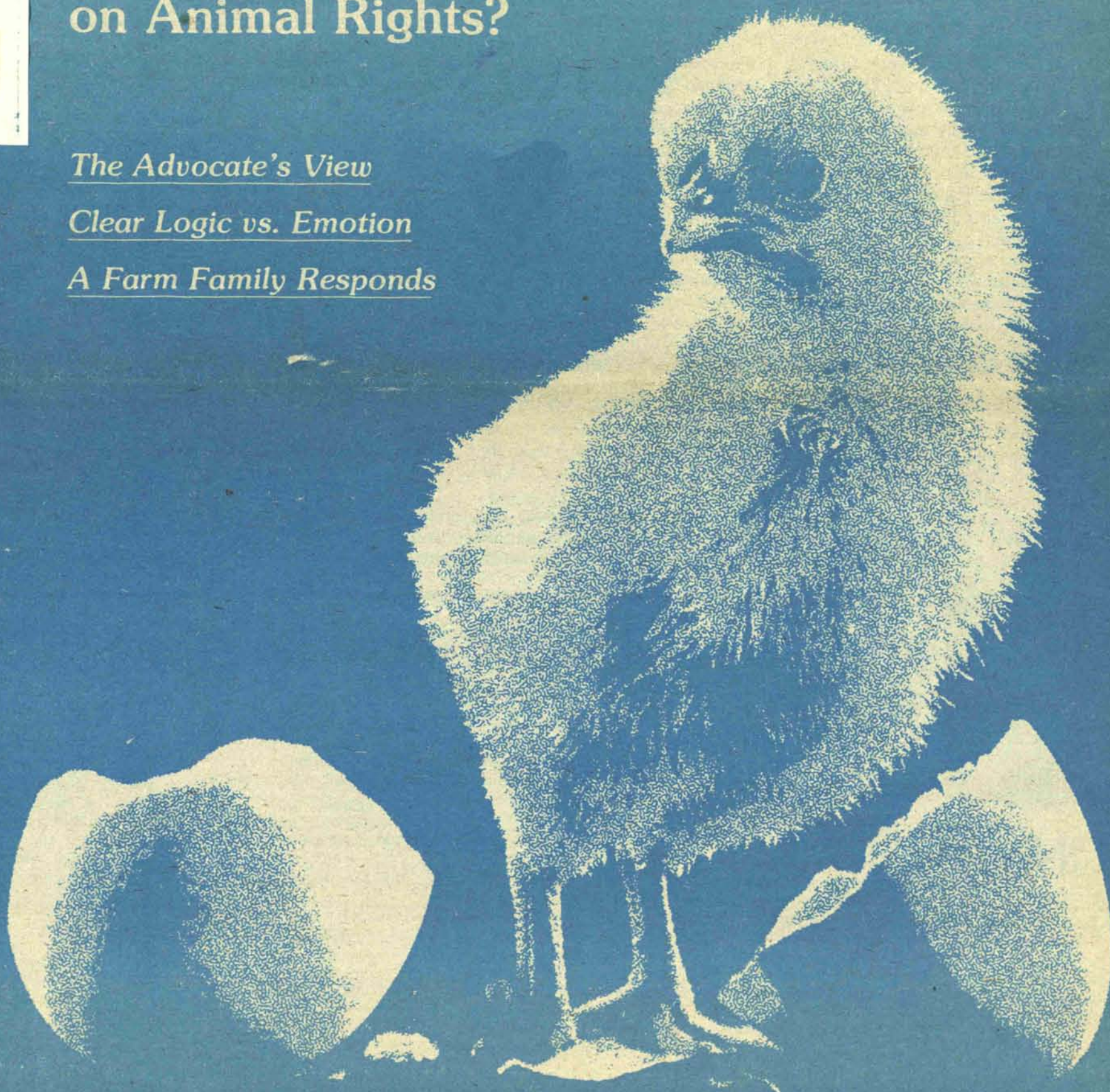


## Where Do You Stand on Animal Rights?

The Advocate's View

Clear Logic vs. Emotion

A Farm Family Responds



## From the Desk of the President

# 'Nobody Does It Better'

There was a time when Farm Bureau pretty well "stuck to farm business," and that certainly remains our top priority today.

However, as we review our activities of the past few months, it's evident that our organization has reached out far beyond the confines of our fence rows and positively impacted the world in which we and our neighbors live.

I think that's good because it illustrates that Farm Bureau can be whatever its members want it to be.

As the "profile" of Farm Bureau members changed over the years, the organization had to broaden its horizons to meet the changing needs of its members. The days when farmers and their families were more or less isolated from the rest of the community are gone. Today, they are not only involved in their communities - they are often the leaders.

A prime example of members identifying community problems and then taking leadership in solving those problems is the involvement of the Chippewa County Farm Bureau Women in the "Court Watch Program." Weak law execution and, consequently, many repeat offenders, were a major concern in their area.

Working with the State Police, the women began observing the court in session - and urging others to do the same - to encourage a lenient judge to be more conscientious in his execution of the law. Later, they involved a group of senior citizens, who are most concerned about law

enforcement but are often overlooked as resources to help solve the problem.

The entire community - not just farmers - benefited from this project because a group of farm women recognized they had a vehicle for effective action - their Farm Bureau.

The Young People's Citizenship Seminar is another example of how Farm Bureau identifies and reaches out to address a particular need. Those young people whose lives we impact through this activity will never forget the organization that allowed them this opportunity. Their communities will reap the benefits of having knowledgeable, conscientious, politically-astute citizens and leaders for tomorrow.

Farm Bureau Insurance Group's "America and Me" essay contest (also in this issue) is another method to address the need for good citizenship. This program reaches out to thousands of young people and creates a public awareness that this organization of ours CARES - not just about what happens on the farm - but all of our society, and ACTS to make our world better.

These are just a few examples of Farm Bureau's broad horizons. As our local affairs program grows in scope and effectiveness, I have no doubt that county Farm Bureaus will become recognized as THE moving force in communities to solve local problems.

Solving problems, at the state and national levels, almost always calls for dealing with government. There is no other organi-



zation that has proven its strength and effectiveness in this arena as Farm Bureau has throughout the years. And this strength and effectiveness comes from united member involvement.

This same strength and effectiveness can be just as potent at the local level, and I'm certain that there will be an ever-growing awareness among members that their organization is a vehicle tailor-made to help them solve problems that effect them and their neighbors.

Yes, we could stick exclusively to "farm business," and leave the solving of local problems and the filling of needs to other organizations. But those families who operate those farm businesses are very much a part of their communities, and that makes it Farm Bureau's business.

Most important, whether it's addressing a purely farm need or serving as a vehicle through which to solve local problems, "nobody does it better" than Farm Bureau!

**Elton R. Smith**



## DONNA

## A Push Down the Hill: Who Needs It?

is the only time of year I waste any time thinking about age. But my birthday this spring was an exception. The "kids" I work with felt obligated, for some reason, to remind me that I was on the downhill slide.

I walked into Farm Bureau Center that morning with a spring in my step, feeling not much different than when I celebrated my 21st birthday. My co-workers had waiting for me what they considered an appropriate costume for the day - an old black felt hat with a veil, a hair net, a black shawl with long fringe, and a cane!

My presents included lots of vitamin pills, Preparation H, mud packs to temporarily erase wrinkles, gentle laxative for older women, support hose, and a magazine for retirees. Some "friends" presented me with sympathy cards in lieu of the usual birthday greetings.

By day's end my head ached from wearing the hair net, my shoulders were stooped from the heavy shawl, and my joints were stiff from leaning on the cane! I hobbled home, popped several vitamin pills, made a facial from the Preparation H, crawled into bed, and dreamed of meeting St. Peter at the pearly gates.

.....

My counterpart in the Ohio Farm Bureau, Sam Cashman, editor of the *Buckeye Farm News*, recently retired. In his last editorial, he shared this poem with his readers:

*An editor knocked  
at the pearly gates,  
His face was scarred and old;  
He stood before  
the man of fate,  
For admission into the fold,  
"What have you done?"*

*St. Peter asked,  
"To gain admission here?"  
"I've been an editor,  
sir," he said.  
"For many and many a year."*

*The pearly gates  
swung open wide,  
St. Peter touched the bell -  
"Come in," he said,  
"and choose your harp,*

*"You've had your  
share of hell." -*

Let me assure you that this is not my swan song (I'm much too young!). Rather, it's a reminder to be kind to editors, especially on their birthdays. They don't need any pushes down the hill; just being one gives them a head start!

### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

(ISSN 0026-2161)

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This is the time of year when I start thinking of sun and water and warm, therapeutic sand. It's also the time of year when I become very aware of the shifting sands of time.

Every season, it seems, the old bathing suit fits a little differently than it did the year before. Same old suit, same old body, but a whole new look. Must be the older you get, the harder gravity has to pull to keep you anchored.

Usually, bathing suit-season



## America & Me

By Beth Ingle  
 First Place Statewide Winner  
 1980-81 America & Me Essay Contest

One of the most treasured things in my life is a little lake in Michigan. It is free and always flows and moves its own way. That's my privilege also, to flow and move the way I want because I am an American.

Everyone since time began has fought to be free. In school we learn a traditional national pride about our country and forefathers and their fight for freedom. It was not easy for them to achieve their goals and I realize that it will not be easy to strive even further and to maintain what we already have. Life is not a fairy tale where good guys win because they rightfully deserve to; life is real and is in constant turmoil. We have to work at it to be a success. Life is filled with problems and responsibilities. Someday my feet will fit in the shoes of responsibility and when that happens, I will try to be a great asset to my country. I owe that much to my parents for showing me the way.

Have you ever watched the Olympics and been choked with tears because an American won the gold or simply because he had the courage to try in front of the world? Those athletes train hard to win for their country. They do it for their parents, teachers, and everyone else who has helped them have the opportunity to be there. That is what I want to do, win for my country. That might mean going to war, or widening my intelligence to help in modern technology, or simply being a good citizen and voting every four years.

Whatever it is I'll do, I will do my best because of the great American spirit that I respect and love so much.

### Brody Book Tells

## Who Built Farm Bureau and How

Farm Bureau in Michigan is recognized as a strong organization serving the needs of farmers. Do you know the story of its start, growth and history?

In 1959, the late Clark L. Brody captured the story of Farm Bureau in his book, *In the Service of the Farmer, My Life in the Michigan Farm Bureau*. The entire printing was rapidly sold out.

Now the book has been reprinted and includes a short update of Farm Bureau since 1959. Copies of the book can be purchased at \$6.50 per copy.

*In the Service of the Farmer* is Brody's autobiography and a history of Michigan Farm Bureau. For almost 40 years, Brody was the Michigan Farm Bureau, serving as its executive secretary from February 1921 until August 1952. Brody then served as vice president in charge of Public Affairs until October 1956 and from that date until his retirement in February 1959, at the age of 80, he was counsel on Public Affairs.

In his 38 years with MFB, his paramount concern was a solution to perennial overproduction that would be in the best

interest of the farmer and the nation. After 1940 he frequently worked in Washington with officers of AFBF for sound national farm legislation.

His book is a warm, personal narrative of people, their work and events that affected them. He makes firm and considered recommendations on how to give farming back to the farmer and how to gear farm production to the present needs of the nation.

"He contributed much to agriculture and the citizens of Michigan," states Dan E. Reed,

in the preface to the 1981 edition of *In the Service of the Farmer*. Reed served 18 years as legislative counsel and six years as secretary-manager of MFB.

"I believe that he and many others who labored to build and maintain Farm Bureau as a strong, effective and representative voice of Michigan agriculture would be pleased with the results in the light of today's changing world," Reed said.

Copies of the book may be purchased by completing the order form below.

**ORDER FORM**  
**IN THE SERVICE OF THE FARMER**

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *In the Service of the Farmer, My Life in the Michigan Farm Bureau* by Clark L. Brody at \$6.50 each plus \$1.00 postage and handling for each copy.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ books.

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Send order form to Michigan Farm Bureau, Information and Public Relations Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Beth Ingle, a 13-year-old eighth grade student at Delton-Kellogg Middle School in Delton, looked no further than her own backyard to find a \$1,000 inspiration.

Beth, who wrote a patriotic essay inspired by her feelings for a lake near her home, has been named the top statewide winner in the 1980-81 America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group. She has earned a \$1,000 U.S. savings bond, the top prize in the contest, as well as a personalized plaque honoring her for her achievement.

"I've always loved the lake," said Beth, the daughter of Richard and Lois Ingle of Battle Creek, "so it seemed like a natural way to lead into an essay about the strong feelings I have for America."

Beth's essay survived five levels of judging to make it to the number one spot. Her essay was selected the best out of several thousand entries from 450 Michigan middle schools and junior highs. The final selection was made by a panel of VIP judges that included Gov. William Milliken, former Congressman Robert Carr, and *Lansing State Journal* columnist Jim Hough.

The second place winner in the state is Kelli Temple, an eighth-grader at Gesu School in Detroit. She received a plaque and a \$600 savings bond in recognition of her essay, which expresses her determination to help preserve the freedom of opportunity she finds in America.

"America will never suffer because some want more freedom," she wrote, "but may be hindered by those who seek to deny it."

The third place statewide award was won by Michael Jhung, an eighth grader at Saline Middle School in Saline. Michael's essay, a 64-line poem, calls for the elimination of the injustices of American life. He earned a plaque and a \$500 savings bond.

Fourth place honors went to Karen Hart, a student at Legg Middle School in Coldwater, who received a plaque and a \$400 savings bond. The fifth place award, a \$300 savings bond and a plaque, was earned by Alison Scott, who attends Centreville Junior High in Centreville.

The remaining winners in the top 10 are Jerry Smith of Holy Innocents Academy, Dearborn; Nancy Vandermeij, St. Raymond School, Detroit; Paul Remick, St. Augustine School, Kalamazoo; Matthew McPhail, St. Thomas Aquinas School, Saginaw; and Erika Peterson, Escanaba Junior



BETH INGLE

High, Escanaba. Each of these students received a \$200 savings bond and a plaque.

Open to any eighth grade student in Michigan, the annual America & Me competition encourages the state's young people to seriously consider their roles in America's future. The theme of the 1980-81 competition was "My Hope for America - And How I Can Help Achieve It."

As sponsor of the contest, FBIG has received 10 national awards from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and an Award of Excellence from the Life Insurance Advertisers Association. More than 60,000 students have entered essays in the contest since its inception in 1968.

Excerpts from this year's essays will be compiled into a booklet and distributed to schools, government officials and visitors at the State Capitol in Lansing.



### This emblem is important to cattle feeders

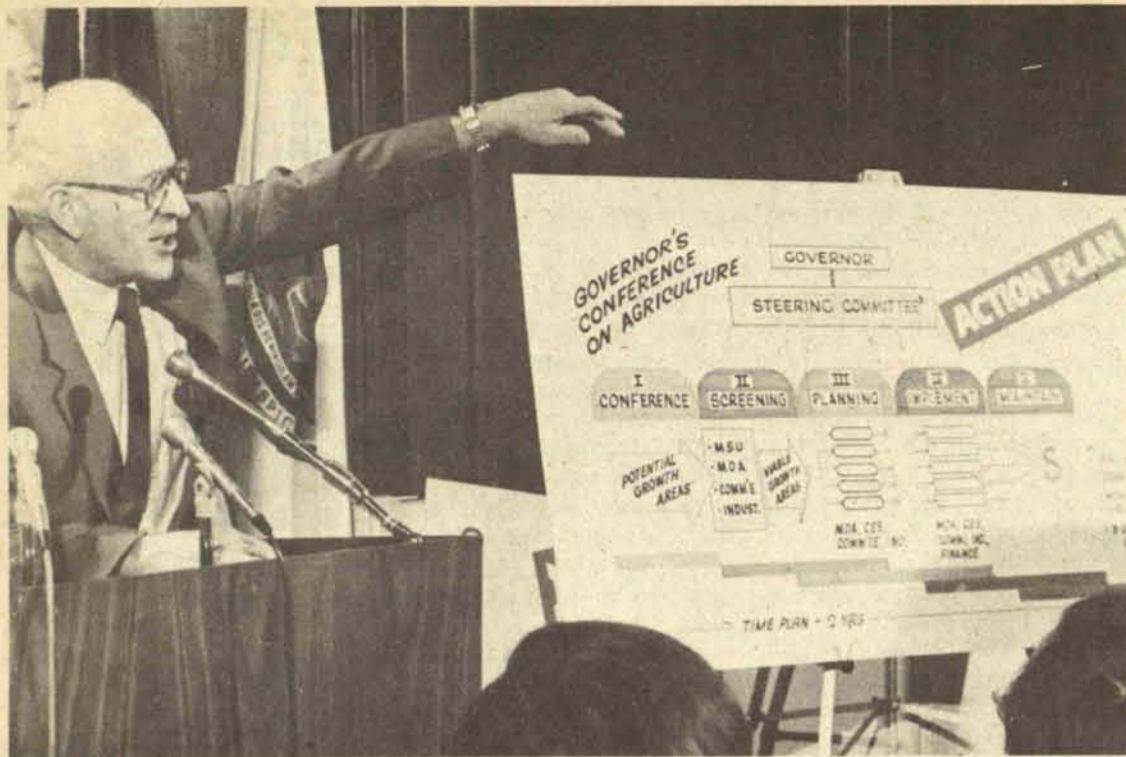


And to dairy farmers, hog producers, grain farmers, poultry producers, specialty crop growers, and just about everyone who makes a living farming.

It stands for an organization whose goal has remained constant for 46 years: to improve the income and well-being of farmers and ranchers. It has stood with them as a dependable source of credit through good times and bad.

Whether your main crop is hogs or grain, milk, cattle or poultry, or a specialty crop of any kind, Production Credit Association can be a valuable source of credit and services for you.

Production Credit Associations of Michigan



MDA Director Dean Pridgeon, co-chairman of the Governor's Conference on Agriculture, outlines the two-year "Action Plan" to develop Michigan's food and fiber capabilities to their fullest.

## Conferees Present Action Plan for Agriculture

*"... marks beginning of new era for agriculture and the state of Michigan."*

— Governor Milliken

## MFB President Urges 'Aggressive Follow-Up' on Recommendations

MFB President Elton R. Smith has urged Gov. Milliken to aggressively follow up on the recommendations that were unveiled June 9 by leaders of the Governor's Conference on Agriculture.

Smith, who served as one of eight conference committee chairpersons, said that MFB is eager to work with the governor and offer input on ways to implement the recommendations of the conference.

"For example," he said, "the Michigan Farm Bureau Rural Tax Review Tax Force is currently working on one of the conference recommendations - the review and revision of Michigan's taxation on agricultural business."

Milliken called for the conference in his State of the State address last January with a charge to design a plan to develop Michigan's food and fiber capabilities to their fullest. Over 1,000 people participated in the conference, which was held at Long's Convention Center April 1-2.

Key recommendations reflected conference participants' concerns for expanded markets, improved inter-and intra-state transportation, and attraction of new agricultural product handling and processing operations.

### Bill Would Discourage New Business, Smith Warns

Smith noted that while the Governor's Conference on Agriculture recommended that a meat packing facility, a soybean processing plant, a fertilizer facility and a hard cheese processing unit be built in Michigan, legislators were consider-

ing a bill that would discourage new businesses from locating in the state.

He referred to a bill introduced by Rep. Perry Bullard of Ann Arbor, known as the "Industrial Hostage Act," that would require an employer to give one year's notice before closing a business operation in Michigan.

"This legislation would have the effect of restricting plant openings and would cause investors to be wary of Michigan," he said. "This would be counter to the goal of expanding Michigan's economy."

### New Era for Agriculture

Milliken said he would work with conference leaders and the Legislature to evaluate the recommendations.

"I firmly believe that this conference and the resulting report marks the beginning of a new era for agriculture and the state of Michigan," he said. "Both can grow and prosper in the years ahead, providing renewed vigor to our economy..."

The recommendations included:

### Potential Agribusiness Expansion

Most conference reports emphasized the lucrative potential for development of additional jobs and income for Michigan by expansion of production and marketing of agricultural products. Suggestions include increased hog production, a Michigan or regional-based modern meat packing plant, a soybean processing plant, development of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer facilities, attraction of a hard cheese processing unit and further ex-

pansion of the horse racing industry.

### Agricultural Awareness

Every conference committee believed that the conference was the first step in development of an ongoing forum for agriculture. Such a forum would assist in the development of sound future agricultural leadership and create a continuing liaison through which the agricultural community could discuss critical needs and/or issues. Some mechanism is needed, according to the report to widely express the enthusiasm and genius of the agricultural industry, providing



Governor's Conference on Agriculture Co-Chairman James Anderson, dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, listens to Governor Milliken's response to the conference report.

it the necessary acceptance which will help diversity and expand Michigan's economy.

### Wise Use of Prime Farmlands and Natural Resources

One of the most serious concerns among conference participants is the annual loss of thousands of prime farmland acres to non-farm development, loss through improper soil management, and pollution. Also common was the deep concern for the proper management of Michigan's water resources. Protecting these critical resources is essential to maintaining and enhancing the agricultural economic base.

Immediate steps must be taken, the report said, to assure not only the continuation of Michigan farmlands and natural resources for future generations, but enable the agricultural community the flexibility it needs to guard and conduct its necessary agronomic practices.

Right-to-farm legislation that defines the legal rights of farmers who follow accepted management practices was strongly advocated by all of the conference participants.

### Agricultural Research

All the conference committees expressed the need for expanded state and agricultural commodity support for accelerated agricultural research at Michigan State University's Agricultural Experiment Station. Facility (capital improvement) needs were repeatedly expressed, especially in support of the proposed MSU Plant and Soil Science Building, further development and improvement of MSU's outlying AES sub-stations such as the Clarksville Horticultural Experiment Station, facilities at Chatham, and the improvement or replacement of the MSU dairy facilities.

Conference participants also expressed their support for expanded funding for MSU research personnel to strengthen agricultural programs and assure the technical, scientific progress of Michigan agriculture.

### Cooperative Extension Service

In keeping with the strong support for applied agricultural research, conference participants believe that a strong university outreach program through the MSU Cooperative Extension Service must exist and be augmented for transfer of data to commercial agriculture.

Many concerns were expressed about the time lag between research finding and agricultural adaptation. The conference strongly supported expanded funding of Extension education agricultural programs that will reduce this knowledge lag. Conference participants widely encouraged increased funding for Extension, requesting that it develop new

(continued on next page)

**"Immediate steps must be taken to assure, not only the continuation of Michigan farmlands and natural resources for future generations, but enable the agricultural community the flexibility it needs to guard and conduct its necessary agronomic practices."**

- Governor's Conference on Agriculture Report



# Tree May be Energy Answer

Beating today's high energy costs isn't easy. But thanks to a new "Energy Tree" program co-sponsored by the Michigan 4-H Youth Program and the Michigan State University forestry department, Michigan families may be able to grow enough firewood to become independent of outside sources of heating fuel in just 8 to 10 years.

Michigan 4-H youth program leader and Energy Tree project coordinator.

Hybrid poplars show promise as an alternative energy source because they mature faster than hardwoods like oak and maple, are less expensive to grow and are adaptable to a variety of growing conditions.

The new program will test whether hybrid poplars can be planted and harvested as a wood energy source in Michigan.

According to Rother, planting two to five acres of hybrid poplars per year (16 to 40 acres of land over an eight-year period) can supply enough wood to meet the needs of an average family for an entire heating season, provided the house is well insulated and an airtight wood-burning stove or furnace is used.

4-H members across the state have planted more than 4,000 hybrid poplar cuttings in recent weeks. They will monitor the progress of the trees and report their findings to the MSU forestry department.

"If our tests show that hybrid poplars are as good as we think they are, our dependency on fuels other than wood should decrease," Rother said. "If only part of our country's 500 million acres of commercial forestland was planted with hybrid poplars or other useful species like oaks or sycamores, our energy needs would be lower."

"If the cuttings grow as expected, new cuttings can be taken from this year's crop next year. That means thousands of hybrid poplars can be planted statewide in an effort to reduce the state's dependency on scarce and costly energy resources," said Lowell Rother, Michigan 4-H youth program leader.

educational delivery methods, especially via computer networks.

Each committee expressed specific needs that relate to Extension education programs. Some high priority issues, in addition to the computerized information systems, include strengthening of 4-H programs, development of the proposed Agricultural Exhibition Center at Michigan State University, and furtherance of vocational education programs at the intermediate level.

**Market Expansion** - Increased economic efficiency, fulfilling nutritional needs of other nations, changing transportation costs, and the ability to generate new jobs and additional income for Michigan citizens are among the persuasive arguments supporting expansion and enhancement of domestic and international markets. The committees expressed a strong desire for joint efforts between government and the private sector to achieve these goals.

Emphasis was placed on expansion of existing markets, the exploration and development of new market alternatives (new products, specialty crops, new partners in the marketing channel or perhaps new outlets).

**Taxation Revision** - The current excessive and unequal taxation on much of Michigan's agricultural land and production operations is considered to be a substantial impediment to accelerated agricultural business growth.

Use value assessment for ag-

ricultural land was high on the list of interests concerning farmland taxation. Other common concerns centered around alternative forms of taxation for agricultural sub-sectors, such as forestry, establishment of uniform assessment methodology, and inheritance taxes on agricultural property. There is a need for assuring that tax assessors across the state be trained and required to do a more uniform, reasonable and equitable job in assessment.

**Labor Laws** - The detrimental effect of current state labor regulations on agriculture is a deep concern of all conference participants. These concerns include current status of workers' compensation, youth employment, farm safety standards, health requirements issues surrounding agricultural labor housing, etc. The consensus of the conference is that an agricultural task force be appointed by the governor for the express purpose of reviewing with the Department of Labor, all laws pertaining to the agricultural industry. This study will have the specific intent of making recommendations for amending labor laws which are unreasonable and have a detrimental effect on Michigan's agricultural community.

**Transportation** - Rail abandonments, the maintenance and upgrading of rural roads, bridges and development of port facilities were primary concerns involving transportation of farm products in Michigan. The committees feel it is imperative that better use of principal transportation modes

(rail, water, air and truck) is essential if Michigan agriculture is to expand.

Special emphasis was given to the development of a comprehensive inter-modal transportation plan for agriculture in Michigan. Noting Michigan's unique geographical location, most committees feel that this feature could be developed into a true advantage. If left to chance, however, Michigan could become extremely isolated from the nation's current and future primary transportation system.

**Over-Regulation** - Widespread among conference participants is the concern that current government over-regulation is a severe constraint to Michigan agricultural economic expansion. All committees identified numerous regulations which are too stringent, inequitable, discriminatory and economically unworkable. Most frequently decried is stringency of MIOSHA, the complex environmental permit systems, labor regulations, product labeling requirements, pesticide application laws, and enforcement of product quality standards.

The committees advocate a better regulation review process with more consultation by the affected industry. Most committees asked for a complete review of many existing regulations. Nearly all committees requested establishment of a council or committee to facilitate effective communications between the farm sector being regulated and governmental agency proposing and conducting regulation.



Gov. William G. Milliken appeared with members of the Agricultural Conference Committee June 9 at a press briefing. MDA Director Dean Pridgeon, far right, unveiled an "Action Plan for Agricultural Growth in Michigan" based on the recommendations of Ag Conference participants.

## Pre-Harvest Sale



### CO-OP Hi-Flotation

A go anywhere wagon tire or implement tire where Hi-Flotation is needed. Wide enough to float across wet fields with minimum ground compaction.

11L-15SL	6 ply	<b>\$48<sup>99</sup></b>	+ \$1.56 FET
9.5L-15SL	6 ply	\$48.49	+ \$1.42 FET
11L-15SL	8 ply	\$53.05	+ \$1.54 FET

Available at participating Farmers Petroleum dealers while supply lasts

**SALE ENDS JULY 18**



Scotch pine cones are harvested for future plantings.

## New DNR Policy May Provide Water Surveillance Exemption

Farm operators who have developed an approved agromanagement plan for use of high quality waste water for irrigation may qualify for an exemption from Michigan water surveillance fees under a policy adopted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

In a recent policy statement, officials stated that "high quality waste water used for irrigation with an approved agromanagement plan does not present a threat to the ground waters of this state. Therefore, water surveillance fees will not be charged to dischargers whose waste water is used entirely for irrigation."

To qualify for the exemption, farm operators must submit an agromanagement plan in writing to the DNR. The plan must have been developed in cooperation with the Agricultural Soil Conservation Service and/or the Cooperative Extension Service and must include documentation of approval by ASCS or Extension personnel.

The plan must conform to the following criteria:

- The irrigation rate must be very close to the rate of plan

uptake, i.e., the disposal of the water through irrigation must be managed similarly to a normal irrigation program.

- No runoff will be permitted.
- The water must be free of any concentration of materials which could be harmful to the ground water.

- The agromanagement plan must be submitted before the 1981 harvest season. A plan must be on file prior to harvest season for fee exemption. Dischargers who have an agromanagement plan submitted prior to Dec. 1, 1981 for approval prior to Jan. 1, 1982 will not be charged a surveillance fee.

If all criteria are satisfied by the plan, the farm operator will be notified within 30 days of the DNR's decision to approve an exemption from permit and/or a water surveillance fee.

For more information, contact Ron Nelson, Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909, phone 517-323-7000, Ext. 560; or Robert Courchaine, Water Quality Division, Department of Natural Resources, 373-1947.

# Christmas in July? By Linda Compney

You bet! For Michigan Farm Bureau members Bob and Maureen Wahmhoff, it's Christmas 12 months a year. Christmas trees, that is. You see, Bob is the largest commercial Christmas tree farmer in the U.P.

Wahmhoff raises White Spruce, a species usually shunned by the industry as being difficult to raise and sell. Yet Bob has been successful - to the tune of 15,000 trees last year.

Perhaps his background has something to do with it. "My father started tree farming when I was about 12," Bob explains. "I learned a lot from that."

His 30-odd years of experience include a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and education from Michigan State University. He has also taught vocational agriculture, ran a marketing cooperative for independent tree growers and worked for an international agricultural harvest company.

A native of Allegan, Wahmhoff was operating a tree farm there when asked to Baraga by Dr. Winkler as a consultant for his ailing tree farm - fondly known by local residents as "Winkler's Folly."

"We flew up on a Saturday and bought it on Sunday," Bob chuckles. "We had to do a lot of salvage work." The 400,000 trees were over 15 years old, and just too much work for a man easing into his 80s as the doctor was.

"Our friends thought we were crazy," Maureen adds. "I had never even been over the bridge!"

But go they did. That decision in 1975 began a gradual move that took six years to complete. "We finally moved in lock, stock and barrel just this February," says Maureen.

She gazes from the kitchen of their airy new home at the trees just beyond - 380 acres of trees.

"Not all of these acres are in trees to be cut," Bob explained. A recently planted Scotch pine orchard will begin producing viable seeds in about 20 years. More acres are devoted to an experimental planting of Douglas Fir seedlings for MichCoTip (Michigan Cooperative for Tree Improvement, an MSU program). These seedlings came from 150 different test sites across the United States.

Future plans also include "double-cropping" Blue Spruce. Some trees will be potted and

sold as nursery stock, while others will be allowed to mature for someone's Yule festivities.

All this sounds like a lot of work, you say? That it is, a full 12 months of work. This year the Wahmhoffs set in 70,000 seedlings, a recurring spring-time event.

Shortly after planting begins tagging - an identification method of marking mature saleable trees - and shearing, a pruning regimen which gives the trees a more uniform and pleasing shape.

Along about August, the trees are "painted" with a special chemical which helps them retain moisture and adds a little color.

The actual cutting doesn't begin until late October. Chain saws are used for harvest, and the trees are promptly baled into a protective netting for shipment.

Most of Bob's trees head south. "We sell 9,000 trees a season to Miami alone," he beams. "White Spruce hold their needles much better in the South because of the humidity, so that's where most of our sales are."

Long range planning for this crop is not difficult, he says. "Actually it's a lot more stable than the average farmer experiences. There are a lot fewer things to worry about."

He says the chief hazard is frost and harsh winters, a factor balanced out by the "lake effect" in the Baraga area. Wahmhoff laughs, "This is the Banana Belt. It's actually the best area in the U.P. for growing trees."

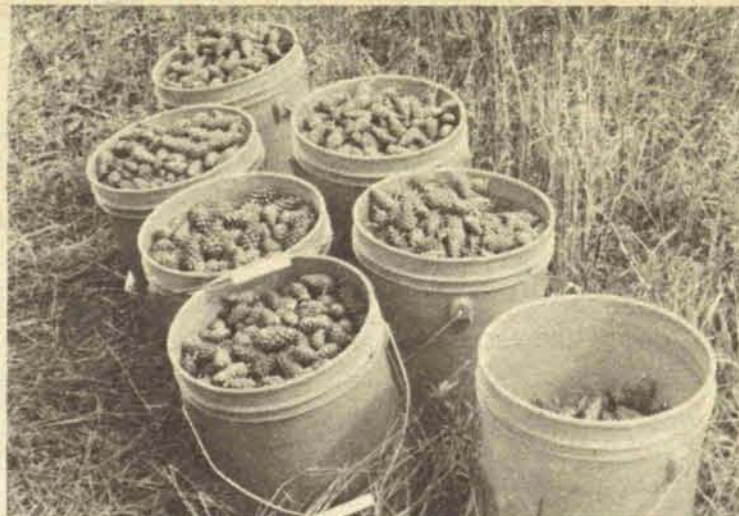
His awareness and vitality have gotten him involved in a lot of things. For instance, MSU generic tree research; an annual field day for Michigan Technological University students; and recently, a forestry award by the Baraga Soil and Water Conservation District (not usually given to Christmas tree farms) - for his outstanding efforts in tree and soil management.

How does he do it all? With the help of Maureen and their children: Robert, 18, John, 16, and Stephanie (a budding tree-tagger), 13. They do hire outside help, but it's clearly a family affair, and they love it!

But what, you ask, about their own Christmas tree? Doesn't being involved with Christmas trees all year dampen their enthusiasm?

"Not at all!" grins Maureen. "By December, it's all over but the shouting!"

Ho, Ho, HO!



A future tree farm in a pail. The Wahmhoffs set in seedling plantings each spring.



Robert Jr. takes a stroll through the tree rows before shearing time.

**WATCH FOR  
AUGUST FROZEN  
FRUIT SALE  
INFORMATION  
NEXT MONTH -  
THIS SPACE**

Linda Compney is a freelance writer living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

# Focus on Land Improvement



JULY 21-22-23

Growers can get substantially higher cropland yields on heavy soils when they do a good job of improving field drainage.

Farmers can find out how to do this during Ag Expo, July 21-23 at Michigan State University.

Field demonstrations on land improvement, including tile drainage installation, waterway construction and land contouring, will be held each afternoon. This segment of the three-day event is being conducted by the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors' Association.

Expo features the largest machinery and equipment show of its kind in the state. The full range of commercial exhibits includes such items as tractors, buildings and silos; tillage, forage and grain-handling equipment; irrigation systems; and farm service supplies. More than 200 exhibitors will

participate in this show, which covers 30 acres at Mt. Hope Road and Farm Lane, close to MSU's central campus.

The benefits of well drained cropland are many, but the most obvious is crop performance. Ted Loudon, MSU Cooperative Extension Service agricultural engineer, said recent statistics show corn yields increased from 70 bushels per acre to 124 bushels per acre after heavy soils had been tilled and equipped with surface drainage.

At \$3 per bushel for corn, that's the difference between incomes of \$210 and \$372 per acre.

"However, there are a lot more considerations for land improvement systems than just higher yields," Loudon said. "Drainage systems should be tailored to the soil type and land contour of the farm. When done properly, the drainage system helps improve soil permeability and tilth while

enhancing control of soil erosion and water pollution."

Ag Expo participants will have the opportunity to talk with MSU specialists and land improvement contractors about the variety of systems available, the costs and the cost/benefit ratio for each system.

Other Expo educational activities include tours of MSU crop variety plots, computer demonstrations, displays on energy conservation, 4-H youth programs and home food preservation, and antique machinery collections. Steam engines will also be demonstrated.

Expo is sponsored by the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Cooperative Extension Service and the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station. The event is open to the public and has no admission charge. Details of the three-day event may be obtained by calling MSU at 355-3477.

## Farming in the Space Between Cities

People attending this year's State Farm Management Tour will see how farmers are surviving in the shadow of a major metropolitan area.

The July 16 event, to be held primarily in Washtenaw County with one stop in Wayne County, is sponsored by the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service.

The nine farms were selected because of the quality of their management. The tour is part of MSU Extension's effort to help increase awareness of sometimes unique farming practices.

Extension specialists will conduct public interviews with each of the farm managers at 9:30 and 11:00 in the morning and 1:00 and 2:30 in the afternoon. There will be no noon program.

The farm stops include one cash crop operation and two each of dairy, sheep, swine and beef operations.

### Cash Crop

Talladay Farms, 6022 Judd Road, Milan, is a corporation managed by Keith and Barry Talladay. The operation consists of about 1,700 acres for the production of corn, soybeans, wheat and barley. About 300 head of cattle are fed out annually.

The farm corporation also operates a farm trenching business, a small grain processing plant and a 200,000-bushel grain elevator. The Talladays are experimenting with various

fertilizing methods to compare productivity, returns and alternative production methods.

### Dairy

Hosts for this segment of the tour are Leonard and Jim Burmeister, 5575 Steinbach Road, Ann Arbor, and Earl Horning, 11834 Pleasant Lake Road, Manchester.

The Burmeister's 340-acre operation produces corn, hay and wheat for the support of 130 Holstein cows, 60 of which are milking. The DHIA rolling herd average is 16,000 lbs. of milk per cow per year.

A highlight of this farm is the efficient card system used to monitor herd breeding and health. The Burmeisters recently built a new cow housing and milking facility and new farm shop for equipment maintenance and repair.

The Horning farm, begun in 1877, consists of 400 acres and produces corn, alfalfa, wheat and oats. Irrigation is used on 80 acres. The herd consists of 130 dairy animals, 70 of which are milking, with a DHIA rolling herd average of 16,000 lbs. of milk per cow per year.

The herd is maintained in a free-stall dairy system and includes a new, Virginia-style heifer barn. The operation recently started using calf hutches in its calf-raising program. The herd is fed a totally mixed ration and uses a new computerized magnet feeder.

Both families are active in community farm affairs and state dairy organizations.

### Swine

Hosts for this segment of the tour are Bill McCalla, 4100 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor, and Larry Briggs, 10431 Platt Road, Milan.

Bill and Jean McCalla operate Broad View Farms, consisting of 1,000 acres for cash crops: 600 acres of corn, 200 acres of wheat and 200 acres of hay.

The swine enterprise consists of about 50 purebred Yorkshire sows and 50 purebred Chester White sows. Nearly half the stock raised is sold for breeding purposes; the remainder is marketed locally.

Farrowing facilities include a new 10-crate modular farrowing house that augments an older 24-pen unit. The finishing facility has capacity for 340 head. This is an enclosed structure on partially slatted floors and has an auger delivery feeding system.

Individual sow records are maintained and include farrowing date, number of pigs and health requirements. Financial records are kept current through the MSU Telfarm program.

Larry and Elaine Briggs and their two sons operate a farrow-to-finish swine enterprise with 70 sows currently on hand. On 1,200 acres - 400 owned and the remainder rented on a share-crop or cash basis - they produce corn, soybeans and wheat.

A new farrowing and nursery building includes 20 farrowing crates and 16 nursery pens. The breeding and gestation

facility can house 95 sows, and the finishing facility can handle 300 head at once. Hogs are marketed primarily through the Michigan Live Stock Exchange on a cash basis.

A three-way crossbreeding program uses Durocs, Hampshires and Yorkshires. Future plans include expanding the breeding operation to 130 to 140 sows and increasing the number of animals marketed per year to 2,000. The Briggs also plan to limit or eliminate introduction of outside breeding stock to prevent disease problems.

The Briggs family is active in 4-H.

### Sheep

This segment of the tour includes stops at the Louell Roehm farm, 9221 West Waters Road, Ann Arbor, and the George Lawton farm, 48101 Joy Road, Plymouth (in Wayne County).

The Roehm farm has a commercial ewe flock of 266 animals based on 194 acres. Roehm is a well known shearer who has considerable experience with Western ewes. A highlight of this stop is his management approach and new facilities. The operation was begun in 1945.

The Lawton operation consists of 16 acres in the middle of a housing development. It involves 30 registered Suffolks and uses MSU breeding. The operation is characterized by highly efficient management and good handling facilities.

This operation, begun in 1968, augments Lawton's career with the Community Federal Credit Union. The family is very active in Extension 4-H youth programs.

### Beef

Poet Farms is operated by Stanley and Beverly Poet, 10389 Burmeister Road, Manchester. This farm consists of 360 acres that produce corn, rye and hay, marketed through more than 400 cattle sold annually.

The feeding program consists of corn silage, wet brewer's grain and mineral-pack hay. Nearly all of the cattle are purchased locally.

The family is involved in the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, the Michigan Cow Belles, 4-H, their county Farm Bureau and the Washtenaw Farm Council.

The Herbert Dible operation, at 7650 Waters Road, Ann Arbor, has 55 brood cows supported by 240 acres of wheat, corn, hay and oats. The main source of income for this farm is the sale of purebred Angus. The cattle are shown in the Michigan Angus Futurity and other shows, where they have won many ribbons and trophies. The operation, adjoining a large subdivision, is characterized by excellent management.

Details of this year's State Farm Management Tour may be obtained from the Washtenaw County Cooperative Extension Service, phone 313-973-9510.

## CAPITOL REPORT

By  
Robert E. Smith

### Landowners Warned About New Lease Form

A new lease form, described as "perfectly legal, but with far-reaching consequences for landowners," has appeared on the scene of Michigan's hotbed of oil and gas leasing activity.

Ron Gaskill, MFB local affairs specialist, says that landowners should be aware that the new form is known as a mineral deed and includes all minerals - not just oil and gas.

"If signed, this form would lease 50 percent of ALL minerals located on a landowner's

property, which means that 50 percent of all minerals on the land would be owned by the leasing company," Gaskill explained.

"Landowners should carefully read lease forms and be absolutely sure of what they are signing," he warned. "They may not want to sign away half of their mineral rights in order to get an oil and gas lease."

Gaskill urged landowners to consult an attorney for clarification before signing this type of lease.

## Legislature Addresses Vital Agricultural Concerns

Sen. Dick Allen (R-Ithaca) has introduced legislation (S.B. 334) which would allow the state to use a portion of oil and gas severance taxes for repair and maintenance of local roads and bridges.

Allen points out that of 24 states having oil and gas severance taxes, 15 states either return a portion of those revenues to local units of government or earmark them for roads.

S.B. 334, as introduced, provides that approximately one third of severance tax revenues would be used for roads and bridges. One-half of this would go to the county road fund in the county of origin, one-fourth would be spread equally among each of the state's 83 counties and one-fourth would be used for the state's critical bridge program.

The bill allows use of only that portion of increased revenues which is greater than a growth rate of 10 percent. Michigan's booming oil and gas exploration should result in increased severance tax revenues.

Severance tax rate increases went into effect Jan. 1, 1980 resulting in a 300 percent collection increase between 1979 and 1980. 1979 collections were \$15 million, 1980 revenues jumped to \$64 million and 1981 revenues could be as high as \$80 million.

Based on this data and projections, Allen's proposal could produce anywhere from \$10 to \$80 million for local road and bridge funds.

Michigan's entire road system is facing a crisis with declin-

ing revenues and escalating costs. Over 60 percent of the state highway system is rated "critically deficient" in at least one of four categories - service, base, capacity and safety.

However, no road system has been harder pinched than the 88,712-mile network administered by county road commissions.

S.B. 334, if passed, would be helpful but would not, in most cases, begin to replace other declining revenues. Some county road commissions are facing almost total shutdown; all are making severe cutbacks through layoffs and elimination of construction, repair and other maintenance services. Many lack the funds to match federal aid road improvement allocations.

#### Fuel Allocation

Rep. Nick Smith (R-Addison) and 11 co-sponsors have introduced H.R. 204 memorializing the U.S. Congress to retain the "emergency stand by energy allocation provisions of the Emergency Allocation Act of 1973."

The 1973 act is due to expire Sept. 30, 1981. A portion of that federal law provided for an allocation system to equalize crude oil costs among refineries, particularly to assure equity to small independent refiners including farmer cooperatives.

Because major oil companies have been withdrawing from rural markets, independent refineries and marketers, including farmer cooperatives, have become the primary source of supply for rural areas and farmers.

### Timber Industry Growing, Governor Told



Michigan Independent Wood Producers Association of Alpena officers John Walters and Hardy Elowsky recently presented Gov. William G. Milliken with a 600-pound cross section of a rare Northern virgin white pine - a symbol of the resurgence of the timber industry in lower Michigan.

The cross section came from a 90-foot, fire-damaged tree which grew on state land near Alpena. Marked for harvest by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the tree supplied more than 4,000 board feet of lumber.

These small refiners are dependent on the major oil companies for supplies of crude oil during periods of shortages. In the past, these suppliers, particularly cooperatives, have been the first to suffer crude oil shortages.

For example, during the 1979 shortage, cooperatives were able to operate at only 50 percent of capacity while the industry average was 85 percent. As a result, farmers suffered a severe shortage of diesel and other fuels at the height of the planting season.

Because of the federal law and a special rule, sufficient supplies of diesel fuel were required to be allocated to agriculture.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and state Farm Bureaus are supporting legislation in Congress to retain the "emergency allocation program."

#### Ground Pork Standards

H.B. 4714, introduced by Rep. Dodak (D-Montrose) would amend the Michigan comminuted meat law to provide standards for ground pork. Presently, there are standards for sausage but not for ground pork, which is a new product being promoted by some stores and the Michigan Pork Association.

The legislation would require that only fresh pork be used with no more than 25 percent fat and would prohibit the addition of various other parts of the animal. These standards are similar to Michigan's higher standards for ground beef.

There are no federal standards for ground pork.

Farm Bureau supports this legislation. If H.B. 4714 passes, Michigan will be the first state to have standards for both sausage and ground pork. This new, high standard product should be very helpful to Michigan's pork industry.

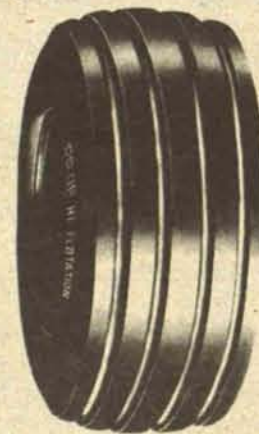
#### Vitamin A in Milk

A proposed amendment to the state's milk standard would eliminate the requirement that vitamin A be returned to skim and other low fat milk.

H.B. 4621 is under consideration by the state Senate, but

(continued on page 10)

## Pre-Harvest Sale



### CO-OP Hi-Flotation

A go anywhere wagon tire or implement tire where Hi-Flotation is needed. Wide enough to float across wet fields with minimum ground compaction.

**\$48<sup>99</sup>**

11L-15SL 6 ply +\$1.56 FET

9.5L-15SL 6 ply \$48.49 +\$1.42 FET

11L-15SL 8 ply \$53.05 +\$1.54 FET

Available at participating Farmers Petroleum dealers while supply lasts

**SALE ENDS JULY 18**



# Farm Bureau Leaders Speak Out for Tax Cut

President Reagan has found Farm Bureau a strong ally in the battle to get his total economic recovery package through Congress.

In early spring, Farm Bureau members throughout the nation joined in a letter-writing campaign urging congressmen to support the Reagan bipartisan budget resolution (Gramm-Latta Substitute). That resolution passed the House on May 7.

Following through on the organization's commitment to control deficit federal spending and curb inflation, members are now gathering support for the president's proposed three year, 30 percent tax cut.

In Michigan, MFB President Elton R. Smith wrote to all members of the state's congressional delegation, telling them he did not buy the reasoning that a tax cut would be inflationary and prevent a balanced budget.

"Michigan Farm Bureau rejects the premise that it is NOT inflationary for the federal government to take taxpayer money and spend it - but that it WOULD BE inflationary to let taxpayers keep some of their money and spend it themselves," Smith told the congressman.

"Under a tax cut program, taxpayers would even save some of their 'extra money' - an ability the federal government has not demonstrated."

Those who are for balancing the budget before cutting taxes are actually supporting more federal spending rather than less, Smith said.

"Bracket creep, plus windfall profit taxes plus other taxes will balance the budget at ever high levels of federal spending," he said. "This is precisely what a tax cut program reducing tax rates for at least three years would be trying to correct."

"We believe that postponing a tax cut package will only postpone the much needed build-up in savings and the subsequent investment for the expanded economic output on which economic recovery is dependent."

"I cannot urge you strongly enough to support a tax cut package of at least three years duration. The positive signals this would send to all taxpayers, the confidence it would build in our nation, and the subsequent renewed public faith it would build toward Congress, are immeasurable," he said.



MFB Vice President Jack Laurie told reporters that President Reagan's tax cut would mean an estimated \$119 million in savings to Michigan agriculture.

## Tax Cut Would Boost Michigan Economy

The four farmers who make up the MFB board of directors' legislative committee held a news conference in Lansing on June 9 to tell reporters why the tax cut would boost the agricultural industry and, consequently, the state's entire economy.

John Laurie, Tuscola County dairyman and MFB vice president, said the proposed tax cut would mean an estimated \$119 million in savings to Michigan agriculture - a savings which, he predicted, farmers would use to improve their family owned businesses.

"As farmers invest in farm machinery, equipment and buildings, the total potential impact on the state's economy will be almost \$487 million - and that does not include the savings from proposed changes in depreciation and investment credit rules," Laurie said.

"I'm confident that Michigan farmers will, more than any other segment of our economy, use this broad, across the board tax cut to invest in and improve their family owned farms, thus further increasing the productivity of our state's number one industry. In addition, a healthier and more vigorous agriculture will help

create more goods, services and jobs for the entire Michigan economy," he said.

Laurie said a tax cut of less than 10 percent a year would not do the job.

"We need substantial tax cuts for a sustained period of time to renew confidence in our economy and inspire long-term planning," he said.

"It's important to remember that if no tax cut is enacted, bracket creep and inflation will force farmers and all consumers into sending a larger and larger percentage of their personal income to the federal government," Laurie said. "If present trends continue, most taxpayers will be in the top 50 percent tax bracket on their earned income by the year 2000 - less than 20 years from now. That will not be a very pleasant way for us or our children, to start the new century."

Appearing with Laurie were Michael Pridgeon, Branch County hog producer; Donald Nugent, Benzie County fruit farmer; and William Spike, Shiawassee County dairy and cash crop farmer.

All four men had sent letters to their congressmen outlining what Reagan's tax cut would mean to Michigan agriculture and urging them to support it.

## Farm Bureau on the NATIONAL SCENE

### Senate Approves Cuts in Food Stamp Program

By a vote of 77-17, the Senate approved a food stamp bill that continues the program for four years, but with deep funding cuts that could eliminate about one million recipients and reduce benefits for others.

The Republican-controlled Senate approved \$1.8 billion in food stamp reductions for fiscal 1982 - even more than President Reagan proposed.

The Senate bill caps funding for the food stamp program at \$10.9 billion in fiscal 1982.

The bill's savings come from reducing the number of eligible participants, accounting changes and barring food stamps for persons on a labor strike.

The biggest cut requested by the president was a reduction in food stamp benefits for families with children receiving free school lunches. However, the Senate refused to allow this additional reduction in food stamp benefits.

### Farm Credit Policies Reviewed

The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit and Rural Development held hearings on June 23 to explore the impact of credit policies on American agriculture. The subcommittee reviewed farm credit policies of federal lending and regulatory agencies and the policies of major private institutional lenders. The hearing focused on the current and long term outlook for the availability and cost of credit to agricultural borrowers.

### USDA Proposes FmHA Rule Changes

The USDA has proposed six regulatory revisions to tighten controls on those who benefit from the Farm Disaster Emergency Loan Program, administered by the Farmers Home Administration.

One of the six changes requires that USDA declare a region "a disaster area" only when a natural disaster hinders more than 25 farmers in a county. In the past, FmHA made the disaster designation regardless of the number of farmers affected.

FmHA officials said that the new regulations were devised to direct agency funds and staff resources toward helping farmers who truly need federal financial aid to recover from disaster related problems. These other changes were also proposed:

- Emergency loans can no longer be used to expand farming operations beyond the amount conducted before the disaster.

- Borrowers who receive emergency loans for operating purposes must obtain the minimum required level of all risk crop insurance if available.

- Procedures used to calculate production losses have been revised to more accurately reflect the applicant's actual loss.

- Minimum criterion for eligibility for actual production loss loans is increased from 20 percent to a 30 percent loss of a normal year's production.

- The amount of subsidized loans each borrower may receive was reduced from 90 percent to 80 percent.

### AFBF Favors USDA Reorganization

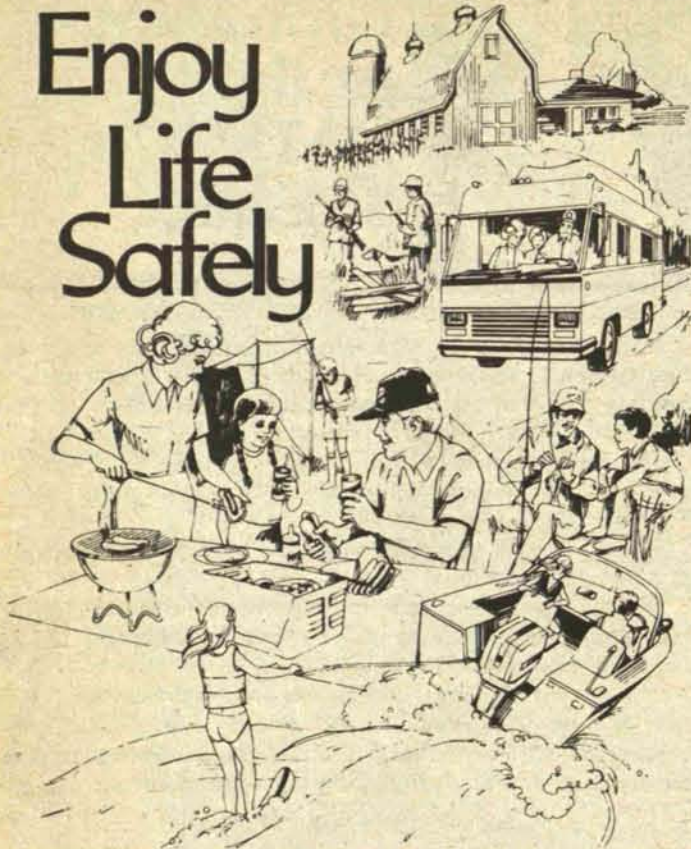
AFBF President Robert Delano reacted favorably to USDA's reorganization plans, saying the reorganization will allow for better coordination of efforts and less bureaucracy in the department.

USDA's reorganization calls for the establishment of a new agency - the Human Nutrition Information Service. Both the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill create a new assistant secretary position for research and education activities.

"We hope the streamlining of USDA will continue beyond this step," said Delano, referring to the research and education functions of the department. The reorganization upgrades and decentralizes those functions somewhat through the dissolution of the Science and Education Administration.

Other changes at the department include the re-establishment of the Packers and Stockyards Administration as a separate USDA agency.

# Enjoy Life Safely



NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK JULY 25-31, 1981

## FBIG Urges Families to Work and Play Safely

Michigan farmers helped contribute to a \$5 billion loss for American agriculture last year. How? Through farm accidents.

Over 4,000 farm people were killed and 400,000 injured or disabled in the nation last year, many of them from Michigan. Besides all this human suffering, the economic loss caused by the deaths and injuries of farm people totals \$5 billion annually in the United States.

July 25-31 is National Farm Safety Week, and Farm Bureau Insurance Group is cooperating with the National Safety Council to spread the vital message across Michigan.

Radio messages, newspaper ads and mailings to policyholders are all part of FBIG's program to emphasize farm safety in the coming weeks.

The theme of this year's Farm Safety Week is "Enjoy Life Safely," emphasizing the need for farm people to be safety conscious during their

leisure time as well as during their work hours.

The theme emphasizes that whether farm residents are injured on the job or while enjoying activities such as swimming, boating, camping, or biking, the pain, medical costs, disability and reduced productivity are the same.

Besides this message of leisure time safety, FBIG's Farm Safety Week messages also encourage Michigan farmers to wear personal protective equipment, such as gloves, safety shoes and hard hats for farm jobs, and to teach children the proper respect for farm machinery. The radio messages also remind farmers to replace faded slow-moving-vehicle emblems with new ones.

One message reminds Michigan farmers: "You are in one of Michigan's most vital - and hazardous - occupations. Farm Bureau Insurance Group wants you to enjoy life safely. Michigan needs you."

## Farm Safety Week, July 25-31

# Stress a Factor in Farm Mishaps

Farming is a business with more than its share of trials and tribulations, according to William D. Hanford, manager of the National Safety Council's farm department.

"While farm expenses seem to be on a one-way trip to the moon," Hanford says, "farm prices go up and down like a roller coaster, creating fear that the reward for a year of hard work will be nothing but red ink.

"Combine that with worry about inflation, high taxes, Middle East conflicts, family problems, and uncertainty with respect to fuel, transportation, storage and labor, and you have a lot of farmers in a state of real anxiety.

"Even the farm work environment adds harmful stresses not shared by most other workers, such as long hours, cold, heat, storms, chemicals, machinery noise and the jolt of

rough-riding equipment," Hanford says.

Stress can be good or bad. The mild anxiety people often experience before giving a speech or taking the field in an athletic event can help them to do a better job than if they were too relaxed.

But stress arising from fear, worry, a sense of helplessness and trying to deal with difficult problems seemingly beyond their capabilities can immobilize people and set them up for chronic health problems and even serious accidents.

Farm safety leaders believe that stress, both physical and psychological, is a key factor in many serious farm accidents. Therefore, keeping stress levels from becoming intolerable and causing accidents is necessary for every farmer.

"If something has really got you down," advises Hanford, "put off hazardous jobs until

you are able to handle them safely. Or have someone else do them. Avoid unnecessary confrontations and arguments with your family or employees. Try to 'keep your cool' and resolve conflicts before they cause real anguish. Avoid over-fatigue. And don't let your problem pull your attention away from the job at hand.

"Even your equipment has a lot to do with your frame of mind. If you buy quality stuff and keep it working right, it's less likely to give you trouble or break down - and that's a common cause of anger and frustration," Hanford says.

"Don't bottle it up inside. Talk to someone - your spouse, an understanding friend, your pastor, or family doctor. If you still feel you simply can't cope, seek professional help. Taking appropriate action to manage stress will help you farm better and live a safer, longer, happier life."

## Capitol Report

# Legislature Nears Summer Recess

(continued from page 8)

is being strongly opposed by Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Independent Milk Producers and the Michigan Department of Public Health.

The present standards require that vitamin A be returned to skim and other low fat milk. Vitamins in milk are in the cream and when it is removed, vitamins are removed.

Testimony from health authorities points out that serious health problems result from lack of adequate vitamin A.

Farm Bureau and other opposition groups insist that if the amendment legislation passes, it must include a requirement for special and distinctive labeling so that the consumer is aware that the product does not conform to federal and state standards.

## Industrial Hostage Bill

H.B. 4330, introduced by Rep. Bullard (D-Ann Arbor), is on the House floor for action. It is an excellent example of why Michigan's business climate has such a bad reputation.

The bill requires that before an employer could close, he would have to give one year's notice to unions, the Department of Labor and the local municipality and provide an economic impact statement. It also requires employers to provide 12 months of paid up health insurance, severance pay and leave time.

This legislation has potential impact for agriculturally related processing industries, which the state hopes to attract. The Governor's Agricultural Conference, held April 1 and 2, recommended that Michigan seek meat packing, soybean processing, fertilizer, cheese and fruit processing plants.

Farm Bureau opposes H.B. 4330. Gov. Milliken has also expressed opposition to this legislation.

## Right to Farm

H.B. 4054, which assures farmers operating under sound farm management practices of freedom from nuisance and harassment suits, has passed the Senate. If the House agrees to the Senate amendments, it will soon be signed into law by the governor.

## Prompt Pay

Two of the five prompt pay proposals (S.B. 110 and S.B. 112) introduced by Sen. John Hertel (D-Harper Woods), have passed the Senate and are now in the House Agriculture Committee.

S.B. 110 would increase the bond requirements for potato dealers and S.B. 112 would make major changes in the Michigan Grain Dealers' Act.

Companion bills, S.B. 111 and 338, dealing with milk, and S.B. 113, fruit and vegetable processing, have been delayed by the Senate until the fall session.

A House special subcommittee is working on two similar proposals on prompt pay for milk producers. These bills, H.B. 4188 and H.B. 4363, were introduced by Rep. Dresel (R-Holland).

Final action on all of these bills will be in the fall legislative session. The Michigan Legislature will adjourn July 2 and reconvene in September.

## Attention Shutterbugs

"The good life of rural Michigan" is the theme of a color photo contest being held by Farm Bureau Insurance Group between now and Oct. 16.

Open to any resident of Michigan (except employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies and their immediate families), entrants may submit up to three color photos or slides depicting life in rural Michigan.

At least 10 awards will be

presented, including \$100 bonds and plaques on which the winning photos will be mounted. The award-winning photos and slides will be published in a variety of ways, such as in FBIG advertisements and the annual report, with the photographer receiving full credit whenever his or her photo or slide is used.

For full details and contest rules, see the back page of this issue of *Michigan Farm News*.

**AUGUST FROZEN  
FRUIT SALE  
INFORMATION  
NEXT MONTH**

# Young Farmers Announce Contests

## Discussion Meet

District contests for MFB's Young Farmer Discussion Meet will begin in mid-September and run through October. The discussion meets provide young farmers with an opportunity to express their views regarding current agricultural issues.

Topics have been selected for the 1981 discussion meets by the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and will be used in the county, district, state and national contests. The four topics selected for the 1981 contests are:

*What can be the role of Young Farmers and Ranchers in improving public awareness of farmer needs (i.e., financial requirements, land requirements and use, water management and use)?*

*In the past, government has interfered in the markets for agricultural products. What are the implications of a market oriented policy for producers of the future?*

*Land use decisions are being made. What are the alternatives and to what extent, if any, should government be involved?*

*What is the importance of continued agricultural research*

*and who should bear this expense?*

Two winners will be selected at each district contest to compete in the state contest in Grand Rapids Dec. 2 as part of the MFB annual meeting.

The winner of the state meet will compete in the national contest at the AFBF annual meeting in San Diego in January 1982 and receive an expense paid trip for two to that convention.

## Distinguished Young Farmer

The Distinguished Young Farmer Award recognizes successful young Farm Bureau members for outstanding achievement in farming and leadership in the agricultural community.

Applicants must be regular Farm Bureau members and not have passed their 31st birthdays by Dec. 31, 1981. Former contestants, with the exception of previous first place state winners, are eligible for the contest.

An award will be prepared by the state Young Farmer Department and distributed to all county award winners at county annual meetings this fall. A minimum of three state awards will be given and the first place winner and spouse will receive

an expense paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting in San Diego in January 1982.

## Outstanding Young Farm Woman

With the role of women in agriculture constantly changing, the Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award is designed to develop leadership skills and to recognize young Farm Bureau women for outstanding achievement.

Applicants must be regular Farm Bureau members, be no more than 32 years of age on Dec. 31, 1981 and must use an official entry form for the state award contest.

Award certificates for county winners are available from the Young Farmer Department for presentation at county annual meetings. One winner and one runner-up will be selected at the MFB annual meeting in December as state winners. The first place winner will receive an expense paid trip for two to the Washington Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C., in March 1982.

The deadline for submitting applications for the state contest is Nov. 1. Applications should be sent to Organization Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.



## MDA Names Kindinger New Assistant Director

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger has been appointed assistant director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Kindinger replaces Calvin C. "Pete" Lutz, who left the department May 1 to resume his former position as state director of the Farmers Home Administration.

Kindinger joined MDA in September 1979 as chief of the department's Marketing and International Trade Division. Prior to that, he was director of Michigan Farm Bureau's Commodity Activities and Research Division for four years, taught

at the University of Minnesota, and held a teaching and research graduate assistantship at Cornell University in New York.

A native of Michigan, Dr. Kindinger received his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from Michigan State University, and his doctorate from Cornell.

Kindinger recently served as co-chairman of the steering committee for the Governor's Conference on Agriculture which involved some 1,000 interested citizens and government leaders.

## From Tea Cozy to Furniture

# New Service Appeals to 'Do-It-Yourselfers'

A new concept is emerging in American homes - the Home Entertainment Center. With the growing interest in sophisticated video and audio equipment, more and more families are seeking convenient, attractive storage for their electronics units.

The TV/Stereo/Bookcase pictured here not only provides ample display area for a complete home center...but is also an attractive piece of furniture. By selecting the right wood finish and hardware, you can match this piece to your present furniture. And as your tastes and interests change, the unit can serve as a handsome display case for cherished memorabilia!

But the best part is you can build it yourself. Using 3/4" and 1/4" plywood plus 3/4" lumber (of your choice), this cabinet can be built from our complete step-by-step plan which guides you through every detail. Included in this plan are scale drawings, a complete bill of materials, and data on each piece.

To obtain the TV/Stereo/Bookcase, Plan #628, via first class mail, send \$2.50 by check or money order to Steve Ellingson, c/o: Michigan Farm News Pattern Dept., P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, Calif. 91409.



## Soft on Dolls

By stretching a stocking over polyester fiberfill, pinching, modeling and a few basic hand stitches to define outlines of the features, you can create a soft sculpture doll.

Gramma and Grampa are pictured here, but there are 11

dolls including a kitchen witch, a tea cozy, a tree-top angel, Santa, Mrs. Claus, a schoolmarm, a mermaid, baby and cello player. Full-size traceable patterns and step-by-step directions are given for all the characters.

Special instructions tell you how to use your fingers or a



needle and thread for creating certain expressive faces. Also, add finishing touches such as make-up, button eyes, hair, eyelashes and brows. Directions and patterns for the dolls' clothing are also included.

To obtain the 15-page guidebook entitled Soft Sculpture Dolls, #SP22, just send \$3.25

(includes first class postage and handling) by check or money order to: Michigan Farm News Pattern Dept., P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, Calif. 91409.

Be sure to include your name, address and zip code and the pattern number.

# Futures Trading and Hedging: A Tool for Risk Management

In a recent USDA survey, 93 percent of the farmers polled said they should know more about futures trading.

In another survey by the USDA Crop Report Service, less than 7 percent of the farmers questioned had actually traded futures contracts recently and about half of those who did trade were speculating rather than hedging.

One thing that most producers don't realize is that if their production is not hedged, either through forward contracting or futures transaction, then they are speculating.

A wheat grower is betting that the price of wheat will not go down before his crop is ready to harvest and sell. A cattle feeder bets that the feeding margin will not turn unfavorable while the cattle are in his feedlot.

Many farmers are relatively satisfied with this cash price speculation. Certainly, most are used to it. But producers should recognize the risks they are assuming. By using futures markets, producers can help reduce this risk.

Understanding how futures markets operate can provide key benefits to agricultural pro-

ducers, even if they never trade a single contract. The price and market information generated by the futures markets can assist in making production and marketing decisions. Going further, forward contracting and hedging are made possible by futures markets.

## Hedging to Avoid Risk

Hedging is a term widely used, but often misunderstood. Simply stated, hedging is a futures market position which is a substitute for a transaction planned later in the cash market. Once the actual commodity is bought or sold in the cash market, the futures contract is lifted.

For example, you have 100,000 bushels of grain in the field or bin and have that same 100,000 bushels sold on a futures contract. You have locked in a price for your commodity. This is hedging.

In this situation, if prices move up 10 cents per bushel, you gain 10 cents on the cash market and lose 10 cents on the futures contract - offsetting gains and losses. The reverse occurs if prices drop 10 cents, since prices in cash and futures

markets tend to move together. So a hedge provides insulation against adverse price change. This allows a producer to transfer risk and/or lock-in profits. However, just as hedging provides this price protection against losses from price declines, a hedge can also limit profits when prices increase.

In considering whether to use futures markets yourself, a critical decision is the amount and type of risk your farm should carry at a given time. An older farmer, with lots of equity in a relatively stable price period, faces a far different risk situation than a young, financially extended farmer in a period of price uncertainty.

Your ability to handle stress is important too. How well do you sleep when the crop is nearly ready to harvest, or when markets seem nervous?

Finally, your attitude about futures trading is important. Some farmers worry more about a \$2,000 margin call (which you'll get back - directly or indirectly when the hedge is lifted) than they do about \$20,000 in unpriced grain.

## The Advantages

Unless you have a good reason to rule out hedging as a management strategy, you'll probably want to consider some of the unique advantages it can offer.

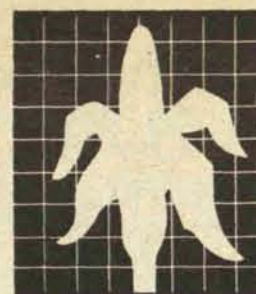
The most obvious reason for a farmer to hedge is to protect against a loss that the business cannot afford.

The young farmer and the expanding farmer, in particular, may well have crucial periods in which it is more important to avoid the big loss than anything else.

These farmers need time to grow into their new operations and are more than willing to take an adequate return rather than speculating on a high cash price. Hedging can protect them during the period - and more and more frequently lenders are insisting on such loan protections.

Hedging can also lengthen the season in which you can choose to sell your output. Farmers can price grain before it is planted, or cattle before they are put on feed.

For example, cash grains are normally marketed within a 12-month period from the time they are harvested to the next harvest. Futures markets can add an extra 12 months by extending the opportunity to sell the planned commodity from the fall before planting to the



## AGRINOMIC UPDATE

Report of the Commodity  
Activities & Research Department

actual harvest and, then, for the entire storage period.

Livestock producers can lengthen their marketing season even more dramatically, since live animals are costly to hold once they reach full finish. At that point, rates of gain fall off sharply and yield grades can drop.

While the cash marketing period is only a few weeks, a hedge can be put on during any favorable price move over a period of several months - from well before the start of the feeding cycle until the animals are ready to market.

## The Basis

The first step in using futures markets more effectively is to study the local basis - the difference between the futures market price for a selected month and the local stock market price.

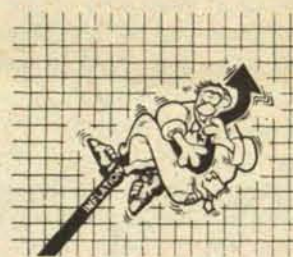
The basis is a key to building a better marketing plan, regardless of whether that plan involves hedging in futures, because it's more predictable from year to year than the movement of either cash or future prices.

The basis is expressed in cents under or over price quotations for nearby futures (the nearest maturing futures contract) or for a specified futures contract month.

To develop a guide to your local basis patterns, record and compare daily or weekly local cash prices against the futures market quotation for your commodity over the last year - better still, over the last three years.

A basis chart or table can then serve as an early warning signal of potential problems or opportunities in marketing

(continued on page 13)



## Pitfalls of Farmer Hedging

Commodity hedging is not something to be entered into lightly, without extensive study and preparation.

As a guide, here is a list of major pitfalls into which farmers have fallen in the past.

**Bypassing the Basis** - The first step in using futures markets effectively is to study your local basis - the difference between the futures market price for a selected month and the local spot price.

**Slipping Into Speculation** - Countless stories tell of farmers who lost big money in hedging programs. Often it turns out that the farmer who lost money had gone beyond a safe hedge into a risky speculation.

**Becoming a Know-It-All** - Overconfidence - whether based on some advisory service guaranteed formula or your own extensive research - can encourage risk taking and disaster. No one knows for certain where the market is going, or when.

**Trading Without a Plan** - Futures markets move rapidly and often erratically. Without a trading plan, the hedger may get caught up in the psychology of the moment and risk serious mistakes. That's why a trading plan is one of the keys to success.

**Snubbing the Plan** - Trading plans are no help when hedgers don't follow them. This could lead to a dangerous position, the same as for those who have no plan.

**Neglecting the Banker** - Margin calls need not be any terror for the hedger who is backed by a knowledgeable lender. A lender who has agreed to support a hedging program is an important prerequisite to futures trading.

**Sharing With the Spouse** - The spouse's first contact with hedging should not come when the phone rings for a margin call. Your spouse should be involved in the beginning, studying hedging right along with you to fully understand its place in your farm management plan.

**Staying Into Delivery** - Experienced hedgers usually avoid delivery periods. That's when the big share of problems in futures markets occur.

## Pre-Harvest Sale



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A go anywhere wagon tire or implement tire where Hi-Flotation is needed. Wide enough to float across wet fields with minimum ground compaction.

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11L-15SL 6 ply + \$1.56 FET

9.5L-15SL 6 ply \$48.49 + \$1.42 FET

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Available at participating Farmers Petroleum  
dealers while supply lasts

**SALE ENDS JULY 18**

## 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 agricultural 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 May 1981 were:



**HARRY MEINTZ**

**Week of May 4** - Harry Meintz, 31, a dairy farmer from Stephenson in Menominee County. Meintz, who farms 550 acres and milks 50 cows, is a DHIA county board member; Menominee County FB president; PCA board member; county and district MABC chairman; and Precious Blood Catholic Church member. Meintz received the Farm Management Award from MSU in 1980. He and his wife, Paula, who is vice chairperson of the U.P. Farm Bureau Women, have two children.

**Week of May 18** - Stan Poet, 38, a cattleman from Manchester who farms 360 acres and feeds over 400 head of cattle. He is a Michigan Cattlemen's Association board member; member and past president of the Washtenaw Livestock Council; Bridgewater ASCS committeeman; 4-H Club leader specializing in small engine projects; Washtenaw County FB member; Bridgewater Township board of review member; recipient of the 1975 Michigan Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer Award and the 1963 FFA American Farmer Degree; and past president of the Manchester Jaycees. He serves on the Saline High School Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Saline Schools ad hoc committee. Poet and his wife, Beverly, have four children.



**CARL VERMEESCH**

**Week of May 11** - Carl Vermeesch, 27, who farms 360 acres and milks 44 Holstein cows near Yale. Vermeesch, who farms with his wife, Mary Lee, is a Brockway Township Planning Commission member; volunteer fireman with the Brockway Township Fire Department; active in Sacred Heart Church, serving as choir member, lector and lay minister; local MMPA delegate; and was voted Outstanding Young Farmer of his MMPA local this year. He is a St. Clair County FB board member; county FB Young Farmer chairman; and was named St. Clair County FB's Outstanding Young Farmer.

**DONALD HATFIELD**

**Week of May 25** - Donald Hatfield, 57, a Remus area dairy and cash crop farmer who farms 700 acres and milks 50 registered Jersey cows in partnership with two sons. Hatfield has been a Chippewa Hills School Board member for over 12 years. He is a director of the Federal Land Bank in Clare; Mecosta County ASCS member; member and past president of the Mecosta County FB; active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Remus and past Church Council member; and past member of the Wheatland Township Review Board and the Mecosta County Zoning Board. Hatfield served on the Mecosta-Osceola Skill Center Agricultural Advisory Board; served 15 years as a 4-H leader; and is now in his tenth year as a member of the Remus Co-op Creamery board. He and his wife, Edna, have six grown children and are currently the foster parents of two children.



**STAN POET**

**National Farm Safety Week July 25-31**

## Agronomic Update, continued from page 12

crops. If the basis is narrowing, it may signal a good profit opportunity. If it is widening, farmers should look for a reason.

Basis patterns are particularly important to the hedger. Through hedging, you can use the futures market to protect yourself against any major adverse price movement and to take advantage of normal basis patterns.

Hedgers must watch the basis since they are exposed to risk - the risk that local cash prices and futures prices will not track together for a time.

### No Guarantee of Profit

Despite the potential value of hedging, the process is not routine and mechanical. Automatic hedging, for example, selling futures equal to one-half of your corn crop at planting each

year, is no better guarantee of profits than automatically selling your corn at harvest.

Experienced hedgers do it selectively. Basically, that means if you are a crop farmer, you would hedge when the price of your commodity is more likely to go down than up. If you are a livestock feeder, you would hedge when the price of feeds is more likely to go up.

The key is to hedge at the right time - before the market moves in the wrong direction. It takes intensive study and up-to-the-minute market information to do this successfully.

No evidence indicates that a farmer can consistently benefit from hedging without careful study of the markets and situation at any given time.

If you hedge, you have to invest the time necessary to become familiar with futures, how they work, and how they might be useful to you. Whether to hedge is your decision, but, according to many economists, it's a farm management tool far too important to be casually overlooked. A farmer who ignores futures and continues to speculate in cash prices should do so as a conscious decision and not from habit.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was taken from a five-part series in the USDA Farmline. If you would like to receive this entire series on futures markets and hedging, please write: Futures, Farmline Staff, Room 505, GHI Building, ESS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.)*

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We're so sure you'll profit from the Weevlchek Alfalfa 4-cut system, we're offering a special rebate for Weevlchek purchases made between July 1st and August 30th! See your Farm Bureau dealer for complete details.

**Get Weevlchek Alfalfa Only At Your Farm Bureau Dealer!**

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## See The 1981 Regional Forage Expos

Where Your Farm Comes First

<b>Farm Bureau</b>	July 1 — Kent - Montcalm Co. — Ross Fiske Farm
	July 7 — Sanilac Co. — Servergence Farm
	* July 9 — Barry Co. — W. K. Kellogg Farm (MSU)
	* July 14 — Missaukee Co. — Lake City Experiment Station

\* See the Weevlchek test plots at these locations



**YOU GET \$7 REBATE!**  
Per 60 lb. bag—July 1-Aug. 30, 1981

## Almy Appointed to State Inventory Advisory Committee

Al Almy, MFB Public Affairs Division director, has been re-appointed by Gov. Milliken to a four-year term on the Michigan Inventory Advisory Committee.

The committee was appointed in 1980 in accordance with P.A. 204, the Resource Inventory Act of 1979. It will play an important role in assuring that the state's natural resources will be managed and protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

Committee members are charged with assisting the De-

partment of Natural Resources in inventorying the state's agricultural, forest and mineral lands and identifying areas of a unique or sensitive nature and lands most suited for growth or redevelopment.

Almy will serve until May 1985, if confirmed by the Senate.

He is a member of the Political Action Exchange Council Steering Committee, the Political Action Committee Legislative Task Force and secretary of MFB's AgriPac.

## MSU Agriculture Economists Publish Management Guide

Commercial farm managers, agricultural advisers and agribusinessmen will find farm management guidelines in a new book coauthored by three Michigan State University agricultural economists.

*Managing the Farm Business*, published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., was written by Stephen B. Harsh, Larry J. Connor and Gerald D. Schwab. It is a basic text in farm management that will be beneficial to the beginning farm manager as well as the experienced producer.

The emphasis of the book is on the decision-making processes involved in good farm management. A systems approach to management is used, with concepts, principles and techniques drawn from such fields as economics, operations

research, accounting, finance, and even psychology and sociology.

The book discusses problems which might occur during the various stages of farm firm development and treats the firm as a totally integrated system viewed in a holistic sense.

Farm business organization alternatives, accounting information systems, farm record keeping, resource control and investment analysis, management of labor and machinery, and income tax management are all discussed in detail.

The information provided can assist persons engaged in the direct production and marketing of agricultural products, helping them to more effectively and efficiently operate their businesses.

## MFB Members Appointed to State Apple Commission

Three Michigan Farm Bureau members have been appointed to the Michigan Apple Commission by Gov. Milliken, subject to Senate confirmation.

Harry D. Overhiser, an Allegan County FB member, will succeed Howard N. Gilmer of Augusta from District 2.

An apple and cherry farm operator, Overhiser is a member and past president of the Michigan State Horticultural Society and a former member of the society's executive board. He is a past chairman and member of the Michigan Cherry Commission.

Robert G. Peabody, a Livingston County FB member, will succeed Edward C. Wasem of Milan from District 7.

He is a fruit grower and president of Peabody Orchards, Inc. of Fenton. He is a

member of the Michigan State Horticultural Society and former executive board member; former chairman and member of the Michigan Apple Processing Growers Association; American Agricultural Marketing Association member and former county FB director.

Paul S. Wicks, a Cass County FB member, will succeed Alton C. Wendzel of Watervliet from District 1.

Owner and manager of Plainview Orchards in Dowagiac, Wicks raises apples, grapes, cherries and asparagus on a 320-acre farm. He belongs to the Michigan State and Berrien County Horticultural Societies, the Southwest Michigan Vegetable Producers' Association and is on several Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association committees.

## Field Staff Changes Announced in Three Farm Bureau Regions

Rudy Reinbold, regional representative for the Saginaw Valley Region for the past 12 years, retired June 1.

Prior to his employment with Michigan Farm Bureau, he held leadership positions in the Saginaw County FB, including county president, membership chairman, and served on policy development, legislative and service advisory committees. He and his wife, Wilma, reside on their family farm near Saginaw.

Replacing Reinbold will be Becky Jeppesen, who has been regional representative in the Northeast Region for the past two years.

The Saginaw Valley Region consists of Bay, Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.

Marcia Spink, formerly employed by Cherry Hill Orchards near Bailey, is the new regional representative for the Northeast Region. Spink is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry.

The Northeast Region in-

cludes Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco, Montmorency and Ogemaw counties.

New regional representative for the South Region is Don

Nadeau, who formerly worked as co-manager in a family-owned seed product business.

Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee counties make up the South Region.



RUDY AND WILMA REINBOLD



DON NADEAU



BECKY JEPPESEN



MARCIA SPINK

This Pig Roast is a joint fundraising event for Michigan Farm Bureau members only being held by the:

**Saginaw County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee**  
and the

**Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee (AgriPac)**

### PIG ROAST

Saturday, July 24, 1981

Dinner from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Music by "Stillwater" at 9 p.m.

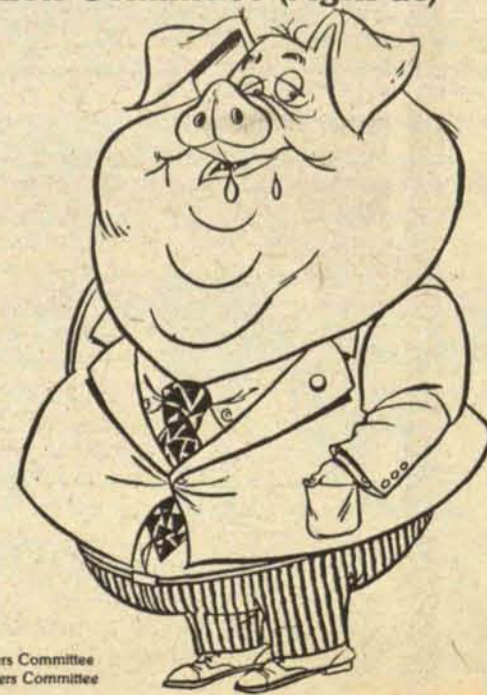
Mike Wicke Farm  
5410 S. Brennan Road  
Hemlock, Michigan

\$10.00 per person  
Children under 12 - \$5.00

Checks are to be made payable to either the "Saginaw County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee" or "AgriPac."

Tickets available from Saginaw County Farm Bureau Office, 517-792-9687, and Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPac, 517-323-7000, Ext. 557.

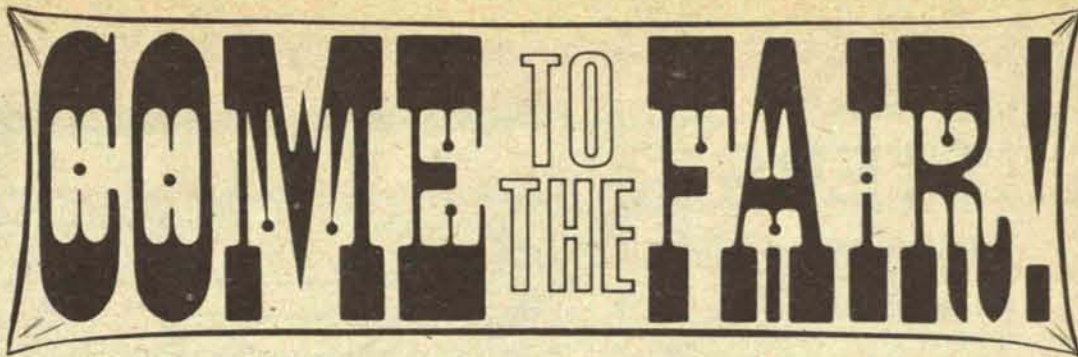
This advertisement has been paid for by the Saginaw County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee and AgriPac. Funds received will be allocated between the Saginaw County Young Farmers Committee (60%) and AgriPac (40%).



Fair	Location	Date
Alcona County	Lincoln	Aug. 9-16
Alger County	Chatham	Aug. 6-9
Allegan County	Allegan	Sept. 11-19
Alpena County	Alpena	Aug. 24-29
Arenac County	Standish	July 26-Aug. 1
Armada	Armada	Aug. 18-23
Baraga County	Pelkie	Aug. 7-8
Barry County	Hastings	July 19-25
Bay County	Bay City	Aug. 17-22
Berlin	Marne	July 13-18
Berrien County	Berrien Springs	Aug. 14-22
Branch County	Coldwater	Aug. 9-15
Calhoun County	Marshall	Aug. 16-22
Cass County	Cassopolis	Aug. 3-8
Chelsea Community	Chelsea	Aug. 25-29
Chippewa County	Kinross	Sept. 2-7
Chippewa County	Stalwart	Sept. 10-12
Clare County	Harrison	Aug. 2-8
Clinton County	St. Johns	Aug. 17-19
Crosswell	Crosswell	July 20-25
Dickinson County	Norway	Sept. 4-7
Eastern Michigan	Imlay City	Aug. 31-Sept. 7
Eaton County	Charlotte	July 26-Aug. 1
Emmet County	Petoskey	Aug. 23-29
Fowlerville	Fowlerville	July 20-25
Genesee County	Mt. Morris	Aug. 17-23
Gladwin County	Gladwin	July 27-Aug. 1
Gogebic County	Ironwood	Aug. 13-16
Gratiot County	Ithaca	July 19-25
Gratiot County Youth	Alma	Aug. 3-7
Hillsdale County	Hillsdale	Sept. 27-Oct. 3
Houghton 4-H	Hancock	Aug. 28-30
Hudsonville	Hudsonville	Aug. 24-29
Huron County	Bad Axe	Aug. 2-8
Ingham County	Mason	Aug. 3-8
Ionia Free Fair	Ionia	July 31-Aug. 9
Iosco County	Hale	July 29-Aug. 1
Iron County	Iron River	Aug. 20-23
Isabella County	Mt. Pleasant	Aug. 16-23
Jackson County	Jackson	Aug. 9-15

Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo	Aug. 24-29
Kalkaska County	Kalkaska	Aug. 19-22
Kent County	Lowell	Aug. 17-22
Lake Odessa	Lake Odessa	June 30-July 1
Lenawee County	Adrian	Aug. 16-23
Luce County	Newberry	Aug. 27-29
Mackinac County	Alleville	Aug. 21-23
Manchester Community	Manchester	Aug. 18-22
Manistee County	Onkama	Sept. 2-7
Marion	Marion	July 1-4
Marquette County	Marquette	Sept. 17-19
Mecosta County	Big Rapids	July 5-11
Menominee County	Stephenson	July 24-26
Michigan State Fair	Detroit	Aug. 28-Sept. 7
Midland County	Midland	Aug. 9-15
Missaukee-Falmouth	Falmouth	Aug. 3-7
Monroe County	Monroe	Aug. 3-8
Montcalm County	Greenville	July 12-18
Montmorency County	Atlanta	Aug. 12-15
Newaygo County	Fremont	Aug. 17-22
Northern District	Cadillac	Aug. 10-15
Northern Michigan	Cheboygan	Aug. 8-15
N.W. Michigan	Traverse City	Aug. 31-Sept. 5
Oakland County	Davisburg	Aug. 3-10

Oceana County	Hart	Sept. 3-7
Ontonagon	Greenland	July 30-Aug. 2
Osceola County	Evart	Aug. 24-28
Oscoda County	Mio	Aug. 5-8
Otsego County	Gaylord	Aug. 1-8
Ottawa County	Holland	July 27-Aug. 1
Presque Isle County	Posen	Sept. 11-13
Ravenna	Ravenna	July 27-Aug. 1
Saginaw County	Saginaw	Sept. 12-19
Saline Community	Saline	July 28-31
Sanilac County	Sandusky	Aug. 3-8
Schoolcraft County	Manistique	Aug. 28-30
Shiawassee	Corunna	Aug. 9-15
Sparta Area	Sparta	Aug. 7-9
St. Clair County	Goodells	July 28-Aug. 1
St. Joseph County	Centreville	Sept. 21-26
Tuscola County	Caro	Aug. 2-8
U.P. State Fair	Escanaba	Aug. 18-23
Van Buren Youth	Hartford	July 18-25
Vassar	Vassar	July 13-18
Washtenaw County	Saline	Sept. 8-10
Wayland Community	Wayland	Aug. 21-22
Wayne County	Belleville	Aug. 10-15
Western Michigan	Ludington	Aug. 10-15



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A standard cord is eight-foot round wood averaging five to six inches in diameter piled four feet high and four feet wide. A standard cord yields about three face cords of 16-inch wood stacked four feet high and eight feet long.

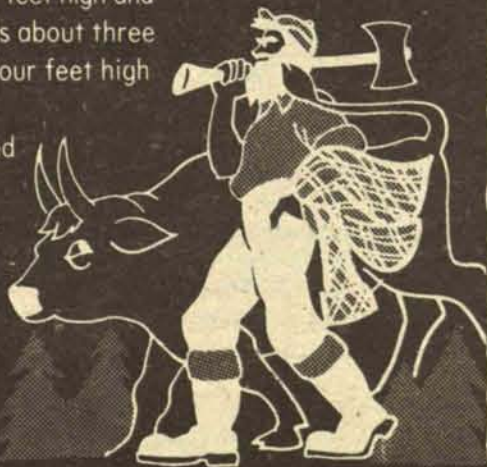
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\*Seven day annualized net investment income yield, computed by dividing the Portfolio's average daily net investment income per unit for the period ended June 16, 1981 by \$1.00 and multiplying the result by 365. On that date the average portfolio maturities in Prime was 18 days and in Government was 16 days. The yields change in response to fluctuations in interest rates on portfolio investment and operating expenses.

A prospectus containing more complete information including management fees and expenses, will be sent upon receipt of the attached coupon. Send the coupon to Michigan National Bank, Trust Department, 77 Monroe Center, P.O. Box 2804, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money. For current yield information call toll free 800-621-2550.

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Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

## OPEN LETTERS

Andrea Hofmeister  
1980 Outstanding  
Young Farm Woman

Dear Carolyn,

As my closest friend over the years, I know that you and I share a similar problem.

Do you remember a few years ago when you were in medical school, I called you in Chicago to see how you were doing? You said that you were in a research course which called for experimentation on animals and you hated to get up in the morning for fear of what the day held in store. To raise an animal and then kill it was more than you could bear, you said. My heart went out to you.

You and I have long suffered from the same misplaced sentimentality. It's called "anthropomorphism" or "the attributing of human characteristics to an animal or inanimate thing." That is the only technical word I remember from psychology 101, but it has stuck with me for 13 years now.

It was listed in our text under "aberration of character" and it confirmed what I had suspected for years. I was a little bit crazy in a harmless sort of way. Only now it turns out that there are a lot of people like me, only much more extreme in their orientation, who are not harmless at all. With all the best intentions, they may make life very difficult for the farmer in the years to come.

The issue of the justice of animal husbandry, confinement, selective breeding and slaughter is beginning to heat up. I suspect it was postponed by other social issues and international conflicts, but has been brewing for years.

It has taken me weeks to sort out where I can stand comfortably on this issue.

Some supporters of animal rights are suggesting that, to be consistent with basic human values, we should become vegetarians. After doing a little research on vegetarianism, I believe that it is nutritionally unwise for the masses. Not that a diet based on vegetable protein isn't sufficient. But unless one

## Clear Logic Vs. Emotion

is willing to study the complex balance of protein and carbohydrates needed to utilize vegetable nutrients, malnutrition can result.

For example, here is a quote from Great Meatless Meals by Lappe and Ewald.

"When we talk about protein supply, we're really talking about two things: The quantity of protein in a given food and also its quality. . . . The proteins our bodies use are made up of twenty-two amino acids, in varying combinations. Eight of these, called the "eight essential amino acids" . . . cannot be synthesized by the body but must be obtained from outside sources. And these EEAAs are needed simultaneously, in the right proportions, to carry out protein synthesis. If one amino acid is even partially missing from the pattern, the use of all the others for protein synthesis is reduced proportionately."

They go on to point out that milk, fish and cheese all come before meat in terms of their quality rating, or the amount of protein available to the body.

I don't pretend to be a vegetarian expert, but in a society which often ignores sound nutritional advice, a system such as this is unfeasible. While I grant that there is some controversy about how much meat we need, the fact that we are carnivores and have been for centuries, makes my position easy to defend.

Vegetarianism is a function of human choice, not animal rights. We do not condemn the fox for eating the bird, or that bird for eating a worm. And we are, after all, animals too.

But the more difficult issue is the legislation of the proper treatment of the animals we own. Within my own mind there is a raging battle.

On one side is clear logic stating "if a man owns an animal, he has the right to do to it whatever he wishes." On the other side are my emotions shouting down the legality of the situation in favor of a more compassionate approach: "All living creatures have the right to be free of pain and undue stress" protests the sentimentalist in me.

Now stop shouting, both of me, and let me think.

No human being has the right to torture an animal for sadistic or monetary gain. I feel safe on that ground. But what about scientific research?

To test a new antibiotic to save countless human lives I can justify, but to spray hairspray into a dog's eyes just to make sure that we can secure our precious hairdos? I couldn't do it myself, I know. Therefore, should I condemn it? And even if we could concoct a law that would protect animals from the sadist, who would determine what is inhumane treatment to a cow? A dog? A chicken? A worm?

Do you realize how many living organisms I boil to death just making my morning coffee?

As you can see, the more I think, the more confused I get. If only I could feel the same way about dogs as I feel about chickweed, I wouldn't have these problems. But a dog isn't a weed. It feels pain, fear, excitement, love and loneliness. Does a chicken? Does a hog? I don't know.

Believe it or not, I see some hope for the animal rights advocate and the farmer. All compassion aside, it is well known and accepted in the farming community that animals under stress do not produce. Cows will not produce milk to their full capacity, hens will not lay as many eggs, hogs will not produce as many piglets and fewer offspring will survive.

The farmer has a vested interest in the needs of his animals just as the animal advocate has in the animal's rights. So why can't we work together?

First, we need adequate research, not emotional rhetoric, and second, men of reason need to divorce themselves from the radical elements which pervade all social issues, on both sides.

I'm glad to see that you made it through medical school in spite of your research course. The sentimentality which makes us insecure on some issues is a great asset when it comes to bedside manner. There's the rub, of course. The compassion we show to all other creatures is harder to come by when we deal with our fellow human beings.

If you can shed any light on this confusing rhetoric, write me. Otherwise don't. I'm befuddled enough already.

### Letter to the Editor

## Natural Environment: Survival of the Fittest

Dear Editors:

With regard to the article on the animal rights movement which appeared in the June issue, I just can't believe this is happening! People all over the world are either starving or malnourished . . . and now we have those who advocate animals being free to roam and produce at will.

What do they intend to do with the boars and bulls that must be contained in order to protect the human sector of society? What about the diseases, such as rabies, transmitted by wild animals? I can only believe it would end with extinction!

My husband and I raise hogs on a small scale and we really care for our animals. If we didn't, we wouldn't be raising them because it isn't being done for the huge profit margin! Farmers are absolutely right that farm animals are better cared for and fed than ever before.

For example, we farrowed 12 sows in crates in an insulated and heated barn during the winter a couple years ago. We had only a 10 percent loss at eight weeks. Last summer, we let the sows farrow outside in a "natural environment" and we had better than a 50 percent loss!

The only thing I could see from this natural environment situation was that old adage, "survival of the fittest." They were beautiful, healthy feeders, but we probably could have saved another 20 to 30 percent under more controlled conditions.

Also, I bet our animals get a higher percentage of protein feed than most people get and I also would wager that with veterinary services and medication, our animals are cared for better than a lot of people's children!

I normally work full-time, besides being a farm wife and mother, but last year I was out of work so I took care of our animals. I cleaned the barn every day, fed the animals, talked to them, watched for signs of problems, and stayed up nights with my husband helping a gilt have her first litter. I give the sows their shots when needed or pull pigs if a sow can't have them alone.

Yet, it doesn't bother me to put a prime hog in my freezer a couple times a year, when even with my own garden and canning and freezing, groceries still cost over \$100 a week!

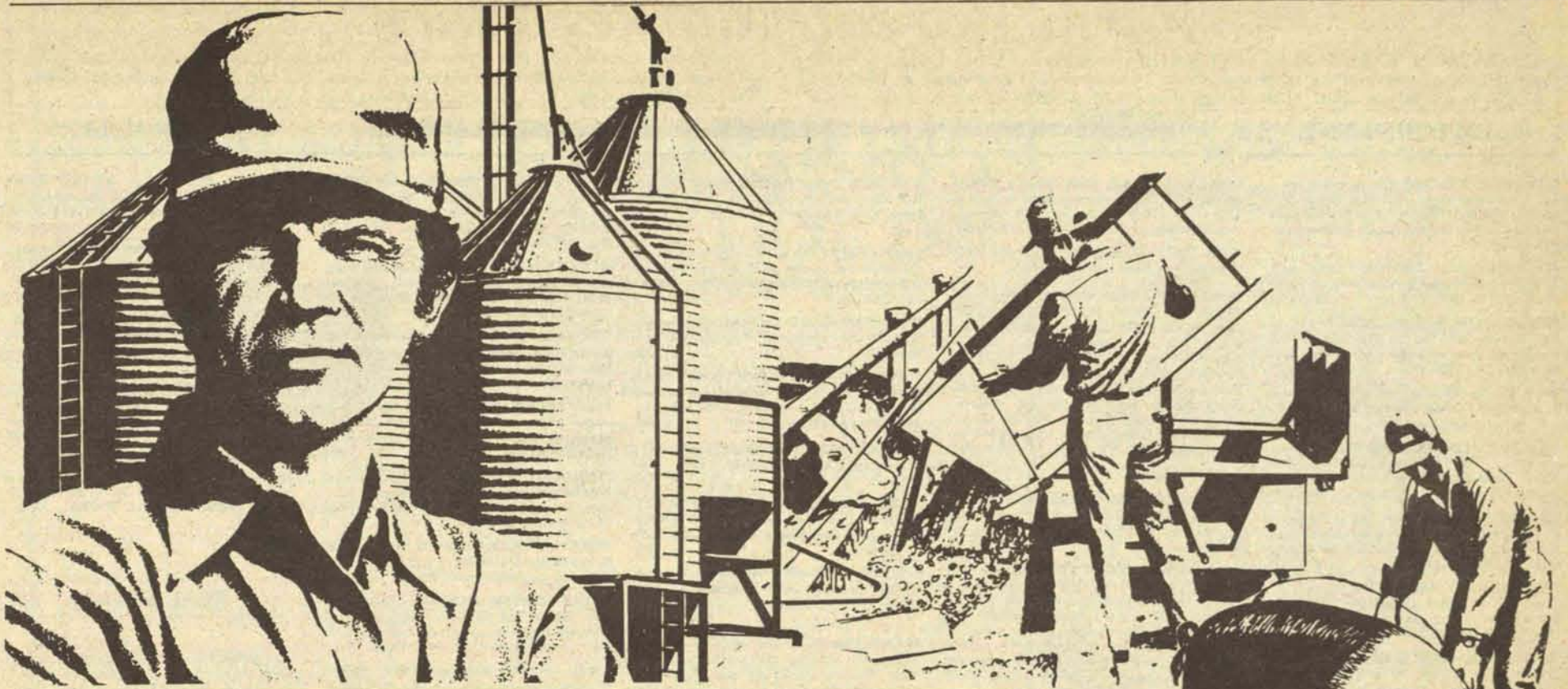
We have prime, contented animals and they wouldn't be so if we didn't care.

Just what the heck do these advocates of animal rights know? You can sure figure they aren't that "special breed" of people who make this country the land of plenty that it is. I'm proud to be what I am, part of this "special breed" and will fight to the bitter end, if necessary, to try to maintain a standard of living that is good, decent and caring of animals - and people.

Mrs. Richard (Doris) Sower  
Belding







# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager, Member Relations

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is based on remarks by Dennis J. White, director of Animal Protection for the American Humane Association, and does not reflect the opinion of Michigan Farm Bureau. Last month's Discussion Topic looked at the animal welfare and animal rights movement and who is behind it.)

## Animal Rights: Part II - The Advocate View

Over the last couple of decades, farmers have had to increase efficiency and productivity on their farms to meet the increasing demands of consumers and to offset increasing costs. The squeeze has been especially serious for farms with limited acreage. The only way farmers have been able to increase output has been improving crops and livestock. At the same time, the human population has been growing, which has led to a higher demand for animal products, especially meat.

The terms, "intensive farmer" and "factory farmer," are usually taken to be synonymous. But they mean different things. All farming is, in general terms, intensive today because farmers are intensifying their output. The intensive farmer uses technology with discretion. He continues his education of livestock management, resulting in increased stock numbers. But he does not necessarily change the life pattern of his animals.

The factory farmer, on the other hand, has a goal of maximum turn-over of capital with minimum inputs. Systems are developed for his convenience which may subject farm animals to conditions for which they are not adapted. These systems restrict the freedom of the animals and force them into a life controlled by automatic devices.

Geneticists and other agricultural scientists, manufacturers of housing, equipment and drugs have poured money into research so that a maximum of flesh can be put on an animal with a minimum of effort. The goals of the farmer are efficiency and profit. It is the responsibility of the animal welfare professionals to ensure that the achievement of these goals does not neglect the well-being of the animal.

In recent years, however, the animal welfare professional has been joined by activists in favor of animal rights.

The animal rights issue seems to have two basic approaches - the radical and the mildly radical. The radical animal rights activists will not tolerate any type of animal exploitation, experimentation, farming, killing or other areas where animals can

benefit man. Generally, individuals or groups in this category are pure vegetarians. It is generally believed that the number of radical animal rights activists are few, however, they are very vocal and have the means and fortitude to bring animal rights issues before the general public.

The mildly radical facet believes in animal rights, too. However, this group recognizes that animals have been used for centuries for man's benefit. Past abuses have been inflicted on animals and proper steps have been taken to eliminate those abuses. This group recognizes that production advancements must be made to meet the demand for animal protein throughout the world.

Both groups address the issue of confinement as being an unnatural environmental state to which the animal is subjected. Although the question of physical pain can be proven in those environments where the animals are truly abused, the issue of mental anguish is less obvious, but a proven fact. Studies are being conducted at the present time addressing this issue.

Since man has had a history of misusing or abusing animals, the animal welfare organizations will probably never back off on humane issues as long as animals are dominated by man. Animal welfare organizations are here and will probably continue to be in existence as long as the potential abuse factor is present.

There are some specific issues that the humane animal movement is addressing.

The first and foremost issue is to eliminate the amateur or hobby farmer who has little or no education or background in food production in the livestock industry. Animal welfare advocates believe that training and education of those interested in livestock production should be made available by related interest groups.

Individuals who have had a history of abuse in their production practices should be identified and efforts made to rectify the matter. Animal welfare

advocates also suggest that professional organizations involved in the livestock and poultry industry should develop guidelines and regulations in conjunction with groups which have a true interest in animal welfare.

They also suggest the need for a scientific advisory committee consisting of representatives of various animal production and animal protection organizations. The committee should be available to examine charges and allegations related to factory farming. The object of the committee would be to identify improvements in management practices that will alleviate stressful animal environment conditions.

Polarized stands on the factory farming issue are not the answer. Name calling will not solve the problem. Not all farmers and producers are cruel and inhumane. Not all animal welfare advocates are misguided activists. When these facts are recognized, perhaps a common achievement can be made and the humane production of meat and poultry can be accomplished to satisfy the nutritional demands of our growing world population.

### Questions

**What can be done, if anything, to improve the care and management of livestock and poultry in confinement systems?**

**How should Farm Bureau members respond to the possible negative impact of the animal rights/welfare movement on agriculture?**

**What can Farm Bureau members do to promote the positive aspects of animal agriculture?**

**Should Farm Bureau members interact with groups which believe a cooperative effort can best achieve the desired results of protecting animals' welfare without burdening commercial agriculture with overregulation?**



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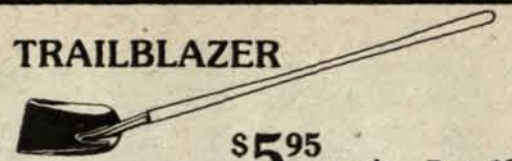
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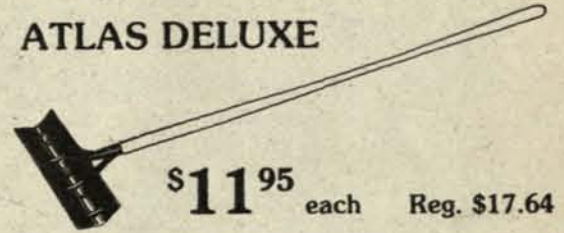
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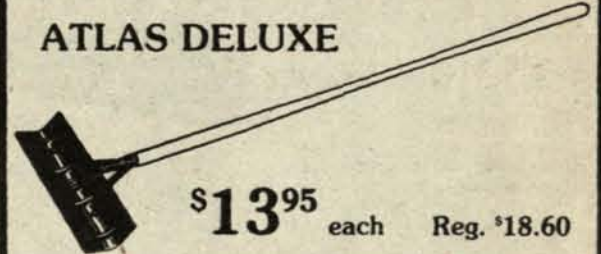
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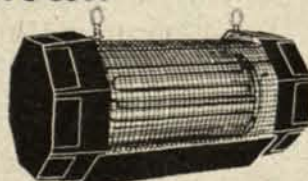
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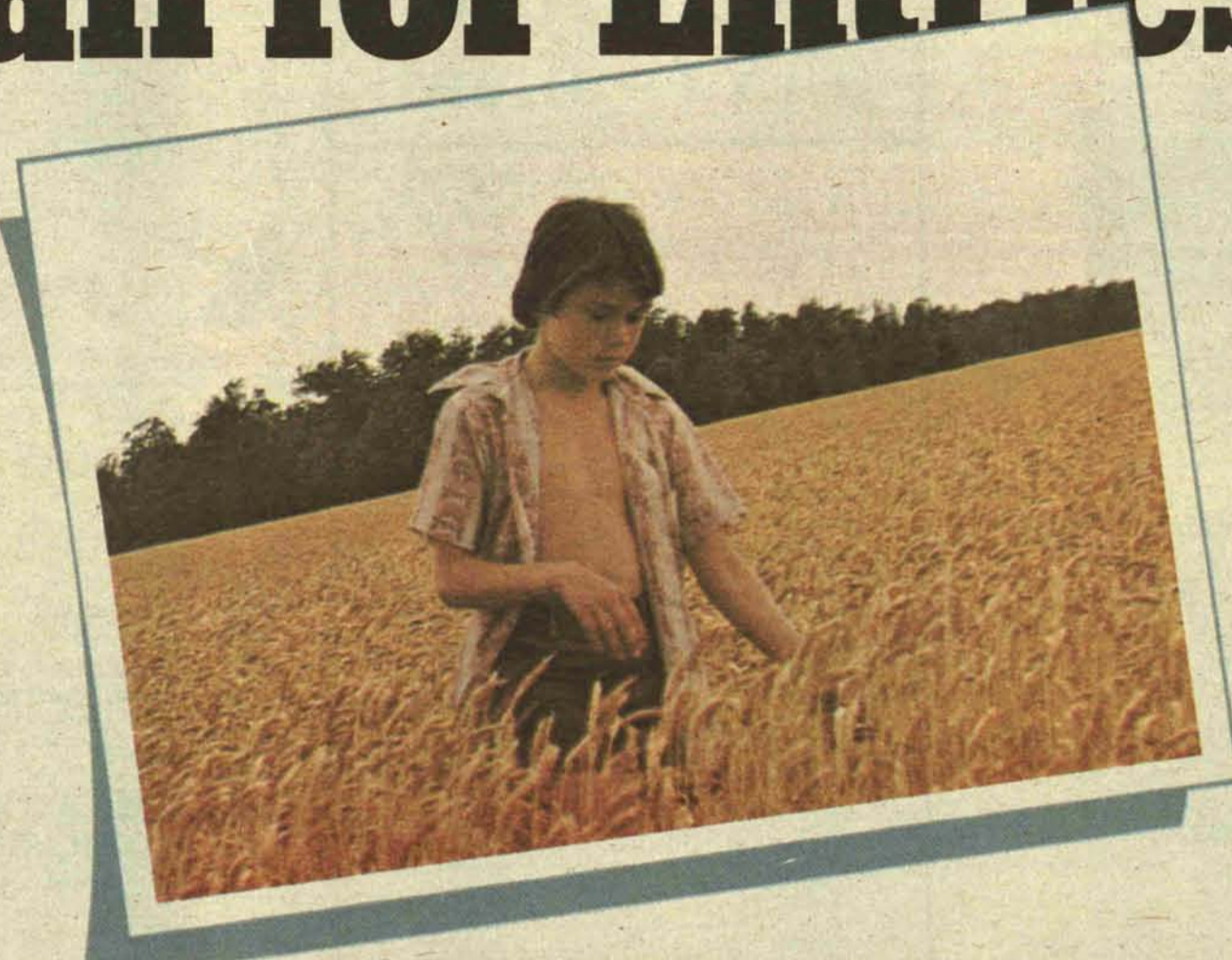
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# Call for Entries...



## Farm Bureau Insurance Group's Color Photo Contest

Send us your best color photos or slides depicting life in rural Michigan.

A solitary walk through a field of wheat, a sunset over a barn, a farm family working and playing side by side... the good life of rural Michigan is all around us. We invite you to enter Farm Bureau Insurance Group's color photo contest and share with us your favorite images of Michigan rural life. Winners will receive awards, and winning photos and slides will be published in a variety of ways.

### CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to any resident of Michigan, except employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies and their immediate families.
2. All entries must be color 5x7 prints or color slides reflecting the theme "The good life of rural Michigan." With each entry include a sheet of paper on which you have written your name, address and age, the title of your photo or slide and a brief explanation of where and when the photo or slide was taken and how it reflects the theme. Make sure your name is written on each photo or slide.
3. Only three entries may be submitted by each entrant. An entrant may submit only photos or slides he or she has taken.
4. Any identifiable person in any photo or slide must sign a model release. Such releases may be requested from: Photo Contest Coordinator, Communications Dept., Farm Bureau Insurance Group, 7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Mich. 48909.
5. The deadline for entries is October 16, 1981. Protect your photo or slide entries in cardboard or other protective covering and mail to the address given in rule #4. All entries become the property of Farm Bureau Marketing Corporation of Michigan and will not be returned.

### JUDGING AND AWARDS

1. Photos and slides will be judged on how well they reflect the theme of the contest, visual effectiveness, ability to evoke feeling, and technical quality. Decisions of the judges are final.
2. Awards will include at least five Awards of Excellence and five Awards of Merit. Each person who receives an Award of Excellence will also receive a \$100 bond and a plaque on which his or her winning photo will be mounted. Each person who receives an Award of Merit will also receive a plaque on which his or her winning photo will be mounted.
3. Award-winning photos and slides may be published in a variety of ways by any or all of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group companies, such as in advertisements, annual reports, audio-visual productions, and newspaper publicity releases. *Whenever a winner's photo or slide is published, proper credit will be given to the photographer.*

### WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS AND SLIDES

The special vitality of rural Michigan shows in communities throughout the state. It's right there — in your own family, on your own farm, in your own backyard. Capture that spirit with your camera and submit your photos or slides. Your image of Michigan rural life could be included in our gallery of award winners.

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