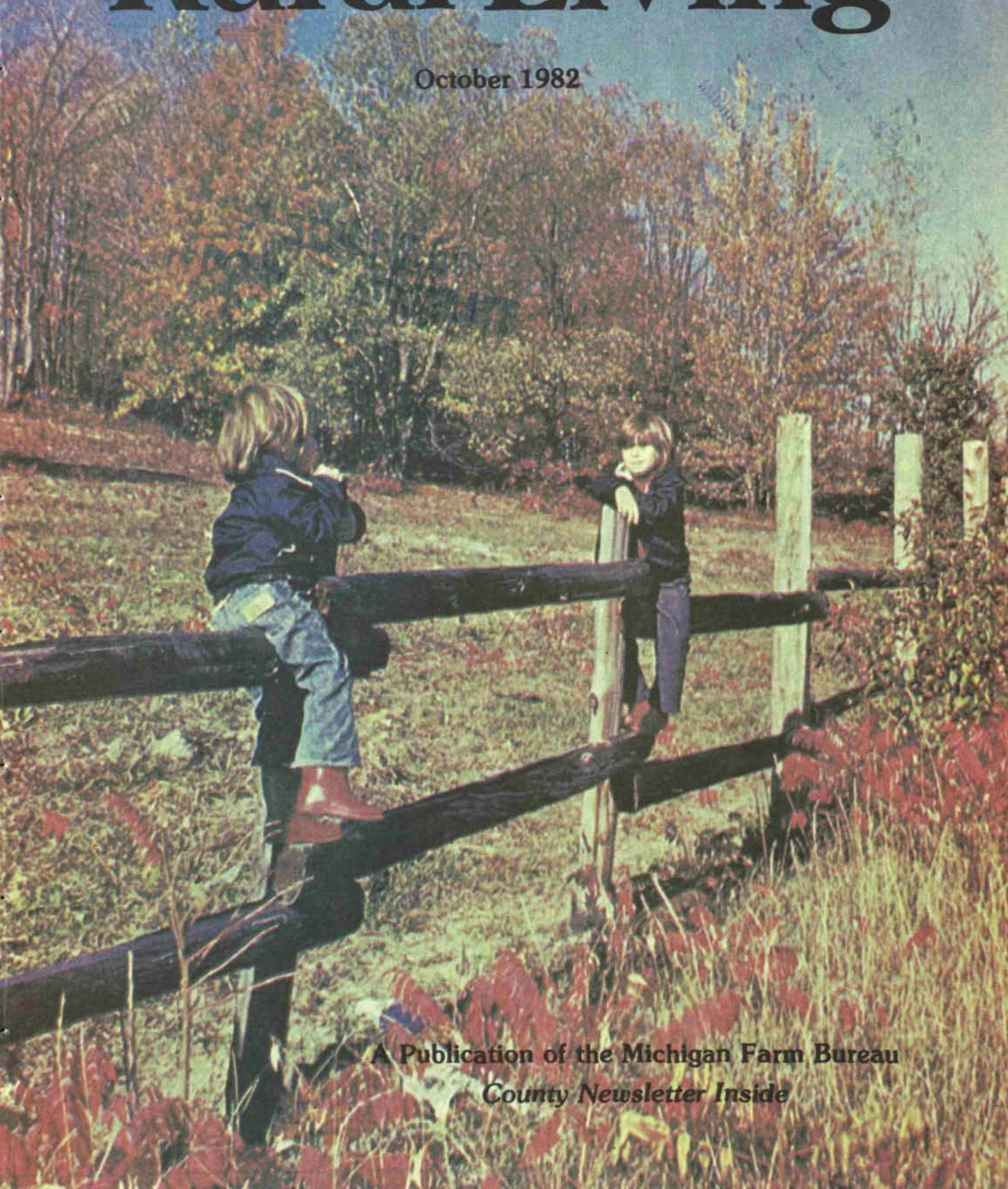


Michigan Farm News

Rural Living

October 1982



A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau
County Newsletter Inside

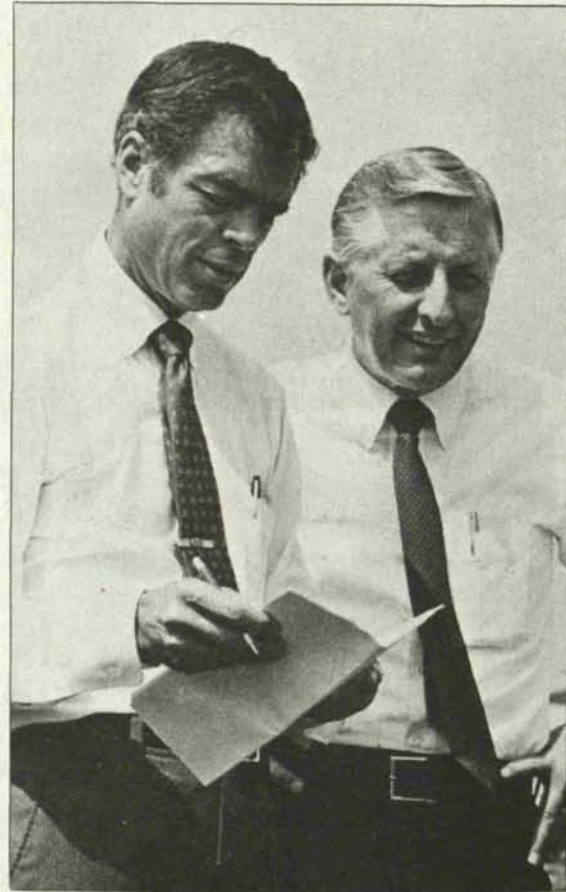


Join the HEADLEE Agriculture Action Team

Dick Headlee with Laura Heuser and George McManus, candidates for the Michigan State Board of Trustees.

Q: *Why should someone who cares about agriculture vote for Dick Headlee instead of Jim Blanchard?*

- A:**
- Dick Headlee is an experienced businessman. Jim Blanchard has no business experience.
 - Dick Headlee asked the Republican convention to nominate two agricultural candidates for the MSU Board of Trustees. Jim Blanchard did nothing while the labor unions picked two labor candidates for the MSU Board.
 - Dick Headlee was nominated in a tough, open primary and because of his take-charge leadership approach, he will change state government. Jim Blanchard was hand-picked by Michigan's labor union bosses, and he thinks just like the Democrats who have controlled the Legislature during the 1970's.



John Block, Secretary of Agriculture and Dick Headlee

**ELECT DICK HEADLEE, A TAKE CHARGE GOVERNOR
FOR ALL OF MICHIGAN**



Rural Living

A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau

October 1982
Volume 61, Number 10



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Photo courtesy of the Michigan Travel Bureau

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Michigan Farm News RURAL LIVING (ISSN 0026-2161)

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Let's Get Serious!

Farming is serious business. We work hard at doing the best job possible. We control everything we can - our seed selection, management practices, purchasing practices and marketing choices. What we can't control, we try to influence.

Farmers realize that laws, rules and regulations affect them directly and indirectly. They know that in the past the Legislature has created an economic climate which has discouraged business expansion.

No farmer in Michigan would plant a grove of orange trees. Orange trees just can't make it in this state. That same good sense should be applied to candidates for whom farmers vote.

Elected officials are the seeds of good government. If properly selected, their actions can grow and nourish an improved business climate. Several candidates selected as AgriPac "Friends of Agriculture" demonstrate qualifications necessary for such growth. Richard Headlee is a successful business man who believes that business principles with accountability ought to be applied to the operation of government.

Phil Ruppe, candidate for U.S. Senate, has gained valu-



able congressional experience. He understands the needs of Michigan and understands the role of the federal government in working with state government and agriculture.

Farmers recognize the need for a strong College of Agriculture at our land grant university. Research and the Extension Service are keys in the expansion of agriculture in Michigan. Two candidates for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees recognize agriculture's needs. They are George McManus and Laura Heuser and both deserve the vote of every farmer.

Farmers can influence governmental bodies by voting and by voting wisely. As Farm Bureau members, I hope you

and members of your family are registered to vote. If not, go to any Secretary of State's Office or to your township clerk. The deadline is Oct. 4.

Prior to election day, please become acquainted with the candidates and their philosophies. Know what they stand for. A candidate who believes in expanding government, increased government spending, higher taxes and who doesn't understand that private enterprise creates jobs, should not get your support. That kind of candidate will be as unproductive for Michigan as a grove of orange trees.

Government is serious business. It deserves thought, involvement, and knowledge of the candidates. It deserves your serious action by going to the voting booth.

Farm Bureau members, let's get serious!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elton R. Smith".

President
Michigan Farm Bureau

If you have a question or opinion that you would like to share in Rural Route, send it to Rural Living Magazine, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

*Guest Column By Gwen Nash
1982 MFB Outstanding Young Farm Woman*

During the past year, while serving as Michigan Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farm Woman and in my own county as chairperson of the Clinton County Farm Bureau Information Committee, I have deepened my appreciation for the strength and influence of the Farm Bureau organization. The experience has confirmed for me over and over again that Farm Bureau is the membership and that the organization is a reflection of members' dedication to their industry and of their belief in Farm Bureau as an organization where they can make things happen.

Policy development is the beginning of that member involvement. In order to realize the importance of policy development, let's take a closer look at what that means in our organization. A policy is a course of action adopted. In Farm Bureau, county, state and national delegates vote on policy to guide their organization. Development is a gradual unfolding or growth.

I believe there is a definition of policy development that many of us overlook. We see in the definition of each word their separate meanings, and yet when they are joined together, we find the basis of policy development in the Farm Bureau organization.

Policy development is the gradual unfolding of a course of action. Farm Bureau policy sometimes begins like this:

Mr. Farmer is out on the tractor. As he drives along, he thinks over many of his problems. A simple solution occurs to him. At the family dinner table, he discusses it with his wife. . . later with a neighbor and then with his community action group. As he shares his concern, more of his Farm Bureau neighbors realize that they have the same problem and that a simple solution could help a lot of people.

Not all policy starts this way. But then it's not how it evolves that matters. The important thing is that Farm Bureau members communicate with each other and understand that other people have problems too. When we stand alone, our voice is weak. But together, as an organization of 77,000 families, we have united strength and we can change laws, support youth programs, recognize urban people who have supported agriculture and strengthen our own farming futures.

As our organization grows, we must remember to review our policies too. What worked in 1932 may not be the answer for the computer-age farmer of 1985. And we must be careful to preserve the basic ideas that our nation was founded on. But even those ideas should be expanded as time and growth require.

I sincerely hope that each of you will sit down and write, in your own words - not legal sounding jargon, the way you feel about anything of concern to you. Take it to county Farm Bureau leaders. Share your ideas and thoughts with other Farm Bureau members and attend your county annual meeting. Speak out on what concerns you. You will be surprised at how many people feel the same way. Together, WE can make it happen in Farm Bureau!

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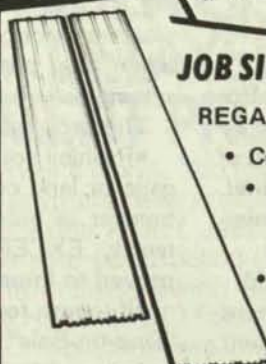
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November Ballot Proposals Reviewed

There will be seven proposals on the ballot in the November election. At the MFB board meeting on Sept. 8, directors studied each proposal and took positions on five of the seven proposals as recommendations for Farm Bureau members to consider.

The proposals, as they appear on the ballot, follow:

Proposal A - Legislative Immunity: *A proposal to allow the Legislature to reform their existing constitutional exemption from civil arrest and process during legislative sessions.*

The Michigan Constitution now provides: "Senators and representatives shall be privileged from civil arrest and civil process during sessions of the Legislature and for five days before the commencement and after the termination thereof. They shall not be questioned in any other place for any speech in either House."

FB recommends a **yes** vote on Proposal A because it would eliminate much of the immunity from arrest that legislators now have. A few legislators have used this immunity to avoid arrest and prosecution for various law infractions.

Proposal B - Minimum State Police Staffing: *A proposal to create by constitution a Michigan Department of State Police, provide for its personnel, prescribe its duties and require minimum staffing.*

The proposed amendment would:

- Change the Michigan Department of State Police from a department created by law to a department created by the constitution.

- Make director of state police head of the department.

- Set out powers and duties of the department and its officers.

- Permit reduction of enlisted personnel below number employed as of April 1, 1980, only in the event of and in proportion to a decrease in the state's population.

FB recommends a **no** vote on Proposal B, because it sets a dangerous precedent and eliminates legislative control over police spending. It is misleading as it also grants unlimited, unspecified police power to the State Police. It would immediately cost taxpayers \$4.3 million. It was promoted by the police union as a job guarantee. It is strongly **opposed** by the present director of the State Police, Colonel Hough. Gov. Milliken is "unalterably opposed."

Others opposing "B" are: Michigan Commission on Criminal Justice (includes representatives of the Supreme Court); Michigan Sheriff's Association; Fraternal Order of Police; Deputy Sheriff's Association; Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police; Michigan State Chamber of Commerce; State AFL-CIO; Michigan Association of Counties; and several newspaper editors throughout the state. Several other organizations are also expected to **oppose** Proposal B.

Proposal C - Due-on-Sale Clause: *Proposal to prevent a lender from using a "Due-on-Sale" clause to foreclose a mortgage or land contract when the property is sold, unless security is impaired.*

The proposed law would:

- Prohibit court foreclosure of mortgage or land contract when based on transfer of mortgagor's or buyer's interest; EXCEPT where transfer is proved to impair security interest.

- If court foreclosure is based on "Due-on-Sale" clause and lender has not proved security impaired, then extend time to redeem property from 6 to 48 months.

- Prohibit without exception foreclosure of mortgage by advertisement when based on transfer of mortgagor's interest.

- Apply to existing and future mortgage and land contracts.

The FB board did not take a position on this proposal. It is questionable

whether it conforms with the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that federally chartered lending institutions can enforce "Due-on-Sale" mortgage provisions. This decision exempts those institutions from anything the state does. State chartered institutions would be at a serious disadvantage and would probably shift to a federal charter or go to federal court to determine constitutionality.

Utility Rate Adjustments: There are two proposals on the ballot dealing with utility rate adjustments. Proposal D was put on the ballot by petition by the Michigan Citizen's Lobby and Attorney General Kelly. Proposal H was put on the ballot by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. These two proposals are considered together as follows:

Proposal D: *Proposal to require hearings on all utility rate increases, abolish rate adjustment clauses and establish procedures in rate hearings.*

The proposed law would:

- When rate increase is requested, require full and complete hearing on all costs of utility service, including fuel costs.

- Abolish existing adjustment clauses that allow rate changes.

- Allow only one rate increase hearing per utility at the same time, unless hearings are for different services provided by the utility.

FB recommends a **no** vote on Proposal D as it would require all rate cases be consolidated into one with no time limit. Most cases presently are 14 months with some two years or more. Utilities must borrow high cost money to operate while waiting for a decision. Proposal D would actually create higher costs and red tape. Michigan utilities already have the lowest bond rating (BBB-) and have been placed on a "credit watch." This means higher costs.

Proposal H: Proposal to prohibit certain adjustment clauses; prohibit rate increases without prior notice and hearing; and prohibit state legislators from accepting employment with the utility for 2 years.

The proposal would:

- Prohibit certain adjustment clauses and provide that utilities may, upon request, recover reasonable and prudent cost of fuel, purchased gas or purchased electricity, only after "full and complete hearing" on such costs.

- Permits separate hearing to be held on any change in cost of fuel or purchased gas at the same time as hearing on general rate case.

- Prohibits members of the present Legislature from working with any Michigan utility for two years after leaving legislative office.

FB recommends a **yes** vote on Proposal H as it would require a full hearing on **all** rate adjustments including the present "pass through" adjustments, but it would allow more than one hearing at a time. Attorney General Kelly tried to prevent this proposal from being on the ballot but was overruled by the Court of Appeals.

Proposal E - Nuclear Freeze: A proposal expressing the people's desire for a mutual nuclear weapons freeze with the Soviet Union and requiring state officials to convey that desire to the President of the United States and other federal officials.

The proposed law would:

- Establish as a "finding and declaration" the danger of nuclear war and reduction of that danger by a mutual agreement between the USA and USSR to establish nuclear freeze.

- Require House Clerk and Senate Secretary to send to President and other federal officials a communication urging:

-The USA propose to USSR a mutual nuclear freeze, both countries

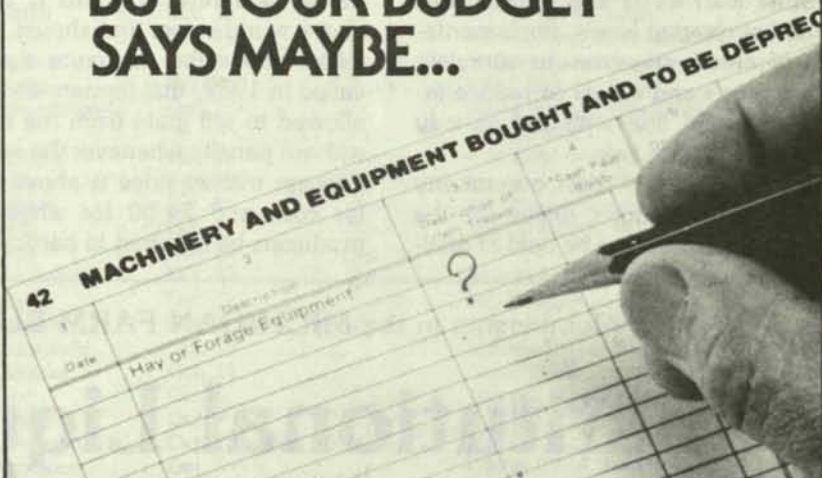
agreeing to halt the testings, production and further deployment of all nuclear weapons, missiles, and delivery system in a way that can be checked and verified by both.

-Transfer of nuclear weapons funds to civilian use.

FB has **no position** on Proposal E as it has very little meaning and only provides for sending "written communication" to federal officials.

Proposal G - Public Service Com-
(continued on page 9)

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Feed Grain Proposals Outlined

AFBF President Robert B. Delano met with USDA Secretary John Block last month to discuss the nation's depressed farm economy, the need for immediate stimulation of agricultural exports and the necessity of serving notice on European common market traders that we will no longer tolerate subsidized dumping.

With a glutted farmer-held grain reserve, new bin busting crops this year and export markets sluggish due to economic conditions, Delano also outlined AFBF suggestions for the 1983 feed grain program. He recommended loan levels and target prices at market clearing levels, implementation of credit measures to stimulate farm exports and efforts to reduce interest rates in line with the already dropping inflation rate.

Recommending that commodity loan rates and target prices for the 1983 feed grain crops be held at mini-

mum levels, Delano urged Block to use his authority to reduce the level of loans and purchases if the average price to producers is not more than 105% of the level of loans in a given marketing year.

Farm Bureau also recommends that 1983 crops not be accepted in the farmer-held reserve until the regular nine-month loan period has expired and that farmers be allowed to extend their regular loans for an additional six months in the 1983 program.

Other points made by Delano were that the current release price for farmer-held reserve grains is already above world prices and should not be raised above the minimum that prevailed in 1982, that farmers should be allowed to sell grain from the reserve without penalty whenever the national average market price is above \$2.90 for corn and \$4.00 for wheat, that producers be required to participate in

both the 10% acreage reduction program and a 10% paid diversion program to be eligible for any farm program benefits.

Delano said that diversion payments at the rate of \$1.50 per bushel on normal yields for diverted acres, with each producer receiving half of his diversion payment and half of his estimated deficiency payment at the time of sign-up, would result in a compliance rate of 45 to 50% and an increased acreage reduction of more than a million acres.

"That hundred million bushels less production will mean higher market prices, higher farm income and lower net cost to the government over the period covered by the 1983 feed grains program," he said.

Farm Bureau recommendations for encouraging exports include additional export credit through funding of a Commodity Credit Corporation revolving fund and expanded P.L. 480

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1982 County Annual Dates

County Farm Bureaus have begun holding their 1982 annual meetings. Members in Bay, Branch, Lenawee, Monroe and Tuscola counties have already met to elect directors and set policy for the coming year. Remaining annual meetings include:

County	Date	Time	Place
Alcona	Oct. 18	7:30 p.m.	Mikado Community Center
Allegan	Oct. 28	8 p.m.	Griswold Auditorium, Allegan
Alpena	Oct. 14	6:30 p.m.	Long Rapids Hall
Antrim	Oct. 13	7:30 p.m.	Methodist Church Hall, Kewadin
Arenac	Oct. 22	7:30 p.m.	Standish VFW Hall
Barry	Oct. 14	7 p.m.	Moose Lodge, Hastings
Benzie	Oct. 11	6:30 p.m.	Benzie Central High School
Berrien	Nov. 3		Berrien County Office
Calhoun	Oct. 5	6:30 p.m.	B. E. Henry Bldg., Marshall
Cass	Oct. 14	6:30 p.m.	Cassopolis High School
Charlevoix	Oct. 6	7:30 p.m.	Whiting Park, Boyne City
Cheboygan	Oct. 19	8 p.m.	Westland Church Hall, Cheboygan
Chippewa	Oct. 4	8 p.m.	Rudyard High School
Clare	Oct. 15	7 p.m.	Clare Elementary School
Clinton	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	St. Johns High School Cafeteria
Copper Country	Oct. 16	8 p.m.	County Fair Bldg., Pelkie
Eaton	Oct. 28	7 p.m.	4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds, Charlotte
Emmet	Oct. 18		4-H Bldg., Petoskey
Genesee	Oct. 14	7 p.m.	Mundy Twp. Hall, Rankin
Gladwin	Oct. 5	7:30 p.m.	Intermediate School
Gratiot	Oct. 2	7 p.m.	VFW Hall, St. Louis
Hiawathaland	Oct. 20		Rapid River Congregation Parish Hall
Hillsdale	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds
Huron	Sept. 30	6:30 p.m.	Huron County FB Bldg., Bad Axe
Ingham	Oct. 13	7 p.m.	PS Room, Mason Lanes, Mason
Ionia	Oct. 4	7 p.m.	Rather School, Ionia
Iosco	Oct. 27	7 p.m.	
Iron Range	Oct. 23	7 p.m.	Mansfield Town Hall, Sagola
Isabella	Oct. 11	7 p.m.	Mt. Pleasant Jr. High
Jackson	Oct. 7	6:30 p.m.	Point East Restaurant, Jackson
Kalamazoo	Oct. 19		County Center Bldg., Kalamazoo
Kalkaska	Oct. 14		Carol's Hall
Kent	Oct. 5	7 p.m.	Meijer's, Grand Rapids
Lapeer	Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.	N. Branch American Legion Hall
Livingston	Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.	Fairgrounds
Mac-Luce	Oct. 5		Garfield Twp. Hall, Engadine
Macomb	Oct. 28	7 p.m.	Romeo Masonic Hall
Manistee	Oct. 18		Farr Center, Onekama
Mason	Oct. 5	7:30 p.m.	Scottville Bank
Mecosta	Oct. 4	7:30 p.m.	Morley-Stanwood High School
Menominee	Oct. 5	7:30 p.m.	Pullman House, Menominee
Midland	Oct. 19	6:30 p.m.	Homer Twp. Hall, Midland
Missaukee	Oct. 5	8 p.m.	Falmouth Bank Community Room
Montcalm	Oct. 28	6:30 p.m.	Montcalm Middle School, Stanton
Montmorency	Oct. 21	7 p.m.	Senior Citizens Center
Muskegon	Oct. 14	7 p.m.	El Royal Restaurant
Newaygo	Oct. 14	7:30 p.m.	Fremont Christian School
NW Michigan	Oct. 13		Twin Lakes Gilbert Lodge
Oakland	Oct. 21	7:30 p.m.	United Methodist Church, Clarkston
Oceana	Oct. 18	7 p.m.	High School Cafetorium, Shelby
Ogemaw	Oct. 28	7:30 p.m.	Ogemaw Twp. Hall
Osceola	Oct. 19	8 p.m.	Reed City United Methodist Church
Otsego	Oct. 26	6:45 p.m.	United Methodist Church, Gaylord
Ottawa	Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.	Allendale Christian School
Presque Isle	Oct. 5	8 p.m.	Belnap Twp. Hall
Saginaw	Oct. 7	6 p.m.	Knights of Columbus, Saginaw
St. Clair	Sept. 28	7:30 p.m.	Community Bldg., Goodells
St. Joseph	Oct. 11		
Sanilac	Oct. 6	7:15 p.m.	Deckerville High School
Shiawassee	Oct. 11	7 p.m.	Dog & Gun Club, Corunna
Van Buren	Oct. 30	6:30 p.m.	FB County Office, Paw Paw
Washtenaw	Oct. 14	6:30 p.m.	Fairgrounds
Wayne	Oct. 12	6:45 p.m.	Wayne Community Center
Wexford	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	Bill Oliver's Caberfae Motor Inn

sales as well as serving notice on the European Economic Community that we will match their export subsidies.

Delano expressed disappointment that a paid diversion program was not implemented for 1982 crops, saying that the cost of diversion payments would have been far less than the combined cost to the government of deficiency payments and carrying charges on this year's huge crops.

"Unless grain reserve prices can be held at market-clearing levels and the trend toward further build-up reversed," Delano said, "farm prices will be even more depressed and massive forfeiture of commodities will plague the Commodity Credit Corporation creating unacceptable drains on the already strained federal treasury."

November Ballot Proposals Review

(continued from page 7)

mission: A proposal for an elected Public Service Commission.

The proposed amendment would:

- Establish a 5 member Public Service Commission to be elected for 4 year terms, with no more than 3 terms expiring at same time.

- Provide that the Commission perform the duties currently assigned to the appointed Public Service Commission.

- Require nomination of candidates for Commission to be by partisan political party convention and election of candidates to be on non-partisan portion of ballot.

- Provide that each Commission to be elected shall appear on the ballot as a separate office.

FB recommends a **no** vote on Proposal G because it is an effort to get political control of the Public Service Commission. Other states that have had elected commissions are going to appointed systems.

Lansing Review is prepared by Robert Smith, MFB senior legislative counsel.

Richard Headlee for Governor



Phillip Ruppe for U.S. Senate



Laura Heuser for MSU Board of Trustees



George McManus for MSU Board of Trustees



In 1982 Michigan Campaigns Agricultural Support Counts

Candidates for statewide offices draw support from AgriPac and farm groups.

Representatives of eight key agricultural associations, meeting at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing Sept. 17, unanimously endorsed the campaigns of Michigan State University Board of Trustee candidates Laura Heuser and George McManus.

The candidates, both of whom have strong agricultural backgrounds and are MSU alumni, promised to bring "common sense leadership" to the actions of the MSU Board of Trustees and to support programs essential to the "integrity of the university and its commitments to the needs of the people of Michigan."

Significant among those needs, as identified by the candidates, is a viable and expanding agricultural industry to stabilize the state's economic base.

"Not only is agriculture the industry that I love and the one to which I have devoted my life," Heuser said, "I believe it is the state's number one growth industry." Heuser is an active partner in the operation of Hill Top Orchards in Van Buren County.

McManus, who served as director of Cooperative Extension in Grand Traverse County until his recent retirement, told the farm leaders that the retention of skilled professionals in all of the colleges of the land grant university is essential.

"There are many colleges and universities in Michigan," he said, "but only Michigan State University is concerned with serving and expanding agriculture."

Attending the meeting were representatives of the Michigan Live Stock

Exchange, the Michigan Grain and AgriDealers Association, the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative, the Michigan Allied Poultry Industries Association, the Michigan Milk Producers Association, the Michigan Harness Horsemen Association, the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives and the Michigan Farm Bureau.

AgriPac Endorses 76 'Friends'

AgriPac, MFB's political action arm, has also endorsed McManus and Heuser. Other statewide AgriPac endorsements are for gubernatorial candidate Richard Headlee and senatorial candidate Phillip Ruppe. AgriPac has identified 72 other candidates in Michigan's political race as "Friends of Agriculture."

According to Jack Laurie, AgriPac chairperson, support for Headlee confirms the organization's belief that the Republican candidate would bring a strong pro-business background and philosophy to state government.

"A strong business orientation is essential if Michigan's economy is to recover," Laurie said. "Recovery for Michigan in turn strengthens markets for agricultural products."

Strong local support from county Farm Bureau evaluation committees, which recommended that AgriPac endorse Ruppe, was based on the former congressman's voting record on agricultural issues during his 12 years as U.S. representative. County leaders, Laurie said, recognized Ruppe as a

candidate who understands what government involvement in agriculture, such as embargoes, can do to destroy markets, how government spending policies affect interest rates and how proliferation of government regulations can restrict efficient food production.

AgriPac endorsements in Michigan's legislative races include:

State Representative Districts

3rd	Matthew McNeely (D)
18th	Sidney Ouwinga (R)
19th	Don VanSingel (R)
21st	Roy Raker (R)
23rd	Phil Hoffman (R)
25th	Dennis Dutko (D)
41st	Michael Nye (R)
43rd	Carl Gnodtke (R)
44th	Lad Stacey (R)
45th	Mick Middaugh (R)
46th	Phillip Davis (R)
47th	Paul Wartner (R)
48th	Donald Gilmer (R)
49th	Richard Fitzpatrick (D)
50th	Mary Keith Ballantine (R)
51st	Fred Dillingham (R)
54th	Paul Hillegonds (R)
56th	Ernest Nash (R)
58th	Paula Johnson (R)
59th	Paul Sterns (R)
61st	Claude Trim (D)
68th	Shirley Johnson (R)
72nd	Robert Perakis (R)
78th	Keith Muxlow (R)
83rd	Charles Mueller (R)
84th	John Strand (R)
86th	Lewis Dodak (D)
88th	Robert Bender (R)
89th	Gary Randall (R)

'Friends' Election Campaigns Boosted by Support from MFB AgriPac

- 95th James Dressel (R)
- 96th Mickey Knight (R)
- 97th Edgar Geerlings (R)
- 98th Ed Giese (R)
- 100th Michael Busch (R)
- 102nd Michael Hayes (R)
- 103rd Ralph Ostling (R)
- 105th Tom Alley (D)
- 106th John Pridnia (R)
- 107th Bob Davis Jr. (R)
- 109th Jack Gingrass (D)
- 110th Donald Koivisto (D)

U.S. Representative District

- 2nd Carl Pursell (R)
- 4th Mark Siljander (R)
- 5th Harold Sawyer (R)
- 6th Jim Dunn (R)
- 9th Guy Vander Jagt (R)
- 11th Bob Davis (R)
- 16th John Dingell (D)
- 18th William Broomfield (R)

State Senate Districts

- 4th David Holmes Jr. (D)
- 6th Robert Geake (R)
- 7th James DeSana (D)
- 8th Donald Bishop (R)
- 9th Kirby Holmes (R)
- 12th William Faust (D)
- 13th Robert Welborn (R)
- 18th Roy Smith (R)
- 19th Nick Smith (R)
- 20th Harry DeMaso (R)
- 21st Harmon Cropsey (R)
- 22nd Harry Gast (R)
- 24th William Sederburg (R)
- 26th Gilbert DiNello (D)
- 28th Dan DeGrow (R)
- 29th Gary Corbin (D)
- 31st Richard Posthumus (R)
- 32nd Paul Henry (R)
- 33rd Phil Arthurhultz (R)
- 34th James Barcia (D)
- 35th John Engler (R)
- 36th Connie Binsfeld (R)
- 37th Mitch Irwin (D)

Judicial Candidates Respond to AgriPac Questionnaire

No endorsements for the election of Michigan Supreme Court justices were made by AgriPac; however, the political action committee did receive responses to a questionnaire from three of the four Supreme Court candidates.

Responses to a question regarding rural crime prevention and a brief statement of judicial philosophy follow:

Rural crime is increasing rapidly. What role, if any, do you believe the Supreme Court can perform to reduce rural crime?

Ross Campbell: Simplify the trial process and permit the introduction of evidence even if secured somewhat irregularly so that just convictions can be had swiftly and surely and young people learn to respect the rights of others. Unfortunately, young people have been taught to equate "justice" with escaping conviction by a technicality such as some irregularity in a search or seizure.

(Campbell began his law career with 12 years in private practice. He then served two years as a Probate Court judge and is now completing 13 years as a Circuit Court judge.)

Blair Moody Jr.: Swift and certain punishment must be fostered by the court to combat crime, whether it is rural or urban. The Supreme Court should balance the rights of the victim with the rights of the defendant and avoid reversing cases due to harmless error. I have written a number of dissents to this end. In addition, the cultivation of strong family ties within the community is essential to a society which should not tolerate unpunished criminal acts. I have always endeavored to emphasize such familial bonds.

(Moody practiced law for 13 years before serving as a Circuit Court judge for 11 years. In 1976 he was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court to fill a vacancy.)

Dorothy Comstock Riley: Efforts to improve our criminal justice system as

a whole will impact on rural crime just as quickly and as effectively as it will on urban crime. This problem is clearly of paramount concern to our citizens and, as such, merits serious efforts to make meaningful changes - changes that will assure expeditious processing of individuals accused of crime and make known certainty of punishment.

(Riley practiced law for 10 years before serving as attorney for the Wayne County Friend of the Court for 12 years. She was a Circuit Court judge for four years and currently is a judge of the State Court of Appeals.)

How would you best summarize your judicial philosophy?

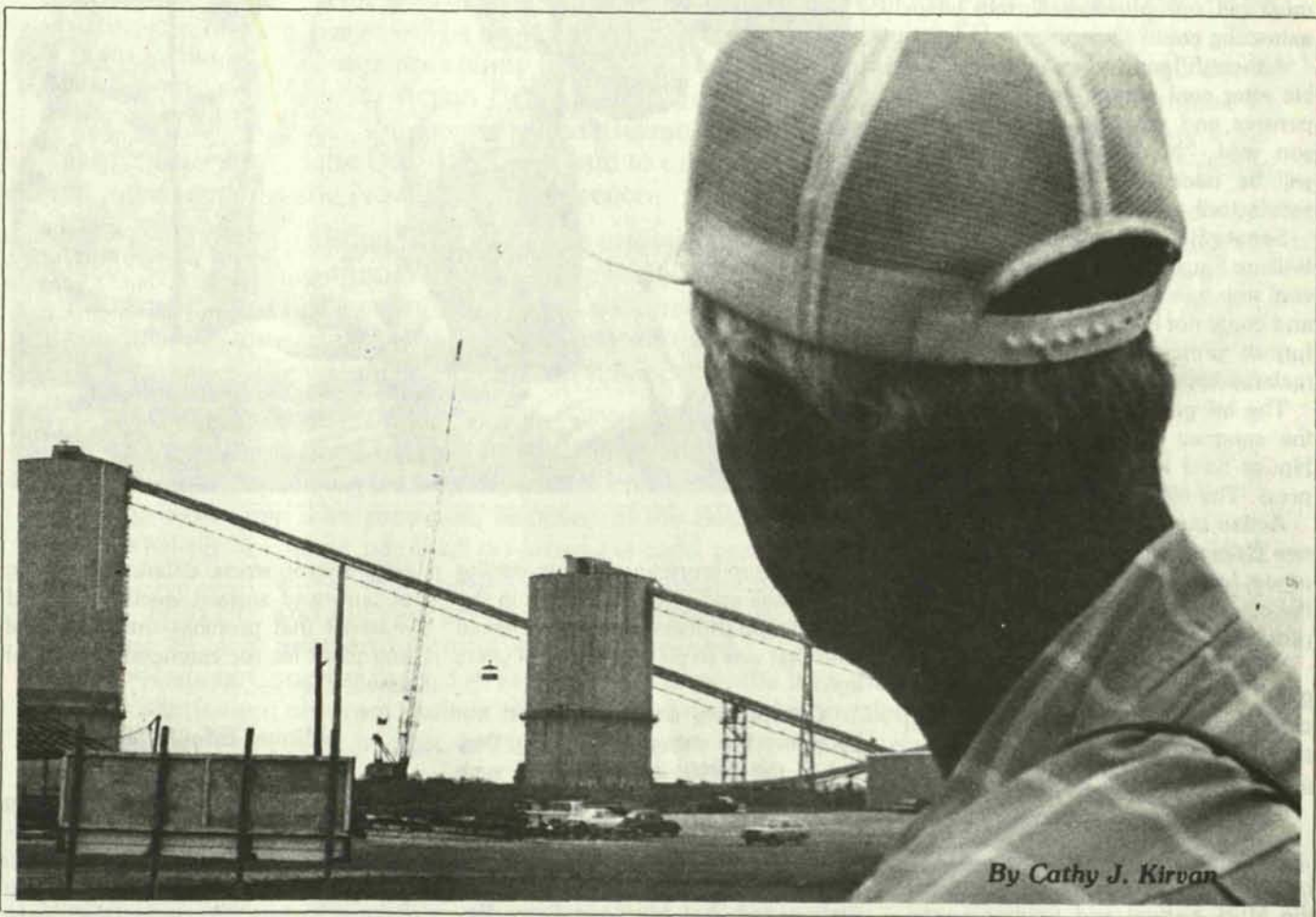
Campbell: I believe in the prudent exercise of judicial self-restraint and the application of common sense in interpreting and applying the law. Many of our judicial and social problems have been caused or aggravated by the unfortunate tendency of certain judges to see themselves as super-legislators. I believe judges should adjudicate, not legislate.

Moody: The role of a Supreme Court justice is to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office. A justice is sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States as well as the Michigan Constitution, to interpret laws passed by the Legislature and to evolve the common-law. The common-law of this state should react to the changing times and to societal needs. My judicial philosophy has been expressed by my fellow jurists' reference to me as a "centerist."

Riley: I believe that the law is the glue that holds our way of life together. The judiciary cannot solve all the problems of an imperfect society but it can deal with the disputes brought before it with patience, objectivity and with dispatch, all in keeping with the duly enacted federal and state laws. The justices of our Supreme Court must make a commitment to judicial integrity and excellence. Our state deserves no less.

Land and Energy

A Fragile Balance



By Cathy J. Kirvan

Some Michigan landowners who have leased mineral rights to petroleum companies in recent years might be surprised if a coal company representative knocks on the door one day.

"Many of the oil and gas leases signed in the last few years included terms for 'other minerals,' which may include coal," said Ron Gaskill, local affairs specialist for Michigan Farm Bureau. "In most cases, the leasee can re-sell the coal mining rights to a strip mining company."

The renewed interest in coal mining in Michigan is based on both economic and geographic reasons. "The current wholesale price of coal and the location of Michigan in relation to the industrial Midwest are important factors

in the revitalization of the coal mining industry," Gaskill said.

The last coal mine in Michigan, located near Williamston in Ingham County, was closed in 1975. A strip mining company is currently considering reopening the mine. There have been coal mines in the state since the 1860s, mostly shaft mines located in Saginaw, Genesee, Ingham and Clinton counties.

"Advanced technology has made it economically feasible to move up to 40 feet of top soil and overburden (material covering coal) to mine a one-foot vein of coal," Gaskill said.

Recent geological reports estimate Michigan's coal reserves at 225 to 500 million tons, located in a 12,500

square mile area that includes 31 counties. The coal would be suitable for fuel in power generation plants.

Reclamation Law Needed

"There will be coal strip mining in Michigan in the next two to five years or even sooner," said Ron Nelson, MFB legislative counsel who has been monitoring proposed legislation to regulate the industry. "What people have to realize is that you cannot farm around a coal mine like you can a gas or oil well.

"Agricultural land is a fragile resource. We must be sure production can be restored after the coal is mined," Nelson said. "Agricultural land and coal are somewhat similar:

once they are gone they are gone. We must get our priorities correct when extracting coal."

Although land reclamation is possible after coal mining ceases, it is expensive and must be regulated, Nelson said. "Mandates and incentives will be necessary for companies to satisfactorily restore the land."

Senate Bill 819, introduced by Sen. William Faust this spring, prescribes the coal strip mining procedures that could and could not be used in Michigan and further prescribes methods for land reclamation.

The bill passed the Senate prior to the summer recess and was on the House floor as *Rural Living* went to press. The bill is expected to pass.

Action by the MFB board's Legislative Committee allowed MFB staff to argue for numerous amendments to the bill which would provide additional protection for agricultural land.

"Without such legislation in Michigan," Nelson said, "coal strip mining companies would be subject to federal regulations which might not be stringent enough to protect farmland."

Leaders Research Mining

Michigan Farm Bureau does not have a policy on coal strip mining, but the MFB Natural and Environmental Resources Advisory Committee is researching the subject and will make recommendations to the state Policy Development Committee in late October. The Policy Development Committee will review the recommendations along with resolutions submitted by county Farm Bureaus, consult experts and prepare a proposed resolution to be presented to voting delegates at the 1982 MFB annual meeting, Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.

To help them better understand the effect of strip mining on agricultural land, advisory committee chairperson Mike Pridgeon of Branch County, other committee members, Farm Bureau leaders from potential strip mining areas and MFB staff visited coal mines near Brazil, Ind., this summer.



The group toured active strip mining operations and saw land that is in the reclamation process. They also viewed land that was strip mined several years ago.

"Coal mining companies must not be allowed to strip mine the way they did in the 1940s and 50s with such devastation to the land, especially agricultural land," Pridgeon said. "It is important that agricultural land be properly safeguarded under state legislation and that Michigan Farm Bureau have input in its development."

Land reclamation results from research plots in Illinois were explained to the group by Dr. Ivan Jansen, associate professor of pedology at the University of Illinois. He said that it is possible for agricultural lands to be reclaimed for agricultural production after coal strip mining has taken place, but stressed the importance of evaluating each site individually for crop production and reclamation potential.

Depending on the structure of the soil at an individual site, Jansen said, farmland can be improved or deteriorated by land reclamation procedures.

Jansen also listed problems that could develop because of land reclamation. These include a higher possi-

bility of crop stress, differential settling of land and surface leaching of acid material that prohibits the growth of any plant life for extended periods of time.

Mining Effects More Than Just Land

Surprise visits from coal strip mining company representatives and reclaiming agricultural land following strip mining is not all that concerns Farm Bureau leaders. The potential abuse to Michigan's road system - primarily local roads - as heavy equipment continuously moves over them, will subsequently increase costs to local governments for road maintenance. The question of who should bear repair costs still needs to be addressed.

Another major concern is the effect coal strip mining will have on Michigan's generally high water table. Strip mining can disrupt and contaminate ground water, surface water and underground aquifers.

Members interested in this issue should attend their county annual meetings or send their comments to the MFB Policy Development Committee in care of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Public Affairs Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

Front and Center

Backing "Friends of Agriculture" endorsements with FB member support at the November election is the goal of a statewide campaign to "Get Out the Farm Bureau Vote." The political action campaign will be coordinated by an appointed county FB election director. The election director will organize county FB volunteers in the Women's Committee, Young Farmer Committee, Community Action Groups and Local, State and National Affairs Committee to help get out the vote. Volunteers will use telephone and personal contact to encourage voter registration prior to the Oct. 4 deadline and to urge all county FB members to support "Friends of Agriculture" in the Nov. 2 general election.

1982 county annual meetings are underway throughout the state and will conclude on Nov. 3. The county annual is the first step in the adoption of policies which will guide the entire FB organization at the county, state and national levels, and have an impact on action in your courthouse, the state capitol and in Congress. Plan to attend your county annual meeting. Remember, in Farm Bureau, YOU make it happen! A listing of county annual meeting dates appears on page 9 of this issue.

The AFBF board has proposed a national policy of "freeze and fix" to get uncontrolled federal spending back in line and to break the disastrous spend and tax cycle that is stifling the economy. The proposal, adopted at the Sept. 2 meeting, would:

- Freeze for three years all government-paid cost of living adjustments (COLA) at 1982 levels. Included would be increases in Social Security payments, increases in government pensions, both civil and military, scheduled pay raises in all sectors of the federal government, including all farm price and income support programs.

- Require Congress to fix, i.e. remedy or change, the laws that provide for increased government entitlement program outlays. The proposal noted that entitlement payments now make up 46.5% of the federal budget, and comprise over 10% of our entire gross national product.

Farmers of the Week

The Farmer of the Week program, co-sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group and the Michigan Farm Radio Network, honors Michigan farmers for their contributions to the community and the agriculture industry. August 1982 recipients were:

Aug. 2 - Jacob Daenzer, 41, operates a 210-acre dairy farm and milks 56 cows near Frankenmuth. He serves on the board of trustees of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, served two years as local DHIA president, is a Saginaw County FB member and served four years as an MMPA state delegate.

Aug. 9 - Joe Servia, a dairy farmer from Norway, farms 540 acres and raises 125 cattle. Servia, 59, is in his 30th year as a Dickinson County Fair Board member. He is a member of the Alfalfand Animal Breeders Cooperative board, the local ASCS committee,

St. Mary's Church, Iron Range FB and MMPA. He was named Dickinson County's Farmer of the Year in 1978.

Aug. 16 - Lester Langeland, 54, is a dairy, poultry and grain farmer from Coopersville. He farms 1,600 acres with the help of his family, milks 120 cows and raises 115,000 chickens. He is an elder of the Lamont Christian Reformed Church, has been local Christian School Board president for five years and is a Sunday School teacher and superintendent. He served three years on the Young Calvinist Board International, is on the township ASCS committee, is an Ottawa County FB member and chaired numerous FB committees.

Aug. 23 - Henry Wolf, 59, operates a 400-acre dairy farm and milks 150 cows in the Cheboygan area. He

serves as a 4-H dairy group leader, Cheboygan Farmers Co-op board member, Cheboygan County FB member and is past president of the Black Mt. Community Group. He has earned two awards from the Soil Conservation District for his conservation practices. Wolf started farming with five cows and built his farm from that original herd.

Aug. 30 - Frederick Reichow, 31, operates a 1,000-acre cattle farm near Albion. Reichow, who markets 1,500 head of steer, serves as Calhoun County FB vice president, is past Young Farmer chairperson, a Concord United Methodist Church member, Michigan Agricultural Leadership Program member and member and past president of the Progressive Farmers, a local group devoted to increasing agricultural knowledge.



County Newsletter

The county Farm Bureau newsletter is published monthly by the Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. Subscription price to members, \$1.25 per year, included in the annual membership dues.

Each Year Brings a Brighter Memory of UP Fair

By Barbara Cotey, Editor
Hiawathaland FB Newsletter

Upper Peninsula fairgoers are proud of the 55-year history of their UP State Fair and the annual event continues to attract thousands of visitors to the fairgrounds at Escanaba. They attend to walk the brightly lit midway and to support the 4-H youth who proudly exhibit their crafts, produce and livestock. During this year's fair week, Aug. 17-22, the fair hosted 57,043 visitors.

Few Farm Bureau members would miss the chance to visit the dairy barn, where Hugo Kivi greeted long time friends from throughout the Upper Peninsula. Kivi has been superintendent of the dairy division for many years; he enjoys working with the exhibitors as he did with the members of the Michigan Farm Bureau as regional representative for the Upper Peninsula counties for so many years.

When Kivi was offered the appointment to the UP State Fair Board of Managers by Gov. Milliken, his first

question was "Will I still be superintendent of the dairy barn?"

Dedicated service from individuals like Hugo Kivi and fair manager Dick Ostrander make the U.P. State Fair an outstanding annual event.

Among the special highlights at each year's fair is the permanent display developed by the U.P. Steam and Gas Engine Association. In the rustic buildings which house the exhibit, fairgoers "take a step back in time." The association has accumulated an interesting and educational collection of old farm equipment and antique tractors. The display also features an operating sawmill and several small motor and engine displays.

Stock car events are also a popular attraction during fair time.

Cooperative efforts between the UP Fair Association, the UP Steam and Gas Engine Association and the Stock Car Racing Association help to provide revenues for the fair operation



and fairgrounds maintenance and improvements. In addition, every attempt is made to utilize the fairgrounds on a year-round basis.

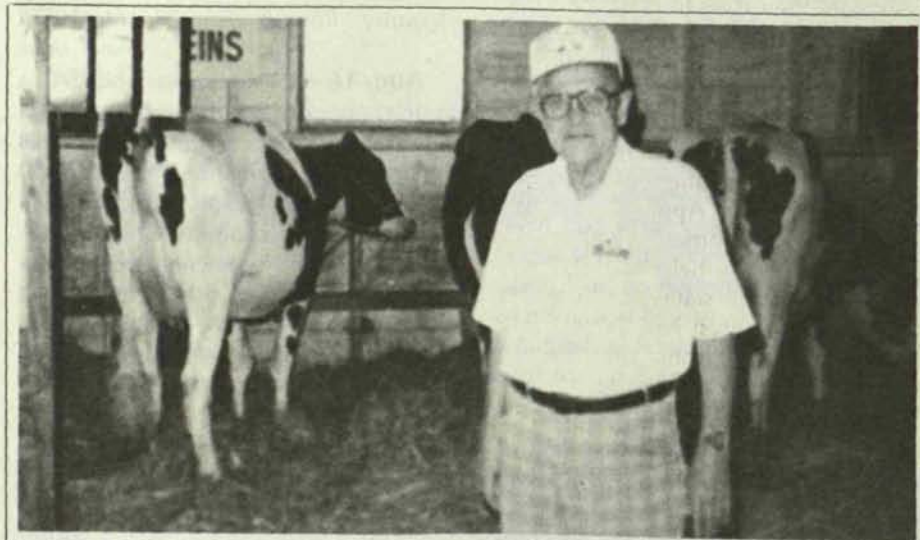
It's the practical, every day decisions and hard work of the fair board, community associations and volunteers that build better memories each year for fairgoers.

**Get Out the
Farm Bureau Vote
Register to vote by Oct. 4!
Support MFB AgriPac's
"Friends of Agriculture"
on Tuesday, Nov. 2**

★ELECT★ELECT★ELECT★

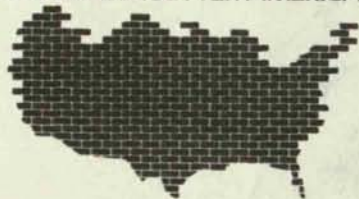
VOTE AGRICULTURE

**McManus/Heuser
for Michigan State
Board of Trustees**



Hugo Kivi, retired UP regional representative, has served as superintendent of the dairy barn for many years and was appointed by Gov. Milliken to the UP State Fair Board of Managers. His service to the fair put him in contact with his many Farm Bureau friends.

COOPERATIVES BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA



October Is Co-op Month

Essay Contest Being Held in State Schools

Students from schools in every county are among the 10,000 Michigan eighth grade students participating in the 1982-83 America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

"This year's contest is being held Oct. 18 to Nov. 12," explained Robert Wiseman, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

"We're asking students to write on the topic 'Why I Am Important to America's Future.' In the 14 years that FBIG has been sponsoring the essay contest, we have discovered that Michigan young people believe that living in America is still one of the greatest privileges the world can offer."

Open to any eighth grade student in Michigan, the contest was started in 1968 to encourage young people to explore their roles in America's future. Prizes for this year's winners will include hundreds of award certificates and plaques for local school winners, and \$4,000 in savings bonds for the top 10 statewide winners.

The top 10 winners will also gather in Lansing next April to meet Michigan's top governmental leaders. Conducted with the help of FBIG agents throughout the state, the America & Me Essay Contest has earned 10 national awards from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Each year, hundreds of excerpts from the essays are compiled into booklet form and distributed to schools, the public and visitors at the state capitol in Lansing. To request copies of the most recent booklet or to learn more about the contest, contact your local FBIG agent.

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. A Cooperative Serving Farmers

*From the St. Clair County
Farm Bureau Newsletter*

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., organized in 1929, is a federated cooperative organization owned by Michigan Farm Bureau and 92 affiliated farmers' cooperative associations and 8,453 farmers. Michigan Elevator Exchange, organized as a separate cooperative by the local co-op elevators on July 20, 1921, became a division of Farm Bureau Services in November 1962.

A dealer organization of over 115 points, including its own 21 branch stores throughout Michigan, a wholesale warehouse in Jenison, a supply

center at Carrollton and a number of local elevators under management contracts, it provides service to an estimated 65,000 farmers.

FBS is an extensive company, handling innumerable items and performing a vast number of services mainly for farmer patrons, although many urban and suburban customers are also served.

Its existence is an important factor in Michigan for stabilizing farm supply prices and maintaining quality supplies for farmers.

During the month of October, take the time to learn more about your farm cooperatives.

President Urges: Say Yes to Leadership Opportunities

*By Daryl K. Peterson, President
Mason County Farm Bureau*

One of the objectives of our county Farm Bureau is to surface leadership. This is how it's done.

The county committees, including Young Farmers, Policy Development, Women, Commodity, Land Use, Nominating and more, need participants and a chairperson. These committees provide an excellent opportunity for leadership.

Another opportunity to develop leadership lies with the board of directors. The board directs activities of the county Farm Bureau. Since directors serve for two-year terms and can only be reelected once, ample opportunities are available for trying and testing leadership abilities.

"County Farm Bureau President" sounds impressive to some, demanding to a few, and scary to others. But being president is none of these. It is an opportunity. A chance to test abilities and surface leadership.

All leadership positions can be viewed in this way, as opportunities. Our county Farm Bureau does offer leadership development. The next time a chance appears, take it. Say, "Yes, I can do that."




A Job for Everybody

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There is an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody blamed Anybody.

Does this sound familiar to anybody?



685 42
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862 14
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075 23

Help Send "Friends of Agriculture" to Lansing and Washington WE NEED THEM!

As less than 3% of the country's population, farmers need representatives in Lansing and Washington, D.C., who understand and will support agriculture. If we do not have that representation, decisions will be made that adversely affect our industry.

Michigan Farm Bureau's Political Action Committee, AgriPac, was formed to accept voluntary contributions from members and disburse those contributions to "Friends of Agriculture" in support of their campaigns. The selection of "Friends of Agriculture" and financial assistance to their campaigns is based on demonstrated basic beliefs and/or actions which are consistent with those of Michigan agriculture - regardless of their political affiliation.

Farm Bureau members are again being provided with a **voluntary option of contributing to the Michigan Farm Bureau Political Action Committee (AgriPac)** at the time they pay their Farm Bureau dues. This option was authorized by voting delegates to the 1980 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. **It is important that you add the amount to be contributed to your dues payable at the time you pay your dues. The amount contributed cannot be deducted from the regular dues.**

County Farm Bureau members may voluntarily contribute more or less than the suggested \$10 voluntary amount shown on the top portion of the dues notice. A decision to contribute or not to contribute will neither favor nor disfavor any member. A member may refuse to contribute without reprisal from any source.

SUPPORT AGRIPAC "Friends of Agriculture"

Help keep Farm Bureau politically and legislatively effective. Make sure your industry - AGRICULTURE - is represented. **Become involved in the election of "Friends of Agriculture" by contributing \$10 or any other amount to AgriPac when paying your Farm Bureau dues.**

LEADING PROUD



RUTH ANN FOWLER
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

State Leader Conference participants grew in pride for themselves, their industry and their farm organization

Work . . . share . . . laugh . . . learn. It's a hard to beat formula for success and it worked especially well when over 160 county Farm Bureau leaders met for the annual State Leader Conference, Sept. 29 and 30 at the Grand Rapids Marriott Inn. The conference is sponsored each year by the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee to introduce men and women to new leadership opportunities in Farm Bureau and to build personal and leadership skills.

At this year's conference, eight information-packed workshops showed conferees how to manage stress, communicate effectively, build and strengthen committees, identify opportunities in Farm Bureau, manage time through goal setting and prioritizing, conduct effective citizen and organizational lobbying efforts, gain farm marketing skills and appreciate their own strengths and individuality.

Be in the Center Ring

Likening leadership roles to the center ring in the circus, motivational speaker Ruth Ann Fowler told the conferees to seek the most coveted honor of all, the role of a leader.

"To be in the center ring" she told them, "means taking risks. Everyone is watching for you to make mistakes, waiting for you to go wrong, checking to see if you can truly hold up under the strains of great competition.

"In the center ring, you must be the best . . . the one who draws the crowd and leaves them to go home happy."

The public observes the traits of leaders, often comparing them to the characteristics of animals. Phrases such as "stubborn as a mule," or "wise as an owl," are clues to the skills and qualifications we see in those we work with or in ourselves.

"It is important that people builders

are not noisy, poor climbers, nor simply playful tummy warmers as are house dogs who will accept all hand-outs offered to them by anyone," she said. "The champion leader needs to be active all year; be a great hunter, be clever, sociable, intelligent, mild-mannered and persistent. The champion performer should also have a great self-image, have courage, be loyal and be tireless."

Fowler, whose personal list of accomplishments includes roles as wife, mother, home economist, administrator, columnist, teacher, neighbor and friend, was a popular speaker at the 1981 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Kick-off Breakfast. She lives in Tampa, Florida, where she is employed by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

Be Proud

Sharing pride in agriculture in difficult economic times is easier when farm families and the agriculture industry pull together, American Farm Bureau Consumer Affairs Director Sue Palmore told those attending the conference.

"Now is the time to let our pride in agriculture show. As business people, we are tightening our belts along with everyone else," she said. "But we must also remember that agriculture is in a strong position. Demand for our products continues to be tremendous. Consumers still need and want the food and fiber products we produce.

"Take pride, too, in the fact that farm men and women can be equal partners in the farming business. Farm families must pitch in to work the family farm, and every member of your family, through the work they do, earns the right to take pride in what the farm family can accomplish together."

The Cooperative Key is Service

By *Connie Turbin*

Recognition of cooperatives during October of each year sets aside a special time to bring attention to a special kind of business - the cooperative enterprise. For local cooperatives, keeping that spirit of cooperative "evangelism is a year-round challenge.

Bob Newman, manager of the Caledonia Farmers Elevator in Kent County, has got that spirit and he's building and leading his employees in offering a cooperative business for the farmer patrons and shareholders that identifies and provides services they need to increase their farm profits.

Cooperatives, Newman says, rely on the loyalty of those farmers and customers who have made an investment in the cooperative through the purchase of their stock shares, but he adds, "the cooperative cannot be removed from the competitive aspects of doing business and helping the farmer increase his profits.

"Probably the most valuable thing that we do to keep our cooperative spirit strong in this area is to get people interested in the kinds of services we have."

For example, three years ago the cooperative hired a young, aggressive specialist in agronomy, who has been instrumental in developing a compre-



The Caledonia cooperative's retail store serves both farm and non-farm customers with hardware, automotive and farm supplies.

hensive soil testing and analysis program for the farmers in the area.

Bud Smith, a graduate of Michigan State University with experience at a major farm chemical firm, came to Caledonia Farmers Elevator with an idea for a program to do complete soil testing, and to offer farmers specific recommendations for fertilizers and chemicals to increase their crop yields and their profits.

Use of infrared aerial photography plays an important role in the overall program of analysis and recommendations because of the crop or field patterns which become more readily apparent in the photographs, Smith says.

"Our objective is to get all of a farmer's fields balanced and increase fertility of the soil to give good yielding production," he said. "We do that by correcting the pH, supplementing low levels of potash, phosphorous or other chemicals in specific applications for each field."

In an infrared photograph, healthy crop areas appear a deep red color; the more consistent the red "growth" area, the better the stand. Patterns identified in the photograph can also help to show problems that may be related to improper equipment operation, the irrigation rate or fertilizer application.

"Really, the program helps the farmer to manage his time and his crop much better. Even the most careful farmer can recognize that he has a problem, but not be able to pinpoint what is causing it. Through this program and using the infrared photography, we can help identify the cause of the problems.

"We can save the farmer money, too, by making recommendations for the application or blend of chemicals at the proper level. For example, to apply potash to a field where there is no deficiency is wasting the farmer's chemical dollar. Probably the biggest mistake most farmers make is to apply the same fertilizer or chemicals to all of their fields."

Since the program has been underway, Smith has worked with over 300 farmers in the area, helping them with a specific problem or working closely with the producer to develop a year to year program for increasing yields to an identified production goal.

"Someone who is satisfied with 80 or 90 bushel corn yield doesn't need me," Smith says, "but if a guy wants to break the 100 bushel or 120 bushel barrier in corn yield, then I can help. We'll set up a program based on fine-tuning and balancing the nutrients available to the plants... putting on the right amount of each chemical."

The farmers' success is the most important thing to him and to us.

Bob Newman, Manager
Caledonia Farmers Elevator



Results from the cooperative's corn hybrid test plots provide important performance information. Local testing is done by Frank Langely, the cooperative's sales representative.

In the cooperative's blending plant, bins of standard fertilizer blends along with bins of magnesium, potash, potassium and other agricultural chemicals are mixed to the specifications worked out by Smith and the farm producer.

"What we are offering here," says Newman, "is a program of complementary services. That's what gives our patrons the cooperative spirit; that's why they support us. We recognize that their success and profits in farming are the most important thing to them and to us. We are here to give them the services they need."

"We find out really fast what services farmers count as important," says Frank Langely, sales representative for the cooperative. Information from test plots of hybrid corn are among the services that Langely oversees. "We were considering not having test plots for the corn varieties this spring and we found out right away how much that local test information means to farmers in this area."

While farmers have information available from seed companies reporting the performance of seed varieties, Langely says they feel more confident in their selection when they have local data on hybrids grown in soil conditions and weather conditions in Kent County. Test plots are not a new service of the Caledonia Farmers Elevator and, if the response from farmers this spring is a measure of the demand for this information, Langely is going to be checking and reporting on seed varieties for another 15 years.

In the retail store, operated by Dean Holzhausen, keeping an adequate inventory is always a balancing act. "We want to have on hand what our customers will need - when they need it, or at least we want to be able to get it for them quickly," he says.

Offering a new product line or a new supply service is considered very carefully and customer service is always a top priority.

"For example, we recently installed a refrigeration unit for veterinary medicines. In many cases, antibiotics or other medications can be administered by the farmer," Holzhausen says. "Having these medications available and properly stored saves the farmer time and money."

The retail store also serves many customers in the community with hardware, some automotive products and work clothing.

"We pay careful attention to service from our suppliers," he says. "If we can't get good service from a company or work with a company that will back up their products, we can't serve our customers as well. When a product doesn't perform, I'm ready to stand behind it. I expect the same thing from my suppliers."

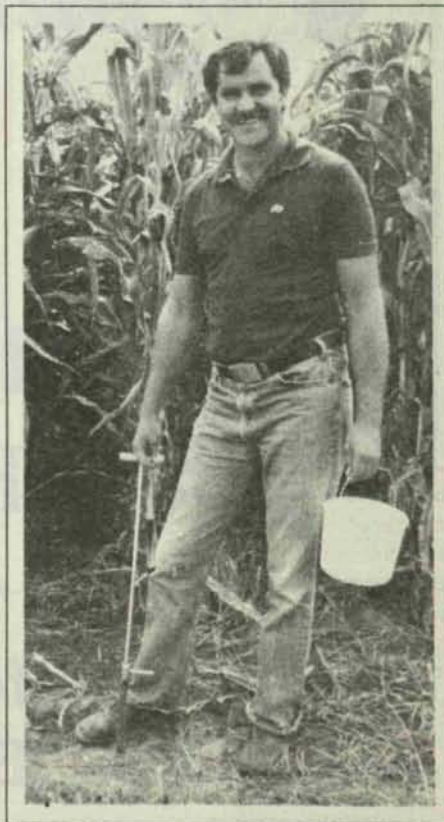
"I have found that rural people expect quality and service from their local cooperative. Our goal is to provide that," he said.

Other services of the cooperative include certified seed cleaning and distribution, primarily in West Michigan,

supervised by Don Steeby; grain storage and marketing; and a lumber department specializing in farm building and supply needs.

"There's always someone who will offer a cheaper price on this product or that, but if we can put our products and services together in a way that will show the farmer he will increase his net profit, then we have got his business," Newman says.

Cooperatives are a special way of doing business and they need special people like Bob Newman and his employees at Caledonia Farmers Elevator who have a belief in working together and serving the farm community. In Caledonia, and wherever farmers are willing to work with and trade with their cooperatives, the cooperative system will continue to work profitably.



Agronomy services include soil sampling and analysis, fertilizer and chemical recommendations. Bud Smith is the cooperative's full-time agronomist.

A PUBLIC TRUST



Laura Heuser: A Cum Laude graduate of Michigan State University in horticulture, Heuser has continued to make contributions of service to MSU and agriculture. She is a recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the School of Agriculture and Natural Science; is a founding member of the Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan; served as a committee chairperson and is a member of the Governor's Conference on Agriculture Steering Committee. Heuser is an active partner in the family owned and operated business, Hilltop Orchards and Nurseries in Van Buren County. She is a nationally known speaker on subjects related to agriculture, citizen involvement in government and the private enterprise system.



George McManus: Agriculture and Michigan State University have been George McManus' life work. He did undergraduate and graduate study at MSU and served 25½ years in the Cooperative Extension Service. He was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award by the university. McManus is also the owner/operator of a 500-acre family fruit farm in Grand Traverse County. In his community he has been active as a member and director of the Michigan National Bank of Grand Traverse, Northwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees, Traverse City Chamber of Commerce and the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Board of Education.

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Fall Festivals Salute Agriculture



By Marcia Ditchie

From Michigan's orchards, fields, vineyards and pasturelands come the farm fresh basics for good health and favorite family recipes. These "good things growing in Michigan" products are also the "guests of honor" at numerous celebrations across the state.

Maple syrup, mushrooms, asparagus, strawberries, cherries, sauerkraut, pickles, corn, blueberries, peaches, grapes, potatoes, apples, cheese, pumpkins and other commodities are honored throughout the state as many communities salute Michigan's abundant agricultural industry with festivals beginning in April and running through October.

Among the festivals in September were the Posen Potato Festival, the Farm City Week Festival in Macomb County and the Harvest Festival at the Lansing City Market.

Festival Salutes Potatoes

Begun in 1952, the 31st annual Posen Potato Festival in Presque Isle County was a salute not only to the

potato industry, but also to the town's Polish heritage.

It has become an annual event which draws people from across the state, and this year the Posen community welcomed a busload of visitors from a parish in Pennsylvania. An estimated 25,000 people attended the three-day festival held in the northern Michigan community in mid-September.

Merchants, Farmers Enjoy Harvest

In Macomb County, the 25th annual Farm City Week Festival was held Sept. 10-18 in the Mt. Clemens area. The annual event has grown over the past 25 years from a small gathering of farmers and Mt. Clemens merchants to a large festival with an estimated 100,000 people attending this year.

Among those organizing the first festival in 1957 were Farm Bureau member and former county president Joa Penzien, who raises potatoes on 275 acres, Jack Prescott of the Macomb County Cooperative Extension Service and Mt. Clemens businesses. Through the years, the Macomb Farm Bureau, the county Extension service and the Mt. Clemens Chamber of

Commerce have continued to cooperate in making the festival a success.

A highlight of this year's festival was a tour of the Penzien potato farm, which has been in the family since 1911.

New Festival in Capital

A new event this year was the Michigan Harvest Festival held Sept. 24-25 at the Lansing City Market. It was designed to promote and increase awareness of Michigan farm products in the state's capital city.

The Michigan Bean Commission, American Dairy Association of Michigan, Michigan Allied Poultry Industry, Michigan Beef Commission, Michigan Plum Committee, Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board, Michigan Pork Producers, National Red Tart Cherry Institute, Michigan Apple Committee, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan Farm Bureau handed out free food samples, recipes and nutrition material.

Attend October Festivals

Organizers hope to make the festival an annual event and take it to other city markets around the state.

Food and fun are bountiful at Michigan fall festivals

Still remaining on the 1982 festival circuit is the Harvest Festival at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Oct. 1-3. Visitors will celebrate the fall harvest season in the traditional way of early American rural communities.

Also contributing to this article were Joyce Foster, Presque Isle County Farm Bureau Information Committee chairperson, and Betty Brodacki, Information Committee chairperson for Macomb County Farm Bureau.

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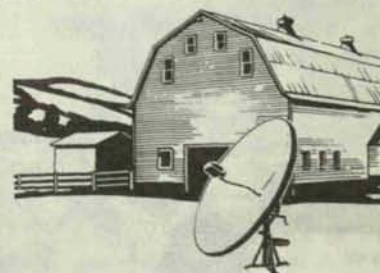
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AFBF Cattle Cycle Forum

'No reason to push panic button,' say livestock economists but advise caution in an expansion plan

The outlook for the nation's beef cattle industry as seen by three of the country's top livestock economists is "cautiously optimistic."

That's the only conclusion that can be reached from the fifth in a series of Cattle Cycle Forums sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The forum featured three livestock economists whose predictions in the previous sessions proved to be substantially correct.

Participating in the forum were Glenn Grimes, professor of agricultural economics, University of Missouri; Dr. Robert J. Reiersen, agricultural economics consultant of Menlo Park, Calif.; and Dr. Edward Uvacek Jr., livestock marketing economist and professor, Texas A & M University. Moderating the discussions were Ross Korves, AFBF research economist, and Al Keating, director of the AFBF livestock department.

The economists' mostly optimistic predictions for the future of the beef cattle producers were tempered by several big "ifs":

- If USDA cattle inventory figures are accurate in indicating a slowdown in the buildup of beef cattle herds.

- If the nation's economy recovers sufficiently to increase consumer demand for red meat.

- If interest rates and other costs return to levels that will make beef production profitable.

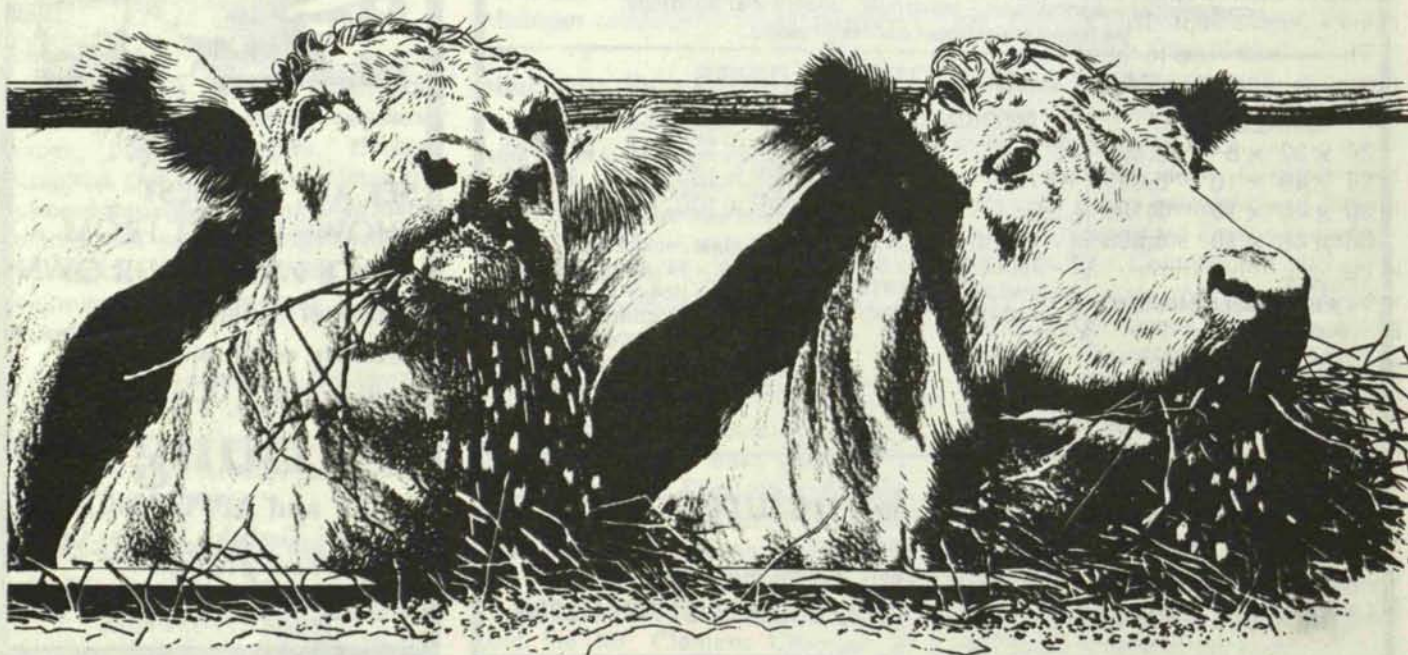
- If the industry avoids going into a liquidation phase that would flood the market with salvage and nonfed cattle.

- If cattle feeders avoid marketing overfed, overweight cattle.

"For the cow/calf producer, there is no question that this is a time for caution," Grimes said. "This is not the time for expansion unless the producer's situation is such that his resources justify the enterprise over the next several years."

He said the odds are low that the industry will go into a liquidation phase for the next two or three years, and he looks for the nation's beef herd to hold at a plateau with only moderate changes in numbers for that period.

All three economists expressed concern over the nation's economy and the effect the current recession will have on consumer demand for red meat. They agreed that there should be some improvement in beef demand this year, primarily due to shorter sup-



plies of pork, a situation that could change by the second half of 1983 when more pork and broilers will contribute to a larger total meat supply.

"This increased total meat supply will mean price pressures during the last half of next year on both retail meat and live cattle," Reiersen said. "Later in 1983, pork prices probably will drop which in turn will put a ceiling on beef prices."

Reiersen, whose consultations bring him into close contact with the hotel, restaurant and institutional trade, pointed out that the "HRI Trade" is becoming increasingly important in determining demand for beef with approximately half of all ribs and loins going to that market compared to retail beef counters.

In looking at prospects for 1983 from the standpoint of the beef producer, Dr. Uvacek said it appears that there will be cheap grain available, an improved economy and lower interest rates - three factors that could lead to increased cattle feeding with the ac-

companying demand for more feeder cattle.

He said cow/calf operators may find it advisable to hang on to their calves a little longer if they have feed available since there are prospects that demand for feeder cattle will improve prices by the first quarter of 1983.

"With the feeding industry looking more profitable," Dr. Uvacek said, "an alternative for the cattleman to explore is to move into a vertically integrated situation by feeding his own cattle or by placing his calves or yearlings into a custom feedlot."

The economists agreed that while the cattle business definitely is tied to the economic well-being of the entire nation, there is no reason for the cattle producers to "push the panic button" in the immediate future.

The next AFBF Cattle Cycle Forum in the series is scheduled for February.

Agronomic Update is prepared by MFB's Commodity Activities and Research Department.

State Grain Dealers Act Amended

Farmers will have additional protection against grain and hay dealer bankruptcies with new amendments to the Michigan Grain Dealers Act which became effective Sept. 16.

The amendments to the existing law now require that hay dealers and buyers must be licensed under the provisions of the act. Grain haulers have been required to obtain a license by previous amendments to the act.

Efforts to make substantial changes in the federal bankruptcy law continue to be supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation. Farm Bureau has supported amendments to the federal law which have been passed in the U.S. Senate, but are being held up in the House Judiciary Committee. Until changes in the law are approved, the existing federal law prevails and farmers should take precautions to assure themselves as much protection under Michigan law as possible.

Some of those precautionary measures include:

- Know your dealer or trucker. A grain trucker must be licensed as a dealer if he buys the grain and sells it in his name. Ask the trucker/dealer for his license number.

- The trucker/dealer must give you a temporary receipt showing the estimated amount.

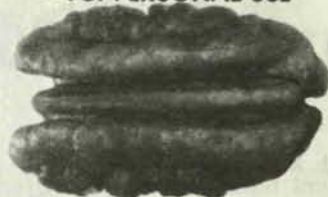
- If the grain is to be stored, there must be a warehouse receipt within 30 days after delivery. Also be sure to have all weight slips.

- If grain is not stored, a "price later agreement" can be used. In this case, actual title passes from the producer to the dealer. The law requires the elevator to meet some stringent rules for these agreements.

- Always be wary of a "deal" or premium suspiciously much higher than the market price. If you are suspicious, notify the Michigan Department of Agriculture. You can also ask the MDA if your dealer is properly licensed and meets other requirements.

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Cutback Management: A New Primer

Recent reports indicate that Michigan has the highest rate of unemployment in the nation. This results mostly from its dependence on the automobile industry.

Since the state's unemployment figure hit double digits nearly three years ago, both state and local governments have had to restructure, primarily because while the costs of government and services have increased, revenues have either stayed the same or decreased. This has presented difficult challenges to officials in government at all levels, as there are few people in government, or elsewhere, who have had experience in cutback management. Elected officials and administrators continue to look for ways to reduce the budget and still offer the same services.

While taxpayers have been vocal in their demands for reductions in government spending, they have failed to reduce their expectations from government - national, state or local. With the budget cutbacks and declining revenues, the citizenry must learn that you cannot do the same or more with less funds. This is true whether discussing funding for state or local government, townships, cities, villages or schools.

Everyone applauds holding down the budget, but they still want those federal and state dollars in grants and aid which come back through revenue sharing. In fact, revenue sharing has become a mainstay for balancing the budget of many units of government.

Property Tax Not Enough

It should be remembered that the property tax does not begin to pay the cost of local government. For example, funding for township budgets averages only about one-third from property tax. The other two-thirds comes from state and federal revenue sharing. A large share of county funds also comes from the state. The state's constitution requires that 41.6% of the

general fund budget be sent to local units of government.

The state budget is really two budgets: the general purpose budget, which is determined by the Legislature, and the rest of the budget, which is made up of funds earmarked for specific purposes. Maintaining the level of services expected by the people is difficult if the funds to support the services are not available. This is true even if the services were budgeted because budgets are based on estimated projected funds which will be available.

In June and July of this year, domestic automobile sales nationwide were running at around 5 million units. Sales in the peak month of 1978 were 10 million units. Budgets established a year ago did not plan on revenues from the automobile industry being 50% of what they were just a few years ago.

School finances will no doubt have a high priority in many areas of the state in the month ahead. We have seen that maintaining the current level of education can be difficult in a declining economy.

Revenue to finance K-12 education is derived from a combination of local, state and federal sources. The total number of students is decreasing each year from over 2 million a few years ago to an estimated 1.7 million for the 1982-83 school year.

Aid to Schools Cut

Generally speaking, the local property tax for both school operating and bonded indebtedness contributes about 47.5% of the revenue and state aid to schools provides about 47.5% with the rest coming from federal sources. However, the proportion of federal and state aid has decreased in Michigan because of a serious economic decline. The greatest share of the state aid comes from the school aid fund, which includes earmarked taxes (sales, cigarette and liquor taxes, lot-

tery revenue, other minor state taxes and some federal aid). The remaining amount is appropriated from the general fund.

State aid to K-12 schools is based on a formula which guarantees that each mill of property tax will yield the same number of dollars, even if the valuation in the district is very low. Some low valuation schools receive most of their funds from state aid, while some schools do not receive any state aid due to high valuations. They are known as "out of formula." However, districts which are "out of formula" do receive money from the state for categoricals, including transportation, special education, reading support, vocational education, etc. One serious problem is that the state often fails to pay.

Proponents of statewide redistricting argue that with the declining school population and the closing of many schools, money for K-12 education could be saved by reorganization. Legislation has been introduced which would require a state committee to prepare a plan and guidelines for mandatory reorganization of non-high school and small urban school districts.

Who Does Education Serve?

Is education perceived to be a service for the general public good or for a special segment of the public? Offhand, most would probably say it is a general good. But statistics show that only 27% of the households of this state have children attending public schools and only 10% of the households of the state have children attending institutions of higher education.

When attempting to balance the state's budget, the Legislature cuts aid to institutions of higher education and the tuition goes up. But 90% of the population says, "So what, it doesn't come out of my pocket." This is perhaps one reason why millage votes for education are often defeated and why

for School Financing

legislative funding cuts to public colleges and universities go unchallenged.

If the citizenry of Michigan really wants to have and maintain their government and schools with less revenue, then the citizenry must learn to do with less. Then the question becomes who will decide who gets less and whose preferences are counted.

Questions for Discussion

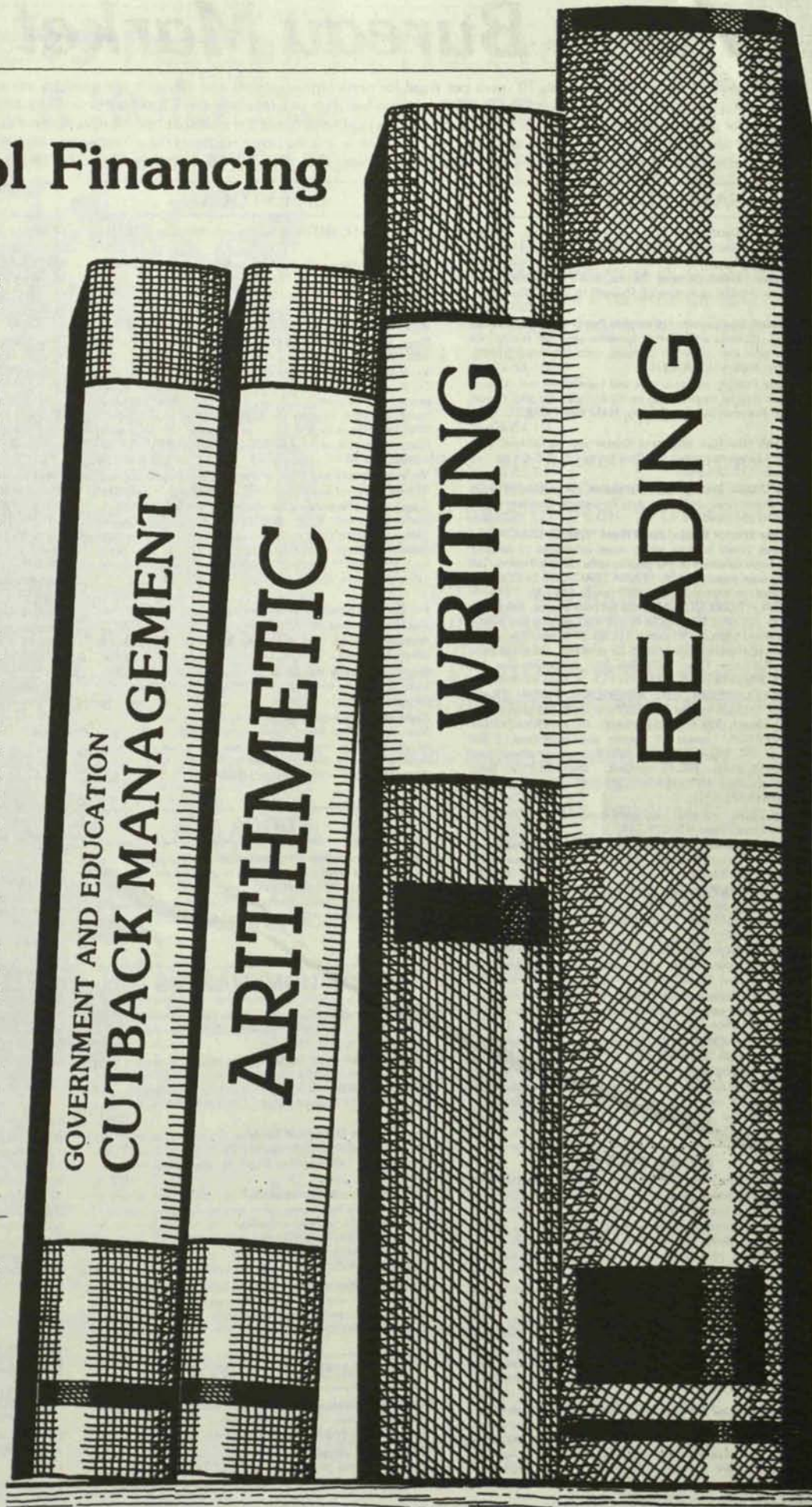
- Have your local governmental units maintained a reasonable level of service to residents?

- Present constitutional requirements mandate at least 41.6% of the state budget be returned to local governmental units in the form of revenue sharing. Should state aid to local units of government be increased in order to further help local governments?

- Should high school districts and/or intermediate districts be required to re-organize? What would be the advantages? Disadvantages?

- Should school districts be allowed to use a local income tax as an alternative to the property tax? (Such an alternative would require voter approval.)

The monthly Discussion Topic for Community Action Groups is prepared by Ken Wiles, manager of the MFB Member Relations Department.



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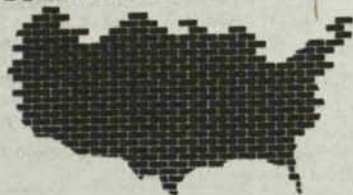
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