

Michigan Farm News

Rural Living

December 1982



A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau
County Newsletter Inside

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December 1982
Volume 61, Number 12

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Rural Route

Elton R. Smith

President, Michigan Farm Bureau



We are living through some trying times. We see depressed commodity prices; we see good farmers experiencing cash flow problems; we see land values decreasing.

Our efficient agriculture has increased production by 30% in the last decade. During that time, consumption has remained relatively static and per capita consumption for some products has actually declined. This, coupled with a slowing growth in population, means that for some commodities we have too much, based on current usage.

For years we have looked overseas to expand our markets and we have enjoyed increasing exports for at least 10 years. This year, however, we saw a decrease in agricultural exports. Why? And what can we do to expand our sales?

The entire world economy is in a recession now and while demand for our products re-

mains strong, there are not funds to buy in many countries. Also, because of the injudicious use of embargoes, we have provided opportunities for our competition to move in on our markets.

Another reason exports are down is because of interest costs. At Farm Bureau's urging, Congress finally recognized this and in October created a small revolving fund which will be used to make financing available to foreign buyers. This is a revolving fund so it will not be a cost to government over the years.

But the biggest concern we should have is that some countries, especially in Europe, have increased subsidizing exports at a very high level. While Farm Bureau has always believed in free trade, we recognize that subsidization by foreign governments is not free trade. Farm Bureau leaders and government officials have met with European leaders to express our opposition to trade subsidies, but these negotiations have failed.

We American farmers can compete against farmers anywhere, but we cannot compete against the treasuries of the

EEC countries! Farm Bureau, therefore, has asked the U.S. government to subsidize some exports so that our products will compete. While I'm sure most farmers find subsidized exports distasteful, they also recognize that this is the only way to return rationality to the thinking of many European politicians.

I am convinced that we must expand foreign markets and reduce production if we are to increase the net income for farmers. The alternative is to produce specific commodities in specific volume and at specific prices. Those specifications would be set by a politically motivated group of bureaucrats - and that alternative is unthinkable! While we may be unhappy with prices and income today, at least we have the opportunity to attempt to improve ourselves.

I honestly believe there is an answer to the problems which plague agriculture and the economy of this nation and the world. I'm not sure I know the answer, but I strongly believe that Farm Bureau members working together, sharing their creative thinking, will find the right answer.

Donna

Life is But a Dream . . .

By Connie Turbin
Editor, Rural Living

I must have been dreaming when I suggested to Donna that I take a crack at this editorial column. . . . Wow! I feel so vulnerable! Even though I know that you can't see me, it's a lot easier to hide behind the journalistic stance than to step out here and take the chance that you and I might have something to say to one another about dreams.

You know, for example, that you've just possibly got yourself a dream that might come true at any moment you decide to take a chance, knowing that you're vulnerable and still believing enough to go ahead and get YOUR dream for YOUR life underway.

I don't even talk to my kids this way, but that's part of my dream theory, too. Kids don't learn how to make their dreams come true by having someone tell them about it. They have to see that dreams are hard work, and often heartbreak, and that every minute of it is worth it when you can finally reach out and grab onto the reality of your dreams.

This month you're going to meet some really terrific people in the pages of *Rural Living* magazine because this is an issue about dreams. Not the kind of dreams made of Christmas wishes, or windowshopping, but the real life dreams of men and women. When they agreed to talk with the editors of *Rural Living* magazine, they took the chance to be vulnerable, to share their dreams with you.

Share Craig Burns' dream as he talks about his challenges to overcome a physical handicap and to keep on reaching for the goals he set for himself long before he had the cash or the

cows to start up a full-time dairy operation.

In Chesaning, a historic mansion houses the dream-reality of Bonnie and Howard Ebenhoe, who built a part-time catering service into a full-time restaurant business.

Take a few minutes to "Christmas wish" with Wallace Bronner who built the world's largest year-round holiday showcase from a second-story speciality shop in Frankenmuth.

And listen to the "YOU make it happen" dreams of farm leaders as they discuss the need for farm people to share their knowledge, concerns and their dreams with the new leaders in state government.

Because this is a column about dreams, it must also be about nightmares. There is so much anxiety involved in taking a chance that even the most cautious dream maker suffers the nightmare of indecision. Have I made the right decision? Have I acted too soon. . . too late?

If I have any notion about dreams, I certainly have a working knowledge of those dreaded anxiety nightmares. I've found the best cure for propping up the dream in the words of a quotation that hangs in my office:

Choose life - always and at whatever risk. To let it leak out, to slip away with the mere passage of time, to withhold the giving of it and the spreading of it, is to choose nothing.

While we prepared this issue of *Rural Living*, we were also working on another dream and anxieties too. We hoped a new, "slicker" publication could be our Christmas gift to you. Instead, we'll wish you a Happy New Year in style. Watch for this "dream come true" issue in January.

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Lansing Review

Election Notes - Beginning Jan. 1, 1983, the Democratic party will have control of state government for the first time in 45 years. This includes the executive office and both houses of the Legislature.

Democratic control of the state Senate will be 20-18, down from the present 24-14. The Democrats will also continue to control the House 63-47 (presently 64-46). There will be 17 new senators and 44 new House members on Jan. 1. Many long-time legislators chose not to run for re-election. The voters elected 60 newcomers to the 148-member Legislature - the biggest change in 20 years.

In other election notes:

- Two women were elected to the Senate for the first time in many years. The lieutenant governor, who presides over the Senate, is also female. In the House, the number of women will drop from 15 to 14.

- It is estimated that the cost of changing governors will be \$1 million.

- The Democrats control the Supreme Court by a 4-3 majority, and all eight Democratic candidates won election to the state Board of Education and the governing boards of Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

'Lame Duck' Legislative Session

- The present Legislature returned to Lansing after the election on Nov. 9 for the final session of the 81st Legislature. Several major issues should be considered. These include:

Highway Finance - Gas tax revenues used for roads have declined for the third year in a row. They are at a 13-year low. If something isn't done, Michigan will not be able to qualify for

matching federal funds by March. Most counties are presently unable to repair road surfaces, replace wornout equipment, maintain snow and ice control, grade gravel roads and perform other routine functions.

Legislation introduced last year is still pending and has been changed several times. It presently includes a formula system based on the new Ohio plan that would increase fuel taxes about 2 cents a gallon; increase auto weight fees 15% and commercial vehicle fees 30%. Increased funding of comprehensive transportation needs (bus, railroads, water, air, etc.) to be phased in over five years.

The "comprehensive transportation" portion of the package is controversial as the method of funding. Rep. Ryan (D-Detroit) supported a 0.02% income tax increase. Gov. Milliken opposes this and supports a 30% weight tax increase for autos and 45% increase for trucks. His program would also extend the sales tax to amusements such as professional sports and theatre tickets, video games and repair service costs on autos and appliances.

The present law's intent is to fund comprehensive transportation from 25% of the sales tax from auto-related sales. About 27.5% of the 25% is presently used for this purpose.

Funding for many of the railroads serving rural areas comes from this source. All programs being considered would be "indexed," which permits limited increases according to economic conditions.

Summer Tax Collection - H.B.

4150 is now before the Senate Education Committee. It passed the House before the recess. It allows the schools to request the township to collect half or all of the school taxes in the summer. If rejected, they could request the

county to collect the taxes, if rejected the schools could do the collecting but would have to give the township a second opportunity.

Farm Bureau opposes this bill because of the tax burden on farmers at a time when all production costs are heavy. Because of this, the House also passed H.B. 5405, which allows farmers to defer any summer tax until the regular time, if they desire. The bills are "tie barred," which means if one passes, the other must also pass. Farm Bureau members should let their senator know their views.

Unemployment Compensation -

Some \$1.7 billion will be paid out this year but revenues will only be \$650 million. Michigan is now about \$2.2 billion in debt to the federal government. Without major reforms the debt will be \$4 billion by 1986, assuming unemployment drops by at least 4.7%. The interest alone will be \$84 million for 1983.

The federal penalty begins in January 1983 at 0.3% and increases to 2.7% by 1986. This is in addition to the normal 0.7% federal tax increase to 0.8% in 1983 and the state tax which can vary 1 to 9%. Both are on a wage base of \$6,000 which rises to \$7,000 Jan. 1, 1983. The penalty amounts to an additional \$18 (0.3%) per employee the first year and increases each year to \$162 or more. For 1981, Michigan benefits were the highest in the nation. Michigan does not impose a waiting week although 42 states do. It could save up to \$70 million per year. Three states have some form of employee contribution. A 0.5% assessment on the \$6,000 wage base could save \$100 million a year. The present 18 weeks of work to qualify could be increased to 20 weeks. Cost of living adjustments were

enacted in 1980 for 1983 and beyond. In 1980, the average Michigan benefit was \$100, in 1982 it was \$157; the maximum was \$197. Benefits were raised in 1980 without consideration for cost.

There are at least four proposals before the Legislature: (1) Manufacturers "solvency" plan - H.B. 6131 and S.B. 973; (2) Governor's proposal - not yet in bill form; (3) The UCAN coalition proposal - H.B. 6095; and (4) A surtax plan for debt repayment developed by the auto companies. There are at least three other bills - S.B. 892, H.B. 6089 and H.B. 6118 - introduced by individual legislators.

The major areas to be considered are: raising the tax base; raising the tax rates; reinstating the waiting week; increasing the 18 weeks qualifier to 20 weeks; imposing an employee tax (probably 0.5%); requiring earning 30 times minimum wage as a qualifying week (now 20 times); freezing the weekly maximum benefit rate; assessing "negative balance employers" a deficiency tax equal to federal penalty tax; allowing a credit to "positive balance" employers; and several other technical changes.

One controversy is between "negative" and "positive" balance employers. Many farmers are "negative" balance employers because their employees draw out far more money than is paid in. Any reform will require agreement by all concerned - employers, unions and the governor and legislators.

Family Farm Development Act (H.B. 5470, P.A. 220) - This Farm Bureau-supported legislation has received a great deal of positive publicity. There have been more than 2,400 inquiries to the Department of Agri-

culture and Farm Bureau. The governor has appointed the members of the authority, which consists of the directors of the departments of agriculture and commerce, the state treasurer, three farmers and one bank representative. The farmers are Richard J. Trepanier of Iron Mountain, William M. White of Jones - who will serve as chairperson, and Harold J. Thome of Comstock Park. Elmer Simon of Frankenmuth is the banking representative.

The authority members had their first meeting in early November to become acquainted with the law and their responsibilities. They met again later in November to consider rules and procedures which take about 60 days to complete.

One potential problem that is being investigated is an IRS rule that limits who can qualify to borrow funds from tax exempt bonds. It is still expected that application forms could be ready around February 1983.

The MDA will be sending a newsletter to all those who have their names on the list as interested in the loan program. It will also go to all county Extension offices and Soil Conservation offices. Farm Bureau will also continue to provide information as it becomes available.

Mandatory Seat Belt Use - H.B. 5567 would require the use of seat belts by those riding in the front seat of a vehicle. A \$10 fine could be levied against those who didn't comply. The law would expire after three years. Many groups are supporting the legislation, including health, medical, automotive, insurance, traffic safety and highway organizations. Michigan would be the first state to pass such legislation. Thirty-four countries and five Canadian provinces have it.

Farm Bureau does not have a position on this issue, but it will be a policy issue at the annual delegate session during the state annual meeting, Dec. 1-4.

It is a fact that wearing seat belts saves lives and cuts serious injuries. Auto crashes are the major cause of death for those under 45. Even with a major education campaign, only 10% of motorists wear a seat belt. If everyone used them, it is likely that insurance and medical costs could be reduced. The issue is whether seat belt use should be required.

Strip Coal Mining - S.B. 819 is now law (P.A. 303). It provides regulations and permits for strip coal mining in Michigan. Farm Bureau succeeded in making several amendments to provide farmland protection and require restoration to the original productivity. An Agricultural Impact Statement must also be filed with the permit application.

Gleaner (H.S. 4668, P.A. 208) - The Treasury Department now has a special tax credit form available for those farmers who have permitted a qualified charitable organization to "glean" left over food from orchards and fields. The income tax credit is 10% of the wholesale value of the amount gleaned.

H.B. 4122, which eliminates any liability for those who donate food, has passed the House and is expected to be considered in the Senate during the "lameduck" session.

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

Washington Report

Report forms for the 1982 Census of Agriculture will be mailed to 3.7 million farm and ranch operators throughout the United States in December by the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The deadline for returning forms is Feb. 15, 1983, after which the bureau will spend three months following up on farmers who did not respond.

The census is usually taken every five years, but the 1982 census is being conducted a year early to put agricultural census data in line with other economic censuses. For the first time, the agricultural census will coincide

with censuses of retail and wholesale business, industry and manufacturing in the country.

Farmers will note some changes in the report form from the information requested in the 1978 census. The 1982 census is structured to county farmers according to the types of crops they grow and where they farm. The bureau added a question on interest expenses to help measure farmers' credit needs.

About 80% of the agricultural producers will receive a four-page form requesting information about basic

agricultural data, including land in farms, form of ownership, land use, production and sales of crops, inventories, quantity sold and value of sales for livestock and poultry, and operator and farm management characteristics.

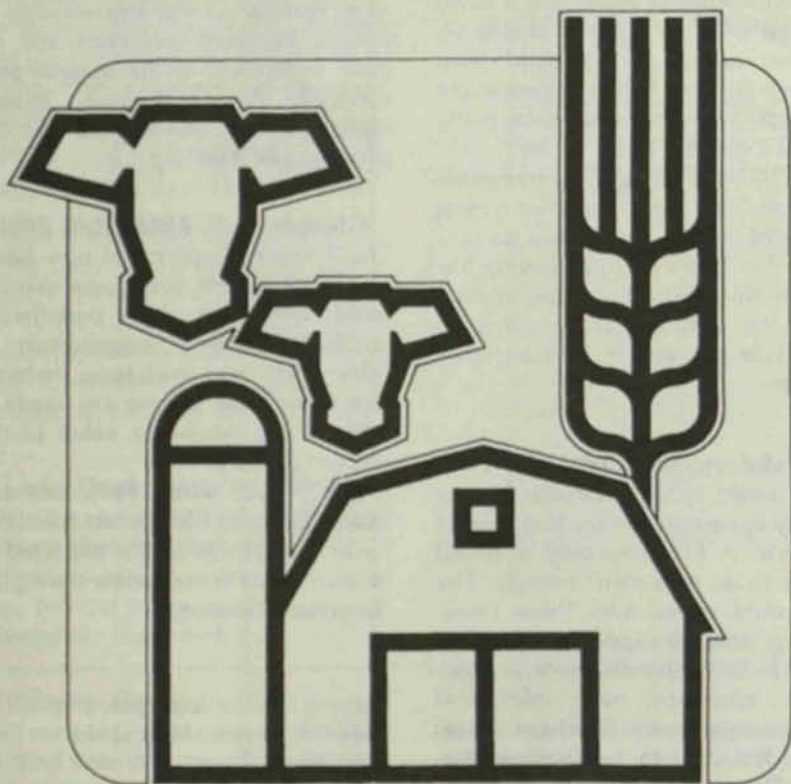
The remaining 20% of the nation's producers will receive a five-page form, requesting the basic census data and additional information. This special sampling will provide the Census Bureau with data to compile estimated county totals for value of land and buildings, selected production expenses, farm equipment inventories, hired farm labor, fertilizer and pesticide use, interest expenses, energy expenditures and fuel storage capacity.

As in previous census reports, the data will be published for each of the 3,100 counties in the nation which have agricultural operations. The bureau expects to publish its first data from the census in October 1983. The release of final data is scheduled to begin in mid-1984.

To expedite the data collection, the Census Bureau is requesting that completed census forms be returned at the earliest possible date in January.

Response to the census is required by federal law under Title 13, U.S. Code. The legal requirement to comply with the census request has been in effect since the first agricultural census in 1840.

Under the same law, information furnished on report forms is confidential and is published only in statistical totals. The forms cannot be used by any other governmental agency. To protect the privacy of individual census records, census reports are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.



A Christmas Fantasyland



By Marcia Ditchie

*'Twas the night before Christmas
when all through the house*

*Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse;*

*The stockings were hung by the
chimney with care*

*In hopes that St. Nicholas soon
would be there;*

*The children were nestled all snug
in their beds,*

*While visions of sugar-plums danced
in their heads. . .*

This popular children's Christmas story will be recited countless times during the next few weeks in anticipation of Christmas day. But for one man in the picturesque village of Frankenmuth in Saginaw County, every day is Christmas.

Starting in 1945 on the second floor of his aunt's grocery store, Wallace Bronner has built the world's largest permanent display of Christmas decorations in the Bronner Family Christmas Wonderland.

Situated on a 50-acre site on the out-skirts of Frankenmuth at 25 Christmas Lane, more than two million people from around the world visit the Christmas fantasyland each year.

Proclaimed a Michigan Embassy of Tourism by Gov. William Milliken, it is open 361 days of the year, closed only on Jan. 1, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The building's exterior and interior design is a combination of Bavarian and Alpine architecture which reflects Frankenmuth's rich Barvarian heritage.

Enclosed within a carpeted, one-acre salesroom are unique gift items from 35 nations around the world in religious, traditional and toyland

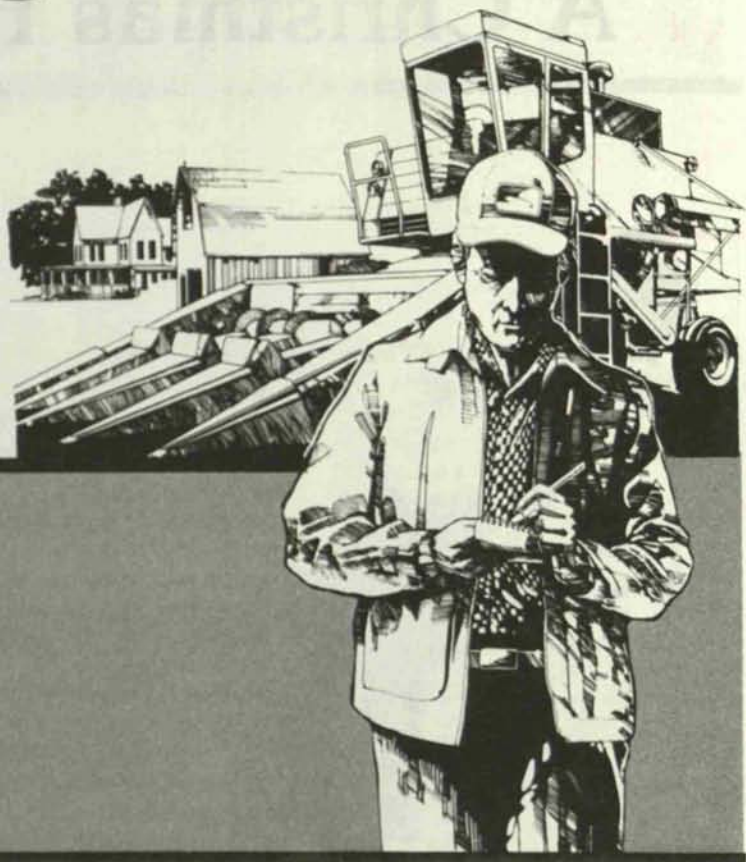
themes. Bronners has the nation's largest collection of nativity scenes under one roof. Visitors are greeted by 150 animated figures, including choir-boys, reindeer, elves and Santa & Mrs. Claus.

Nearly every ethnic group is represented in the global selection of merchandise, including music boxes, Hummel figurines, 100 decorated Christmas trees, wooden nut crackers and more than 3,000 styles of glass ornaments, many which were handcrafted in Europe.

Bronners features an endless array of Christmas and all seasons decorations for homes, churches, businesses, industry and cities from the U.S., South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Orient.



Scoring Agriculture's Political Future



By Donna Wilber & Cathy Kirvan

Last March, during the 1982 Michigan Farm Bureau Washington Legislative Seminar congressional breakfast in the nation's capital, Jim Blanchard told the legislative leaders he hoped to be their next governor.

Eight months later, he is their governor-elect and while farmers hope he meant what he promised about being a governor to all the people, headlines about "Blanchard OWES the unions" are causing some concern.

Does this mean they'll lose the hard-earned recognition that agriculture is a vitally important segment of Michigan's society, the one stable industry in its economy? Does it mean an end to policies that resulted from an understanding of, and appreciation for, the unique challenges of their industry? Does it mean that decision-makers with little or no knowledge of the complex business of farming will take control of their destinies?

The farm community had experienced these same concerns a few years ago when Rep. George Cushingberry of Detroit became chairperson of the House Ag Committee. Their first reaction was that the "big city fellow" would have little empathy for farmers. They found him a willing learner, however, as he visited farms throughout the state and listened to the concerns of farmers. Their initial skepticism was erased as Cushingberry became a strong supporter of their industry.

Another Detroitier who has earned the respect of farmers is Dr. S. Leon Whitney, chairperson of the Michigan Agriculture Commission. He has become an effective standard-bearer for agriculture during his service on the commission.

These examples prove it can happen if farmers are willing to take the time and effort to make it happen. While it might be simpler to work with

decision-makers whose roots are in farm soil rather than city asphalt, involvement in the education process does have the benefit of building rural-urban bridges of understanding.

Farmers hope this past pattern of success will continue as they work with the governor-elect and other urban legislators. Upcoming gubernatorial appointments to committees and commissions dealing with agriculture may well add to the challenges they face.

Leaders View Challenges

Following the Nov. 2 election, MFB President Elton R. Smith sent a congratulatory telegram to Gov.-Elect Blanchard offering the organization's cooperation in his endeavors toward a speedy economic recovery for Michigan.

"The problems of the beleaguered manufacturing and construction in-



industries in the state have overshadowed the very serious depression in the farm economy of Michigan," Smith said. "If Michigan is to recover and return to prosperity, support for every segment of the state's economy must be evidenced by the governor's office.

"Farm families in Michigan have made a commitment to Michigan, too. Their family-run businesses rely on the state's unique resources of land, water and climate. The security of their future in Michigan is rooted in the support and understanding of elected leaders at every level of government," he said.

Smith said that although Farm Bureau's political action arm, AgriPac, did not endorse Blanchard as a "Friend of Agriculture" in the gubernatorial campaign, the organization would give its full cooperation to the new governor by providing expertise and guidance on agricultural issues.

By far the greatest disappointment to farmers was their failure to get agriculture-backed candidates elected to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. They feel strongly that the governing board of their land-grant university needs effective agricultural representation and believed their candidates were the best qualified.

So, as farmers consider their future political clout - or lack of it - they can't overlook the challenge of gaining commitment from their ranks, the kind of commitment that swept labor-oriented candidates into office. The "score" racked up by agricultural PACs was nothing to brag about this election and the answers to "why?" are elusive. True, farmers are a small minority of the electorate but they take

their voting responsibilities seriously and the potential for impact is there.

Rural Living editors asked a group of Michigan's agricultural leaders to share their views on how the 1982 elections will impact their industry and what they believe should be the next move on the part of the farming community. Their answers, we hope, will stimulate dialogue among Farm Bureau members on this important topic. If you would like to respond to the viewpoints of these leaders, write "Letters to the Editor," *Rural Living* Magazine, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

Elton R. Smith

I think farmers took the election results pretty much in stride. As an organization, our challenge is to work with whomever is elected and we look forward to having a good relationship with Gov.-Elect Blanchard. We live in a state where we have more urban-oriented legislators than rural legislators, but on the whole, we have always had good results working with urban legislators on Farm Bureau policy.

I believe the new governor-elect will recognize that agriculture is a very viable industry with a great deal of growth potential. Certainly, we'll continue to manufacture automobiles, but I expect, in a matter of a few years, that Michigan will become more oriented toward other kinds of industries, such as service industries. Through this change, agriculture may be able to pick up the reins of the number one industry in this state, as we have been recognized this past year.



Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau and vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

John Laurie, vice president of the Michigan Farm Bureau and chairperson of AgriPac.

Elwood Kirkpatrick, president of the Michigan Milk Producers Association.

Roger Carr, a former president of the Michigan Pork Producers Association.

LeRoy Schluckebier, chairperson of the Michigan Bean Commission.

PACs must be part of

The concept of agricultural PACs is new to farmers. For many, many years in Farm Bureau the emphasis was on political education and giving all the candidates an opportunity to come to meetings and state their positions. Today we actively support "Friends of Agriculture," those legislators who have a feeling for agriculture, are willing to work with agricultural organizations in the state, who support legislation we need or oppose laws that would be detrimental to our industry.

Some people think of PACs only in terms of raising campaign money. I don't think of them so much that way as I do of organized support for "Friends of Agriculture" and giving them an opportunity for discussions with people. This can be more important than the actual dollars we contribute.

Where do we go from here? I think we go forward.

There's no question that farmers have been taking a back seat as far as getting actively involved in partisan politics. They have a tendency to just not want to do that. It could be that we need to look at real active political involvement as a challenge and opportunity for young farmers. As I have attended many young farmer meetings and listened to their discussions, I find they have much more potential for becoming politically active than some of their elders who have been around Farm Bureau a long time.

The number of part-time farmers in Michigan is going to increase over the

years. Many of these farmers are working off the farm to get extra income, but they're really farmers at heart. I don't believe they are always committed to the philosophy and positions of the labor unions even though their paychecks are coming from industry. I think they will be very effective in the area of political activity if we work with them and get them involved in leadership positions.

All farm and commodity organizations ought to be able to see the merit of having agriculture represented on the board of trustees of our land grant university. I think we did a great job this year in backing two candidates whose qualifications couldn't be better for the MSU Board of Trustees. We are going to have to work hard to create real discipline among Farm Bureau members and agriculture-related people if we hope to accomplish the goal of having these positions appointed rather than elected. There are so few people who recognize who they are voting for, or will take the time to study the candidates for the many boards and positions we have in Michigan.

Where do we go from here? I think we go forward. I look with enthusiasm and great interest to the opportunity of working with the new administration and its appointed boards and commissions. We'll have opportunities to get acquainted with new political leaders and I look forward to it as a real challenge. I expect Michigan agriculture, in the next few years, to do real well.

Jack Laurie

In the last two or three years, farmers have found that they have a real friend in Gov. Milliken and I hope that the relationship can continue when Jim Blanchard becomes governor. The challenge is really up to us.

We need to work with the newly elected people and help them understand what our problems are and what our needs are in relationship to the rest of the state. If we can do that, then I think the election results will be positive.

One of the big challenges we may face will be preventing budget cuts in research, Extension and MDA programs. We will be, in a sense, backing up. We have gotten agriculture out in front as a leading industry. People view us as a necessary industry for the economic survival of the state, as well as necessary in everyone's daily life. We need to re-emphasize to the newly elected governor and legislators that agriculture is a vital, stable industry.

One area where we ought to be able to build a strong relationship with urban-oriented legislators is in promoting agricultural processing plants. It is a job-creating venture and, in a sense, we would be doing our part to lessen the unemployment problem in Michigan. At the same time, we would be developing a stronger agricultural industry and stronger economic base for the state.

This is going to be a key area that not only industry and agriculture can work together in, but industry and labor and even agriculture and local government. We need to help smaller cities realize the importance of making the same kinds of overtures to ag industry and ag processing facilities as they do to new auto or manufacturing plants.

I'm confident that the new administration will recognize agriculture's potential, especially the governor. He apparently understands that industries must be solvent and competitive in order to create jobs. Hopefully, he can relate his activities with Chrysler and other industries to agriculture. I'm confident that he will.

farmers' political clout

While Jim Blanchard was elected with the help of organized labor, farmers also have substantial political clout in this state. A good demonstration of that clout is the growing concern that political candidates expressed to agriculture in the last two or three elections, wanting our support.

I'm really happy to be part of agriculture when we are becoming recognized as a significant force in determining who is going to represent the people in Michigan.

Agriculture needs to find qualified candidates who are electible in not only the rural communities, but urban communities as well, and then get our people behind them and put them in office. That's when agriculture will have reached its utopia in political action. We're not there at this point but we understand the process better and we have demonstrated that we are capable of doing it. We're new at this business; we've only been at it, in our case, six years, and were learning a great deal.

I think farmers are more active politically at this point, on an individual basis, than I've ever seen them. Sometimes you get the impression that farmers are depending on their leadership to carry the ball. But when we had a situation like we did this year, with a lot of open seats, we found out in short order that farmers are not sitting back. They only sit back when they agree with what the leadership is doing. When they want the leadership to know that they may have been straying from what they like, they don't stay sitting down. They let us know - as they should.

Our interest in political action was conceived because our land grant university wasn't being properly administered. We weren't being represented and consequently we had to take some steps that were different from

what we had done in the past. We developed the political action committee process after the laws were passed that made it possible.

. . . farmers are more politically active on an individual basis, than I've ever seen them. . . they only sit back when they agree with what leadership is doing.

In the agricultural community there are some points which we can all rally around because they affect all commodity groups. The MSU trustee position is one of those points. Everyone has a real stake in the proper administration of the agricultural program at MSU and we knew that we had to have agricultural representation in the government of that body in order to accomplish what we wanted.

So we had a rallying point for all of agriculture and everyone got behind it. We joined together, and while we might not have agreed on individuals at first, the need was there and the common goal was so strong that the entire industry knew that we had to be together and, consequently, we were.

We were two years ago and we were again this year. But this year we weren't successful in getting our people elected because of the general mood of the people.

We didn't lose that race because of who we ran or because of the type of campaign we ran. We lost that race because of who won the top half of the ticket.

Where do we go from here? First,

we have to remember that the election was a month ago. It's all over with now, so you don't go around feeling bad or gloating about the results. Our challenge now is to work with those people who were elected to office. It is our responsibility to get out and work with those people and build a rapport.

In the long range, we will analyze the effects of the new Legislature and administration and watch and get a feel as to how agriculture is faring. If we like it, if we are satisfied with it, if we feel that progress is being made and the agricultural industry is growing, we certainly will support the people elected Nov. 2. If that is not the case, if agriculture is ignored and the industry declines, we will let them know that we are not going to take second place.

We want them to support us, but if they don't, the next time we have the opportunity we will surface some people who will lead us in the direction we want to go. We don't have the luxury anymore of being able to sit back and say, "Well, let the better man win." We have to decide who those better people are and then we have to go out and see to it that they win.

I think that is what we want to let people know - we are strong and we are organized. We have the ability and the opportunity to select candidates and develop them into potential leaders and that is where we intend to be. But, by all means, we will support the ones in office if they support us.

LeRoy Schluckebier

How the 1982 election results will impact on agriculture depends a great deal on how willing Michigan farmers are to meet with the new legislators and present our case to them.

In losing leaders like Bob Young, we've lost a certain segment of repre-

Agriculture Can't be Overlooked in Any Recovery Plan for Michigan

sentation for agriculture in the state Legislature. So many of our elected officials have no conception of what's happening on the farm - what it takes to raise a bushel of beans or what it takes to bring a hog to market or get eggs to the store. They don't realize that the abundance of food on our supermarket shelves invariably came from the farm. We have a responsibility to educate these people so they understand how legislation they work on affects the farming business.

I think we have an excellent opportunity at this point to work with the new administration and convince them that agriculture in our state should be promoted because it's really the backbone of our economy.

I feel we were sold down the river with the one man-one vote concept. Originally, our forefathers put the Constitution together with the thought in mind that we should have rural representation and a voice for the sparsely populated areas. It's been an uphill battle for farmers since we lost that. But, it gives us a need and opportunity for more adhering together among the farm community to give us political clout.

We need to broaden our outlook by interrelating with other sectors of agriculture to hear their viewpoints.

I'm in favor of agricultural PACs, but I don't think they'll ever have the political clout that the labor unions have. Farmers are very independent people. They're basically very honest people with high morals and they find it very difficult to back a candidate who is self-serving and does not have the general populous and the economy as a priority.

I think the part-time farmers who

work in the shop and are members of labor unions can be a very definite asset. They realize the problems on the farm. They know the cost and hours that go into making a farm operation work, and in that respect, I think they have an important role in relaying this information to their fellow workers. This can be very beneficial to the rest of the agricultural community.

Farmers do have a tendency to lean back and let their leadership carry the ball as far as political involvement is concerned. We tend to become so involved in our own farm operations and get a very nearsighted view of things. We need to broaden our outlook by interrelating with other sectors of agriculture to hear their viewpoints. This tempers your own thinking somewhat and gets the thought process going. Sometimes when you have a hard and fast idea about something, you find out that maybe it isn't all quite the way you thought it was and I think this interaction can be very beneficial.

The agricultural community did a lot of work to get agricultural representation on the MSU Board of Trustees and we need to do more of this so that we can place people in positions of power who know what's happening out here in the country. The ag sector really has to fight for what we get. We have to stand up and "bark" in order to be noticed and get the things we need, to get the representation we need. So many of the university's programs and curriculums are socially-oriented and slanted away from agriculture, and this really concerns me.

As far as the future is concerned, we have to keep right on slugging. I think the outlook is great for agriculture. We have a unique situation here in Michigan with our water resources, our transportation systems with access to foreign markets. There's just no greater place to be a part of agriculture than in Michigan. We have an excel-

lent opportunity here to go ahead in agriculture with leaps and bounds.

Sure, there's been a lot of "beer-crying" going on lately with farm prices down and our production costs going up and up. But, for the most part, I feel farmers who are in business today will be in business tomorrow. They feel this is an interim period that has to be weathered as best we can and then look onward and upward from there.

Elwood Kirkpatrick

As a result of the election, we'll see a lot of changes as far as appointed commissions and boards are concerned. I'm sure we'll also see some changes in the direction the state will take. I think Gov.-Elect Blanchard is a capable individual and while he may move us somewhat in a different direction, I don't think it will be to the detriment of agriculture. I believe he feels agriculture is an important industry and will look to it for help in rejuvenating Michigan's economy.

I know there has been some concern about his strong labor backing, but I feel that, at this point, he is no longer *candidate* Blanchard, but *Governor Elect* Blanchard. As such, this requires him to accept responsibility for the entire state, of which agriculture is a very important segment. I'm sure he won't overlook that.

This gives us, as leaders of the agricultural industry, an opportunity to present him with programs and proposals that will help him do his job in Michigan. I look forward to working with him.

There are very definitely challenges ahead for agriculture and I think we ought to face those challenges and view them as opportunities. All of agriculture must make every effort to inform and educate urban legislators

(continued on page 25)

Front and Center

The truck that "took America by storm" - Chevy S-10 - will be an exciting addition to this year's MFB annual meeting. Young Farmer activities coordinator Vic Verchereau and state YF chairperson Glenn Preston have announced that GM's Chevrolet Division has agreed to provide the winner of the state Discussion Meet with the use of a 1983 Chevy S-10 pick up for one year!

Young farmers will match the magic of the season with their own "magic show" at the first annual County Young Farmer Committee Chairpersons Conference, Dec. 14-15. The program is designed to motivate and educate young farm leaders in their role as committee leaders.

A fruit tree and vineyard survey of Michigan growers is underway to update data on tree numbers and acreage for Michigan's orchards and vineyards. Questionnaires were mailed to growers in early November. Growers are encouraged to return the completed questionnaires by mail in December. If you are a commercial grower and have not received a survey form, contact the Michigan Agricultural Reporting Service, P.O. Box 20008, Lansing, Mich. 48901.

MFB board member Michael Pridgeon of Montgomery was recently elected vice president of the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees. As VP of the organization, he will assist in the administration of the foundation and help obtain private support for Michigan 4-H Youth educational programs.

Farm Bureau Services reports overwhelming support from farmers, local cooperatives and dealers throughout the state. FBS personnel continue to provide current information on the reorganization process through meetings with co-op board members and at other special meetings with cooperative members.

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. Four farmers were honored in August:

Oct. 4 - August Knikelbine, 47, operates a 450-acre corn, grain and hog farm near Fennville. Knikelbine, who raises 1,500 pigs, is a Michigan Pork Producers Association member, area ASCS committee president and an Allegan County Farm Bureau member.

Oct. 11 - Eilert Barnes, 46, a dairy farmer from Whittemore, farms 480 acres and milks 48 cows. He has been a township trustee for 20 years, served four years as church treasurer, serves on the Iosco County FB board and the Cloverland Co-op board and is a leader in Soil Conservation District activities.

Oct. 18 - Jim Reid, 32, milks 43 cows and farms 500 acres near Jeddo. Reid serves on the township planning committee, is active in the Central

Lakeport United Methodist Church, is a St. Clair County FB member and serves on its membership committee.

Oct. 25 - Ralph Hickmott, 55, a dairy farmer from Oxford, farms 800 acres and milks 65 cows in partnership with two sons. He is on the finance committee of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church in Dryden, is treasurer of the Oxford Co-op Elevator, has been an Oakland County FB member since 1955 and is a member of the Michigan Auctioneers Association.



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.

Nothing But the Best for Hiawathaland Women

*Submitted By Barbara Cotey
Hiawathaland Newsletter Editor*

The Hiawathaland Farm Bureau Women began their program year in high style with an informative presentation by the Upper Peninsula Mink Breeders Association and an impressive fashion fur display.

Many of the farm women had never associated furs and farming, but thanks to the slide presentation shown by the mink breeders from Delta County and group discussion time, they learned that mink farmers face many of the same problems as farmers in other commodities.

For example, American breeders are competing in a world market against subsidized producers and widely divergent standards of living that make it possible for producers in some mink producing countries to obtain labor for as little as \$12 a month. The only competitive edge that American breeders have is better nutrition for the animals. The quality of the mink fur is directly related to nutrition, the spokesperson told the women. Diet for the animals includes cooked eggs, whole ground chicken, tripe, liver and cereal with fishmeal.

The animals are bred at approximately 10 months. The women found it was interesting that the gestation period varies from 38 to 70 days.

Another enlightening fact was that mink farmers in Delta County generate between one and two million dollars each year in gross sales. Pelts are graded for quality, size and color and marketed at two U.S. auction houses in New York state and in Seattle, Wash.

Producers shop the pelts and await notification of sale dates and price quotes. Many of the breeders are directly involved in the sale of pelts,



A group of Hiawathaland Farm Bureau Women pose proudly in mink coats at a recent meeting. They can't wait for their husbands to see this in print.

negotiating prices themselves at the auction houses. Others may choose to work through brokers, but according to the experts who spoke with the Farm Bureau Women, most mink breeders opt for the direct sale method. The representatives of the U.P.



Ann Jousma tries on mink ear muffs which will be presented to the Michigan Tech Winter Carnival Queen.

Mink Breeders Association also told the women that in their commodity they had been dealing with the animal rights issue for as long as they can remember. Through programs such as the one presented to the Farm Bureau Women, these producers are able to provide insight and information about this frequently misunderstood farming enterprise.

When the learning was over, the luxury began. The ladies were invited to try on a variety of coats, jackets and fur accessories brought by the association representatives.

A mink coat may not be in everyone's budget, but for the lucky woman who can afford this luxury, Upper Peninsula mink breeders are offering furs in a truly glamorous range of colorations.

But just supposing, that is, with Christmas on its way... most of the women would have chosen a coat which stylishly combined mink fur with recycled leather from an old mink coat.



Ag Rescue Seminars Provide Life-Saving Knowledge

How would you respond as a rescuer in an agricultural accident emergency? Would emergency rescue personnel at the scene of a farm accident be aware of the additional hazards of an agricultural accident rescue for the victim and for themselves?

If you're not sure that emergency personnel are adequately prepared to respond knowledgeably in farm emergency situations, a training seminar designed specifically for rescue personnel may be needed in your area.

Agricultural accident rescue seminars have been sponsored by Farm Bureau members in Kent, Manistee and in the Saginaw Valley counties. The day-long programs included lecture and visual aids presentations by emergency rescue trainers, information exchange between farmers and rescue personnel, and rescue demonstrations using farm machinery.

The aim of the seminars is to present rescuers with basic information

regarding unique conditions in an agricultural accident rescue. Emergency rescuers in volunteer fire department's police and sheriff's department personnel and medical personnel are trained in techniques of rescue and emergency treatment.

However, farm machinery built to perform aggressively in agricultural operations or unique structural hazards in the farm workplace can complicate rescue efforts and can further endanger the victim unless rescuers are aware of the characteristics and construction of farm equipment.

Other hazards in the farm rescue operation may include exposure to toxic atmosphere, structural collapse, chemical exposure and electrical or automatic equipment operation.

Ag rescue seminars can be organiz-

ed with the assistance of the Michigan Farm Bureau local affairs department, which will provide a seminar program outline and arrange for a trainer/instructor. County Farm Bureau volunteers must arrange and plan the seminar site (preferably a local school), contact local dealers to obtain farm equipment for demonstration, and handle early registration.

Continuing education credits are available to basic, limited advanced and advanced emergency medical technicians (EMTs) upon application.

For more information about how to arrange an agricultural accident rescue seminar in your county or Farm Bureau region, contact Ron Gaskill, MFB local affairs specialist, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909, or call 517-323-7000, ext. 559.

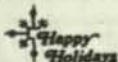
*It was the nite before Christmas,
And all through the farm,
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even in the barn.
When what to my wondering eyes
should appear,
But a big fat man driving a John
Deere
All dressed in overalls
and smelling slightly of manure
Down through the barnyard he tore,
Up to the silo,
Down to the barn,
Gently feeding all the creatures on
the farm.
And I heard him exclaim,
as he called them all by name.
Merry Christmas to all
And we wish you all the same.*

Rita Bade



Reminder

County Farm Bureau newsletters will resume publication in the January issue of Rural Living. in the mean time, the staff of Rural Living magazine wishes you a very merry Christmas and a glorious new year.



Reaching for a Dream

By *Connie Turbin*

Just over a year ago, 22-year-old Craig Burns walked up to the piece of machinery that had torn away his right hand and forearm and began to rebuild the rollers and chains of the two-row corn picker. He was determined to achieve his goal of building a full-time dairy operation and the equipment had to be ready for the harvest ahead.

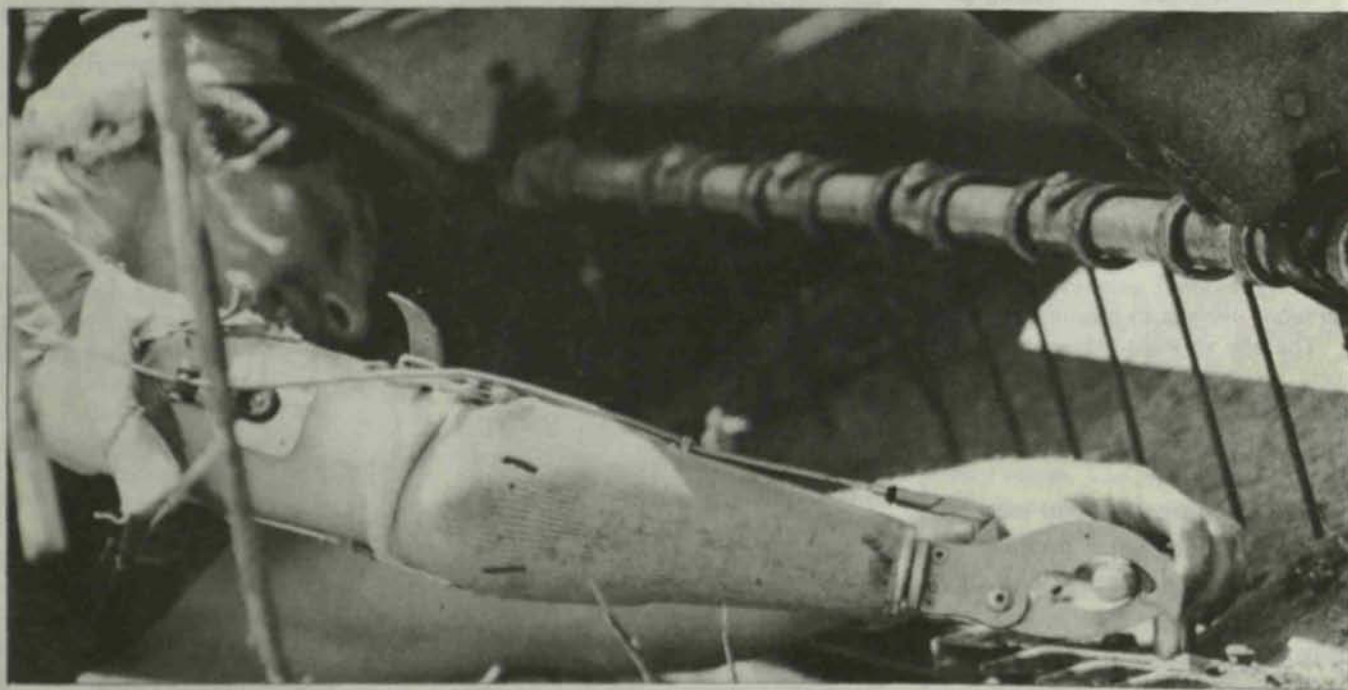
The act of repairing the machinery may have been a symbolic confrontation and acceptance of the reality of the accident and the physical handicap that resulted, but it was also an act of determination. It was just one of the many choices Craig has made over the years to place his goal in farming above everything else.

Getting started in farming isn't easy these days, but when you're a young man with limited capital, two years of

ag tech study and summer placement behind you, a few heifer calves to get you started, that's challenge enough. After the accident in November 1980, Craig considered those challenges and thought about giving up the dream he had set for himself when he was 15 years old and was a high school sophomore.

"While I was in the hospital, a local farmer, who is a double amputee, came to see me. He offered to buy what cows I did have, so I did have an alternative. I thought about it... not really knowing what my new situation would mean and what problems I might run into," Craig says.

But he's not the kind to give up a goal easily and in the months after his release from Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo, he talked with friends and family members, finding encouragement to meet the challenges ahead.



Becoming efficient in the use of his prosthesis has enabled Craig Burns to resume most equipment repair and manual labor for the farm. He's planning a prosthetic adaptation that will allow him to interchange tool attachments for specific tasks.

"I didn't really have much counseling beyond the physical therapy," Craig says. A close-knit family gave him all the support and encouragement he needed.

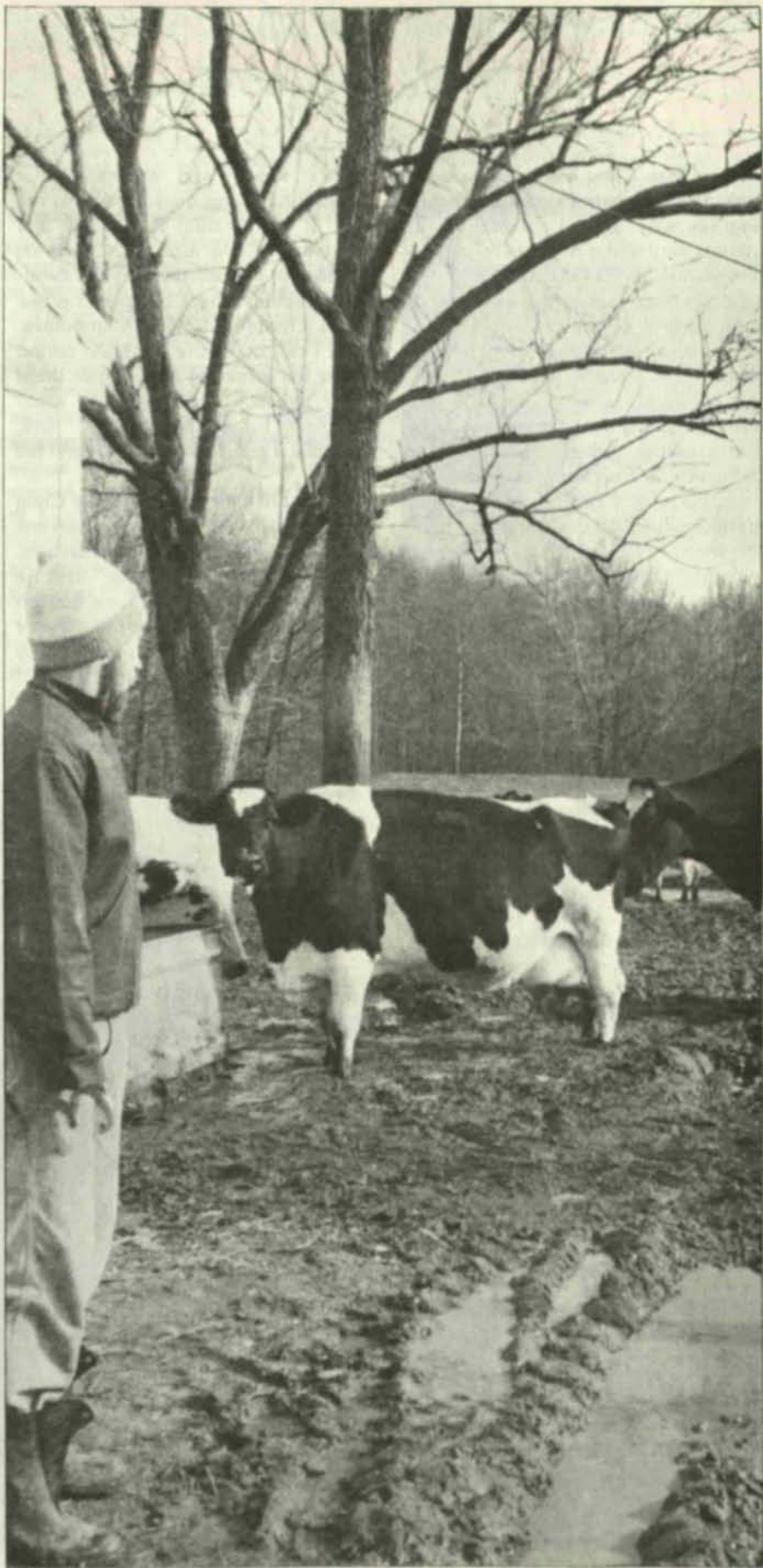
"In our family, we're not just mom and dad, sisters and brothers; we're close friends. I think the accident and the months after surgery were harder on them than on me. I had already accepted the fact that I would lose my arm during the two hours I was caught in the rollers."

His final decision to stay in farming came when his aunt, a nurse in a veteran's hospital, put Craig in touch with an amputee who was farming full-time.

"I went up to his place and spent four or five days with him. That's when I really made my decision," he says.



Automating as much of the farm operation as possible is a necessity for Craig, but "that's in the future, too."



Since then Craig has been hard at work: building, renovating, and planning his way toward establishing a uniform herd and a herd average production goal of 20,000 pounds.

Craig knows that automation has to be a part of his dairy operation to reduce some of the manual labor and alleviate the physical stress, but right now his decisions are to invest in the dream he's held onto throughout high school and ag tech study, through a traumatic farm accident and through the pressures of getting started in a business where production is the bottom line.

It's not all work though. Craig has taken an active role in the Van Buren County Farm Bureau as chairperson of the county's Young Farmer Committee.

He's strong and athletic, so a physical handicap doesn't stand in the way of participating in baseball and basketball. Craig also finds personal satisfaction in volunteer work at Bronson Hospital, where he spends a few hours a month talking with amputees.

"If I can make the transition period easier for someone else or give them some direction about what the situation means for me and for them . . . well, it's really a great feeling . . . I can't tell you."

There are a lot of feelings that Craig can't explain or share with persons who have never asked themselves, "Why? Why this? Why me?" But he explains clearly for everyone that an amputee cannot dwell on the whys of the situation, unless it's to ask, "Why was my life spared? What is it that I

have to accomplish? To give? To share?"

The quest for answers to those questions, focusing on a positive approach to living and working with a physical handicap, is the impetus behind a project underway at Indiana's Purdue University to assist farmers with physical handicaps who want to stay actively involved in production agriculture.

The project is headed up by Bill Field, Extension safety specialist, and Roger Thormoehlen, research assistant.

Since the project was started three years ago, hundreds of farmers have contacted them by phone or mail to share experiences, seek information and to encourage them in their efforts to establish a center for information



and support. Recently a newsletter called "Breaking New Ground" was introduced to help establish a network of information among farmers with physical handicaps.

In addition, three workshops have been held, designed specifically for farmers with handicaps. One of the workshops attracted farmers from eight states and three Canadian provinces.

During 1983, other workshops will be conducted to share what has been learned with farmers throughout the United States.

Among those workshops will be a two-day session at Farmer's Week on the campus of Michigan State University, March 21-25. The workshop has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of Farmers' Week.

Plans for the workshop are being coordinated by MSU Extension safety specialist, Howard Doss.

"Our first goal," Doss says, "is to determine how much interest there would be in a program of this type among Michigan farmers and their

families. We'll be getting the word out through news releases, Extension personnel and farm organizations, but we need to hear from persons interested in participating in the workshop."

The workshop will include examples of owner-built manlifts and controls for agricultural tractors, combines and other equipment; an overview of ag-equipment adaptations; experience sharing involving participants and resource people; and a review of resources available to the farmer/grower or family member, who is physically handicapped, to facilitate recovery and return the person to active participation in an agricultural operation.

In addition, Doss hopes to arrange on-site visits to farms where workshop participants can view adaptations of equipment and farming operations by farmer/operators.

For more information about the MSU Farmers' Week program or to request a copy of the "Breaking New Ground" newsletter, contact Howard Doss, MSU, Ag Engineering Department, East Lansing, Mich. 48824.



Prosthetic engineering continues to make advancements toward limbs which will respond to nerve impulses, but right now those devices are not practical for the type of work I'm doing, Craig says, however, he expects a functional prosthesis that will work for farmers will be developed in his lifetime.

Farmer Shares Ingenuity and Support

Don Skinner and his wife Lynda farm 960 acres of rich black-ground near Pawnee, Ill. As the result of a fall two years ago, Don was paralyzed from the midsection down, what doctors refer to as a thoracic vertebrae eight.

Following his accident, Don monitored corn and bean planting from his hospital room using a radio attached to a car antenna hanging from the windowsill. By harvest time, Don was back in the fields operating a big red IH 1440 combine utilizing an add-on manlift he designed and built with the help of neighbors and friends.

Don has become a real promoter of Purdue's project and has been a terrific encouragement to many other handicapped farmers. For example, since he constructed a manlift for his IH 1486 tractor, he has shared the concept with several other farmers who now have lifts of their own.

A determined, successful farmer, Don has not given much thought to other occupations. He takes each day and each task one at a time.



From Family Farm Heritage to Heritage House Restaurant

Ebenhoses Are Really Cooking Now!

By Marcia Ditchie

What makes a successful dairy couple trade their milking parlor and tractor for measuring cups, recipes and the constant hustle of a restaurant?

For Bonnie and Howard Ebenhoe, long-time active Saginaw County Farm Bureau members, it was pursuit of a dream that led them to switch careers. That dream came true with the opening of their Heritage House Restaurant in Chesaning on July 1, 1980.

"In the back of my mind, I was always going to have a restaurant," said Bonnie. "Once you get an idea, eventually you know you're going to make it come true. Don't dream unless you intend to make it happen," she said.

The Ebenhoses made it happen on April 15, 1980 when they purchased a historic home in Chesaning, but preparations for their new venture began several years earlier.

"I have always done something in food even when our children were very small," Bonnie said. "I started catering about five years ago, but before that I went to work at the Country Squire outside of Chesaning doing their baking. I thought if I was going to go into catering, that would give me a chance to look at quantity and quality cooking.

"While I was working there, a fellow called me one night and asked me if I could cater his wedding for 225 people. At the same time, we were in the process of selling our cows, so



Howard was able to help me and our catering business was launched," Bonnie said.

Shortly after that first catering job, the Ebenhoses transformed the recreation room of their farm home into a kitchen, stocking it with equipment from an old restaurant they had purchased.

"I worked at it full time and we were catering four or five times a week," she said. "It was then that we started talking about having a restaurant."

In early 1980, a historic home in Chesaning was placed on the real estate market by Dr. Henry Forsyth, a Chesaning resident.



BONNIE EBENHOE

"When this house came up for sale, we knew that it was what we were really looking for. After some initial financing problems, we were eventually able to secure Economic Development Corporation funding at 9% interest. The prime interest rate at that time was 22% and we knew that we could never buy the house, improve it and pay interest on that kind of money," she said.

Following purchase of the house, they began a two-and-a-half-month remodeling period.

The Ebenhoses changed each of the rooms into separate dining rooms. Bonnie planned and decorated all of the rooms, preserving the original woodwork, chandeliers, lights and four fireplaces. They added a large kitchen at the rear of the home and transformed the basement into a Rathskeller.

The restaurant and Rathskeller will seat 225 people. Among the thousands of diners the Ebenhoses have served since the restaurant opened were Debbie and Pat Boone, who performed on the Chesaning Show Boat.

A Michigan Historical Site

The southern, colonial style home was built in 1908 by George Nason, an area lumber baron, as a tribute to his profession. Nason wanted the im-

It's a Family Operation – Just Like a Farm

pressive structure, located a half-block from the railroad tracks, to be the first thing people saw when they got off the train and the last thing they saw when they left Chesaning.

The house has a special significance for Howard. At the time it was built, his mother and aunt were maids for the Nason family. Even though they were only 14 or 15, they lived in the house and cleaned it every day.

At the same time the house was built, Nason built a carriage shop behind the house. All the barn and hay doors, the feed shoots and wrench that pulled the buggies up and down from winter to summer remain just as they were when it was built 75 years ago. The Ebenhoses have a gift shop there now, which Bonnie says is as popular as the restaurant.

In late October the house was designated a Michigan historical site. The Ebenhoses will receive a large plaque for the designation which they plan to place in the front yard.

A Showplace for Michigan

Though the restaurant does not have a special cuisine, the Ebenhoses highlight Michigan agricultural products.

"We stress on our menu that we use Michigan beef and we serve real cream and butter," stated Bonnie. "We were, and still are farmers, and we know how that helps. We also use Michigan sugar and always have bean soup on Fridays."

An all-time favorite on the Heritage House dessert menu is ice cream pie that can be ordered in four different flavors. "It's our biggest selling dessert and a recipe that a lot of people have asked for," said Bonnie. "I created it for the restaurant and it has become one of our famous items."

A Family Operation

Operation of the restaurant is an enterprise that involves the entire Ebenhoe family. "We wouldn't have this without them," Bonnie said. "It's a family operation just like on a farm."

Their oldest son, Howie, manages the restaurant and his wife, Denise, keeps a pulse on every part of the operation. The Rathskeller is run by son Ron and his wife works in the restaurant as a hostess and waitress.

Another son, Tim, manages the Ebenhoses' 450-acre farm and his wife also works at the restaurant as a waitress and hostess.

The restaurant also depends on the Ebenhoses' three daughters. The eldest, Julie, is now in the Navy, but before she left, she organized much of the Rathskeller, including creation of the recipe for its deep dish pizza.

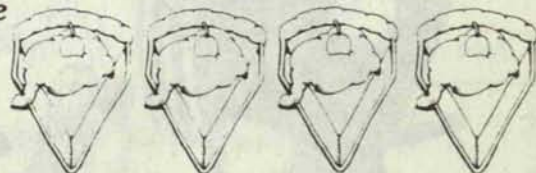
Their daughter Carol, an MSU political science graduate, does the office work for the business. Youngest daughter Barb is the head cook and also does some volunteer work for the agriculture department at the New Lothrop school.

The restaurant is open every day of the year except Dec. 24 and 25, and in addition to the family, they employ 85 local people.

Are the Ebenhoses happy they made the change from the farm to the restaurant? "I love it," Bonnie said, "and Howard loves it so much he would like to be here all the time."

Ice Cream Sundae Pie

Four Varieties - Fudge,
Chocolate Chip Mint,
Caramel and Strawberry



Sundae Pie Crust

1/2 package of oatmeal cookies (for Caramel or Strawberry)
or 1/2 package of Oreo cookies (for Fudge or Chocolate Chip Mint)

Place cookies in blender or food processor until crumbly.

Melt 1/4 lb. butter and add to crumbs - mixture should hold together when pressed into a 9" pie tin.

Put pie shell in refrigerator or freezer until very cold and firm.

Sundae Pie Filling

2 quarts of French vanilla or high quality ice cream (softened to room temperature)

1 jar of ice cream topping of the same flavor pie you are making

1 cup of chopped pecans or walnuts

Remove crust from freezer. Using a large spoon, scoop 1 quart of the ice cream in the pie shell, leaving an uneven surface.

Pour 1/2 of the chosen jar of sauce over the scoops of ice cream.

Sprinkle 3/4 of the chopped nuts over the sauce.

Repeat with remainder of ice cream and sauce.

Smooth off top with back of spoon. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and freeze for 12 hours.

To serve, cut in wedges, top with a scoop of whip cream and a maraschino cherry or fresh strawberry, or sprinkle with remainder of nuts.

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What Helps Ag Helps Michigan

(continued from page 14)

and make sure they are familiar with our viewpoint and are aware of the contribution that agriculture can make.

We farmers sometimes tend to feel that we can isolate ourselves from politics, do our own jobs the best we can, and not be politically involved. This is not true. We really do need to be involved in the political process because every act of the Legislature has an effect on and influences our ability to make a living.

I think it's important for us to continue providing information to our membership on the need for involvement. We also need to continue to supply them with information on what is going on currently so they can be knowledgeable about issues and realize the importance of working toward proper solutions.

I don't think agricultural PACs will ever have the kind of discipline that

labor unions do. We're working with a different group of people. We have a very diversified agriculture in Michigan. When you move from commodity to commodity, you see different interests develop. It is, however, important that we work as total agriculture if we want to have impact in the political arena.

*I don't believe there's
any political leader
who can ignore an opportunity to work with
agriculture.*

Even though we were not successful in electing two more trustees to the MSU Board of Trustees who are knowledgeable about agriculture, I think our

united effort will have an impact. I am hopeful that our effort demonstrated that, as an industry, we are interested in the university and consider it an important part of agriculture. I think we sent a message to the entire board that we are going to be active in the election of trustees and I hope they will be responsive to that message.

I think we have to keep striving to establish agriculture as a growth industry, one that's important to the economy of our state. I don't believe there's any political leader who can ignore an opportunity to work with agriculture and help us help the state of Michigan. That's just got to be of interest to all politicians involved in trying to turn around our state's economy.

If I were a political leader, I would welcome that opportunity because what helps agriculture is going to help the state of Michigan.

(continued on page 27)

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Agrinomic Update

Michigan Ag Groups Line Up in Opposition to H.B. 6099

In late October representatives from many of Michigan's animal agriculture commodity groups met at Farm Bureau Center to discuss the animal care issue. This marked the third time since October 1981 that Farm Bureau has sponsored these sessions designed to keep our industry updated on the latest developments related to this key issue.

At the session, Ron Nelson, MFB legislative counsel, discussed the introduction of H.B. 6099 to the Michigan House of Representatives by Rep. David Evans (D-Mt. Clemens) and 33 co-sponsors. If enacted, the bill, entitled "The Animal Welfare Act of 1982," could have a very negative impact on agriculture.

It appears the confinement of farm animals on slatted floors or in cages would be prohibited since one section of the bill would prohibit the rearing of animals above manure. The legislation would restrict current methods used to train horses and likely prevent many common agricultural management practices, such as: dehorning, beak trimming, clipping needle teeth of pigs and other similar practices.

The transportation of livestock would be hampered since haulers would be required to have adequate room for animals to be able to stand and lie down during transportation.

This could present serious problems resulting in injury to the animals during transportation. In addition, the animals could not be detained or transported for more than 28 consecutive hours without a five-hour rest. Currently, 36 hours is the maximum.

The bill covers a wide range of other areas as well as poses a real threat to production agriculture.

No Action in 1982 Session

Currently H.B. 6099 is in the House Public Health Committee. Due to hundreds of public comments and contacts Rep. Evans has received in recent weeks, an announcement was made on Oct. 22 that he was requesting the Public Health Committee to withhold action on the bill. It remains to be seen what this could mean for the future of the measure, however at this time Farm Bureau does not expect any action during the 1982 legislative session. But the bill could be reintroduced in 1983.

Organizations represented at the session included the Michigan Allied Poultry Industries Association, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Live Stock Exchange, Michigan Cattlemen's Association, Michigan Pork Producers Association, MSU Co-

operative Extension Service, Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association, Michigan Horse Council, MSU Animal Science Department, Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative, Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives and the Independent Co-op Milk Producers Association.

In addition, several MFB staff members and chairpersons of the MFB animal agriculture commodity committees were involved in the meeting.

The group discussed actions taken to deal with this issue and agreed to meet again in six months or sooner, if the need arises.

Agrinomic Update is prepared monthly by members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Commodity Activities and Research Department.

Farmer Attitudes Must Change

(continued from page 25)

Roger Carr

With the number of new legislators from urban areas, I am concerned for the future of agriculture in this state. We are going to have to continue to stay right on our toes. Even with the Right-to-Farm law, I think we are going to have more and more problems with livestock facilities, odors and noise.

We're going to have to get in and fight to get our share, whether it is

In order for PACs to be successful, the thinking . . . of farmers will have to change.

legislative bills or agricultural programs, but I think that agriculture in Michigan is going to be a viable industry no matter who governs the state or what ranking we're given - number one or number two.

I think political clout comes mostly in dollars and cents. When farmers put the same amount of dollars into a political campaign, we'll have the same response as organized labor. But most farmers are not going to think that way and I think most farmers won't contribute.

In order for agricultural PACs to be successful and have the same discipline as labor PACs, the thinking of agriculture - of farmers - will have to change.

I think most farmers lean back and let their leadership carry the burden. I've been involved in a few political campaigns, but there just aren't very many farm people who are. But I don't know if it would be any less percent overall than people in any other walk of life.

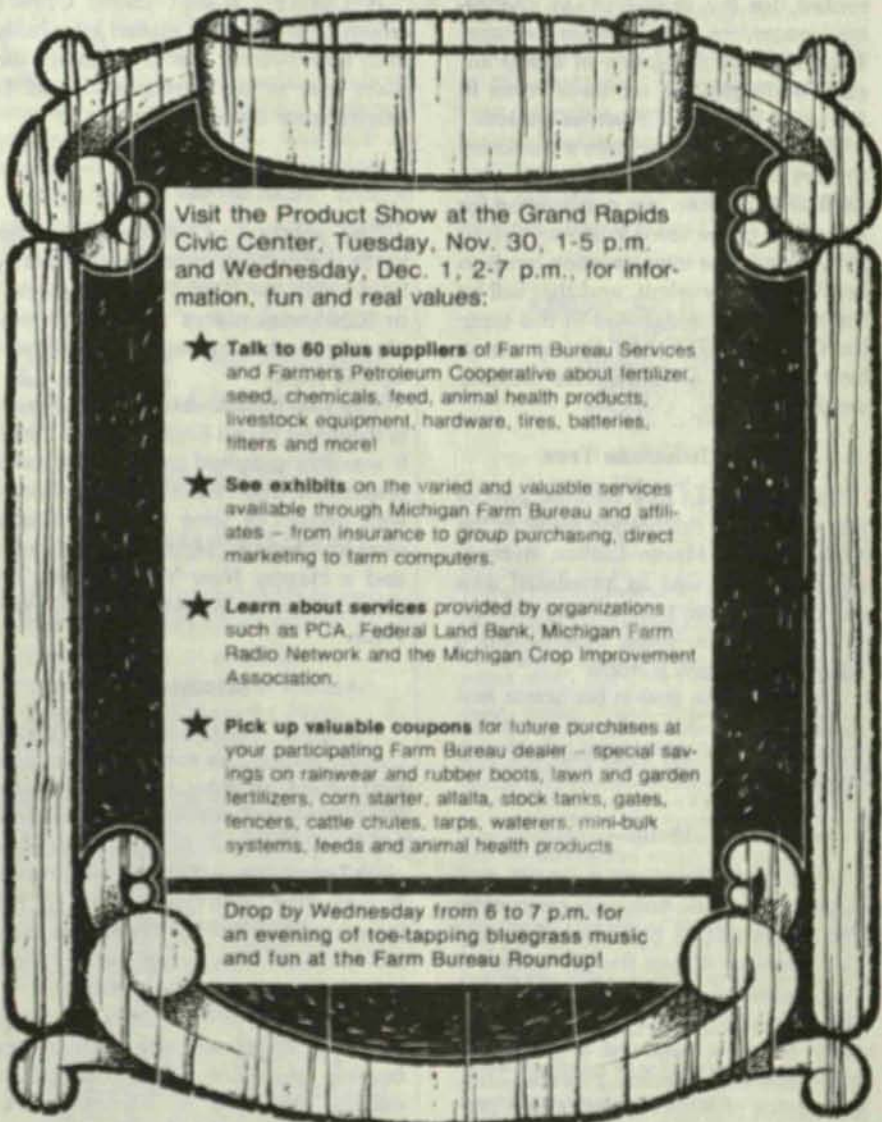
A lot of time and effort went into the campaign for the MSU board of trustees this year, but it is a difficult position to get someone elected to.

The people our candidates were running against had a broad base of support, which made it easier for them to be elected. I have always felt fortunate that we got Tom Reed elected to the board.

But just because we lost that race and others where AgriPac made an endorsement, we should not feel that

everything is lost. It's going to make us be on our toes a lot more in the coming years.

It may help drive home the fact to some people that we've got to . . . take a little more active part in programs like AgriPac and in various political campaigns, whether on the state or local basis.



Visit the Product Show at the Grand Rapids Civic Center, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1-5 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2-7 p.m., for information, fun and real values:

- ★ **Talk to 60 plus suppliers** of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative about fertilizer, seed, chemicals, feed, animal health products, livestock equipment, hardware, tires, batteries, filters and more!
- ★ **See exhibits** on the varied and valuable services available through Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliates - from insurance to group purchasing, direct marketing to farm computers.
- ★ **Learn about services** provided by organizations such as PCA, Federal Land Bank, Michigan Farm Radio Network and the Michigan Crop Improvement Association.
- ★ **Pick up valuable coupons** for future purchases at your participating Farm Bureau dealer - special savings on rainwear and rubber boots, lawn and garden fertilizers, corn starter, alfalfa, stock tanks, gates, fences, cattle chutes, tarps, waterers, mini-bulk systems, feeds and animal health products.

Drop by Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. for an evening of toe-tapping bluegrass music and fun at the Farm Bureau Roundup!



Discussion Topic

"'Tis the season to be jolly," and to aid our merrymaking, we call upon a host of holiday symbols and customs - rooted, for the most part, in mythology, paganism and Christian heritage. Time shrouds the origin of many ancient traditions that we have come to associate with the Christmas season.

Research confirms time's tendency to obscure, and more often than not, we find more than one explanation for the origin of the same custom. Yet, in most cases, one interpretation tends to be the most prevalent, and that will be the description presented in this topic for Community Action Group members as they celebrate the holiday season.

The Christmas Tree

The evergreen tree became part of our Christmas celebration early in the 16th century. Martin Luther, according to legend, was so impressed with the beauty of the stars shining through the snow-laden bows, that he cut a small fir and took it home.

He set up the tree in his house and decorated it with candles to symbolize for his children the star-filled sky over Bethlehem.

Holly

With its brilliant green leaves and bright red berries, holly was revered by ancient people as a symbol of eternal life. Because it bore fruit in winter, it was regarded as one of the most highly-favored plants of nature. The early Romans believed it possessed medicinal and magical powers. They sent sprigs of holly to friends as a protection from evil and a poisons repellent.

With the spread of Christianity, holly became associated with the promise of everlasting life.

A German legend claims Christ's crown of thorns was plaited from holly and that before the crucifixion, the plant bore white berries; afterward its berries were blood red.

Christmas Cards

The practice of sending Christmas cards is relatively recent and probably began with the English "school pieces" or "Christmas pieces" which were simple pen and ink designs on sheets of writing paper.

The first formal card was supposedly designed by an Englishman in 1843. It was lithographed on stiff dark cardboard and depicted a Christmas party with glasses of wine raised in a toast over the words "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." A thousand were printed; one still survives.

Mistletoe

Hanging mistletoe is a pagan custom which has survived to become part of a Christmas holiday tradition. Druid priests cut mistletoe with a golden sickle and caught it in a white cloth before it could touch the ground. It was then distributed to their followers to hang in their homes. Its magical powers were supposed to bring happiness, romance and peace.

In ancient Scandanavia, enemies meeting by chance beneath a tree bearing mistletoe were obliged to disarm, embrace in friendship and keep peace together for the rest of the day. Perhaps from this legend comes

the English custom of kissing beneath the mistletoe.

The Poinsettia

The Mexican poinsettia, representing the flaming star of Bethlehem, is named after a U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel A. Poinsettia, who brought it back to his home in South Carolina in 1829.

Mexican legend has it that the poinsettia originated in a miracle. A poor boy, with nothing to offer Christ at the local church, falls on his knees reassuring God how much he would like to give the gift he has no money to buy. As he rises, the first "flower" of the holy night springs from the ground at his feet. He breaks some of the branches from their flaming bracts and lays his gift at the altar.

Santa Claus

The jolly old elf with red cheeks and a white beard is the American version of old St. Nicholas, a wealthy bishop of Myra in Asia-Minor (which is now Turkey).

St. Nicholas was known for his generosity in distributing gifts and money to the poor, especially children. He preferred to disguise himself and deliver his gifts after dark so that no one would know who had left them.

In Holland, Nicholas is known as Sinter Klaas. Dressed as a bishop, in formal robes, he rides a white horse. On the eve of Dec. 6, children leave wooden shoes outside their doors and fill them with hay to feed Sinter Klaas's horse. Sinter comes during the night and replaces the hay with cookies and candies.



The Dutch brought their holiday traditions with them to America. Gradually, Sinter Klaas became known to other nationalities in the new country and visited an increasing number of children each Christmas.

It wasn't until 1882, when Dr. Clement C. Moore wrote a Christmas poem to entertain his children, that our present day Santa Claus was born. In "A Visit From St. Nicholas," Moore pictured him, not as a bishop in formal robes, but as a plump, cheerful fellow carrying a sack full of toys. Instead of riding a horse, he flew in a sleigh drawn by reindeer and jauntily came and went through the chimney of the house.

Nativity Scene

Use of the nativity scene as a Christmas symbol dates back to St. Francis of Assisi. In 1224 he set up a manger scene in the hills above the village of Greccio, Italy, to dramatize for his parishioners the humble origin of Jesus.

He built a real stable, filled with live animals, straw and hay. People dressed as Mary, Joseph and a shepherd stood among the cattle near a straw-filled manger containing a life-like wax image of the Christ child.

In Greccio, the manger scene was so loved by villagers that it was repeated year after year at Christmas. Gradually, it was adopted by other towns and the custom spread. Eventually, the nativity scene became as important to the celebration of Christmas in southern Europe as the Christmas tree was in the north.

Silent Night

The most famous of the Christmas carols, "Silent Night," was written in 1818 in the village of Oberndorf, Austria. Two nights before Christmas, while walking in the mountains above the town, Joseph Mohr, assistant pastor of the church, stopped to marvel at the peaceful scene below.

Behind him were the snow-covered mountains; below, a tiny village. Overhead, the twinkling stars cast a

pale light over the countryside. How quiet, how peaceful, reflected Father Mohr. Bethlehem probably looked like this the night Christ was born.

Arriving home, he wrote the words of "Silent Night." The following day, Franz Gruber, an organist and the local school master, created the music and sang the new hymn to his wife. "We will die - you and I," she said, "but this song will live."



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We will send to each reader of this publication, who reads and responds to this test before midnight January 2, a 62-piece American and Metric Heavy Duty Industrial tool set and metal storage chest containing all the basic and special tools necessary to service and repair domestic and foreign trucks, tractors, autos, and all heavy industrial machinery. Consists of: 7 American 3/8 inch drive sockets. (3/8", (7/16"), (1/2"), (9/16"), (5/8"), (11/16"), (3/4"). 9 American 1/4 inch drive sockets. (3/16"), (7/32"), (1/4"), (9/32"), (5/16"), (11/32"), (3/8"), (7/16"), (1/2"). 9 Metric 3/8 inch drive sockets. (9MM), (10MM), (11MM), (12MM), (13MM), (14MM), (16MM), (17MM), (19MM). 9 Metric 1/4 inch drive sockets. (4.5MM), (5MM), (6MM), (7MM), (8MM), (9MM), (10MM), (11MM), (12MM). A 3/8 inch fine tooth ratchet with quick release drive combination-forward and reversible, a 1/4 inch x 3/8 inch adapter, a 3/8 inch drive extension bar 3 inch. A 3/8 inch spark plug socket with oil resistant insert and speed installation and removal. An 18-piece industrial steel ignition wrench set, complete set of spark plug gap setting gauges for any type of spark plug. One "1/4-drive" heavy screwdriver, (1) One large set of feeler gauges, industrial "Phillips" heavy duty and "regular" screwdriver. All tools are drop forged alloy steel for durable heavy duty repair work, and will be accompanied with a LIFETIME guarantee that it must perform 100% or it will be replaced free. Add \$7 handling and crating for each Tool Chest requested, we pay all shipping. Should you wish to return your tools, you may do so for a full refund. Any letter post-marked later than January 2, will be returned. LIMIT: Six (6) sets per address, no exceptions. Send appropriate sum together with your name and address to: Tool Test Dept #1150W, Viking Ind., 6314 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90038, or for fastest service from any part of the country, call collect, before midnight 7 days a week, (213) 462-1914. (Ask Exchange Operator for) TOOL TEST, #1150W, have credit card ready.

Farm Bureau Market Place

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY: Members pay 10 cents per word for non-commercial ads and 15 cents per word for ads which promote a commercial business other than agriculture. All other advertisers pay 20 cents per word for one insertion and 15 cents per word for two or more consecutive insertions. The deadline for advertisements is the **first Monday of the month preceding publication** and the publisher has the right to reject any advertising copy submitted. **All ads must be pre-paid** and may be pre-paid up to one year in advance. Please indicate if you are a Farm Bureau member. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to re-insert the ad on a month-by-month or year-by-year basis. **Send ads to Rural Living, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. No ads will be taken over the phone.**

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For Sale: Used Storage Tanks, 6000 to 20,000 gallon capacity. Vertical or horizontal. Phone 616-798-1805. (8-6t-15p-ts)

For Sale: 1974 International Tractor 966, 20.8-34 tires, 2,400 hours, cab, heater, 100 hp diesel. Very good condition. Call 517-764-4383. (11-3t-20p)

Wanted: New Idea single and narrow row cornpickers, New Holland forage harvesters and Ford tractors. H.C.E.C., Inc. We pay cash. 517-523-2803. (7-12t-22p-ts)

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Notice to Advertisers:
Beginning with the January issue of *Rural Living* magazine, the deadline for classified advertisements will be the first Monday of the month preceding publication. For example, Monday, Dec. 6, 1982 is the deadline for placing an advertisement in the January 1983 issue.

LIVESTOCK

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Select Pecans! Extra large in shell. Postpaid 5 pounds \$14.75, 10 pounds \$27.50. Satisfaction guaranteed. Recipes included. We ship gifts. Andover Farms, Box 130-DH, Magnolia Springs, Alabama 36555. (11-2t-28p-ts)

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Sausage makers, great! German recipes, no nitrates! Frankfurters, summer, bologna, headcheese, venison and pork sausage! \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 46073. (12-20p-ts)

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For Sale: Farms-Ranches-Businesses in Michigan and 46 other states. Write, call for FREE brochure or catalog. United Farm Agency, 1764 M-24, Caro, Mich. 48723. 517-673-6888. (7-6t-26p-ts)

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Find coins, jewelry, nuggets, treasure. New revolutionary patented detector. Astounding range. Unaffected by black sand, mineralized ground. Rejects metallic trash. Free catalog. Gardner, 4729AT N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013. (9-4t-29p-ts)

Books for Sale: "150 Years of International Harvester," "Encyclopedia of American Farm Tractors," 350 pages. "Encyclopedia of American Steam Traction Engines." Any of the above \$21.00 postage paid. The best present a person could give or receive! David Hasty, Route 2, Tekonsha, Mich. 49092. (11-2t-40p-ts)

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The 1983 AFBF Annual Meeting will be held in Dallas, Texas, Jan. 9-13. Several different travel arrangements are being offered by Michigan Farm Bureau through TM Travel Associates. A folder explaining the various travel arrangements in detail and costs for each is available by writing: MFB Dallas Trip Desk, c/o TM Travel Associates, Inc. 5241 Plainfield NE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49505. (12-61b)

Wanted: Vetch Seed. Advise quantity available/price. Milton Molitor, 543 N. Park St., Lake City, Mich. 49651. (12-15p)

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You will. See, I've been assigned to help you learn how to protect yourself against crime. I'll be giving you tips on how to discourage burglars, disappoint muggers, and generally make life a little harder for criminals.

Like, for instance, did you know if a burglar can't break into your place after four minutes, chances are, he'll quit? So locking your door could ruin a crook's night.

Another example. Don't carry a purse when you don't need one. It makes a lot of sense; if you don't have your purse, it can't be snatched.

You'll be seeing a lot of me, but in the meantime, find out more. Write to: Crime Prevention Coalition, Box 6600, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Find out what you and your neighbors can do to prevent crime. That's one way to help.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME



A message from the Crime Prevention Coalition, this publication and The Ad Council.

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