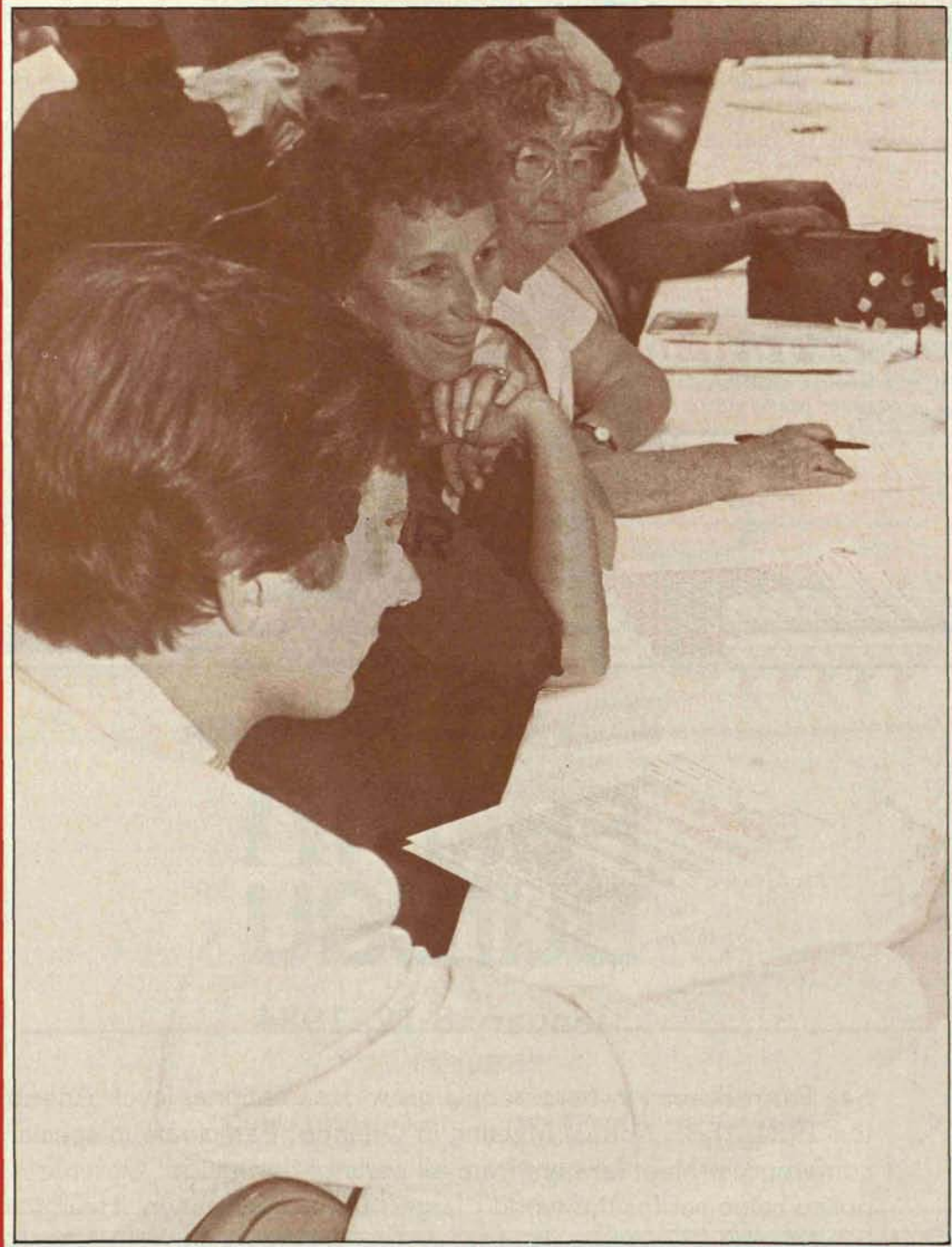


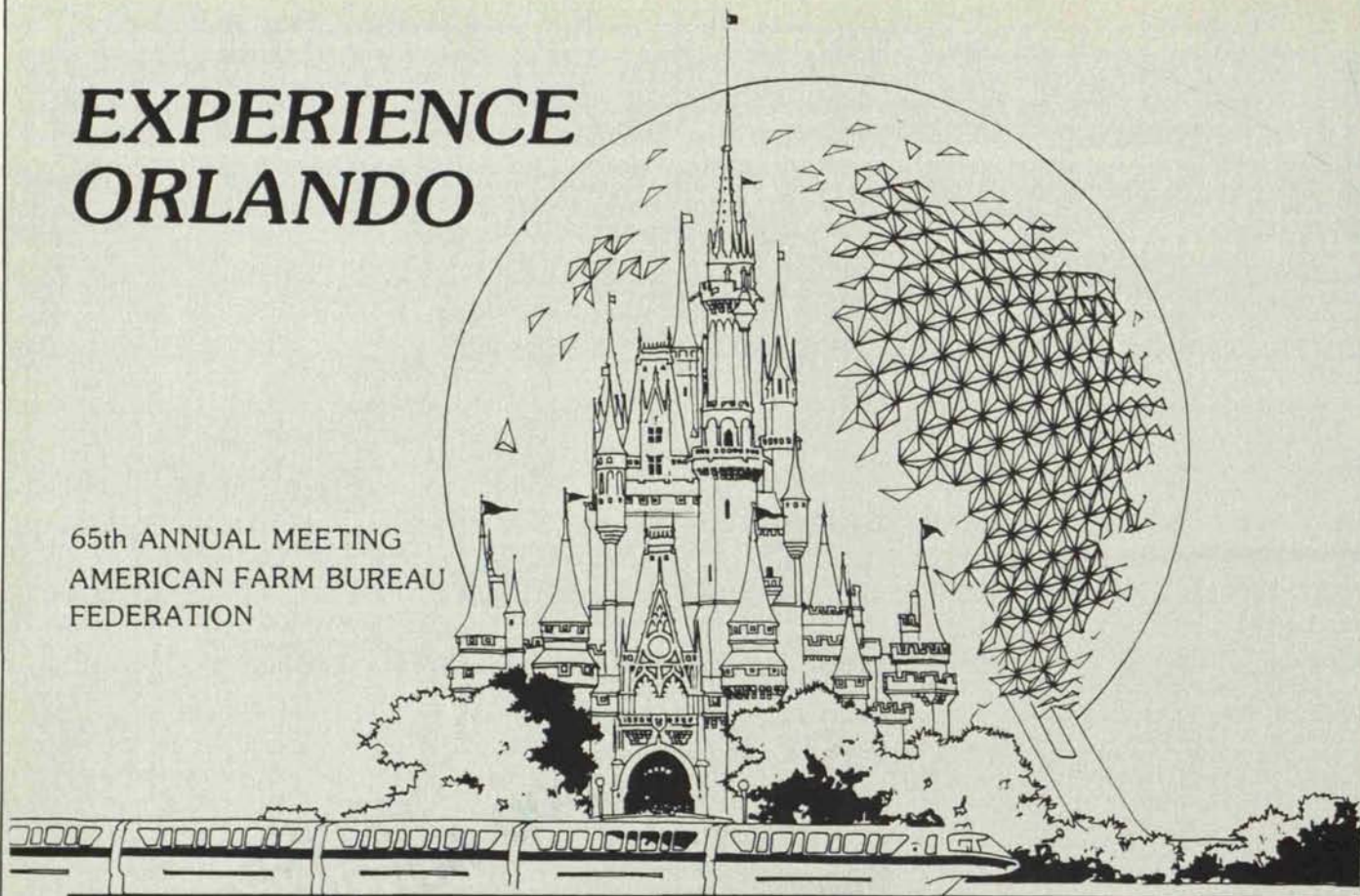
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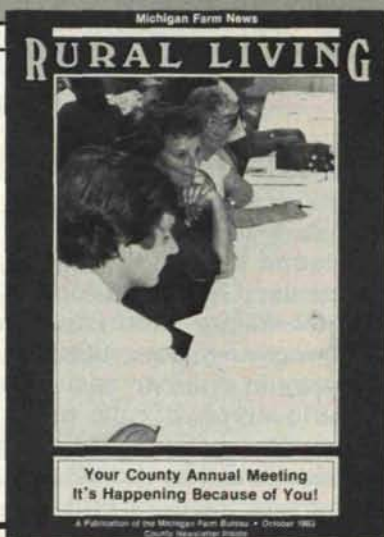
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RURAL LIVING

FARM NEWS

A publication
of the
Michigan
Farm Bureau



OCTOBER 1983
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THE COVER
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developed and discussed by
farmer members are adopted
at county annual meetings.

In this issue:

It's Happening Because of You

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Making Sense of the Price Support Confusion



During a visit to central Michigan, former ag secretary Earl Butz praised FB for its market-oriented policies.

Judging from the number of telephone calls I've received in the past few weeks, it's evident that dairy farmers are confused about price support legislation currently under consideration. It's no wonder they are confused. As the battle heats up in the halls of Congress, dairy farmers have been subjected to a misrepresentation of facts by opponents of the Farm Bureau proposal.

Statements such as "Farm Bureau is for cutting the price support \$1.50" and "under Farm Bureau's proposal, the support price would drop to \$11.60 immediately and permanently" have caused dairy farmer members to question the position of their organization. I think it's time to set the record straight because information that is being distributed is not an accurate reflection of Farm Bureau policy.

Very simply, Farm Bureau is supporting dairy price support legislation known as the Conable-Moynihan amendment because it repeals the two 50-cent per hundredweight assessments and brings a return to a system that worked effectively for nearly 30 years.

Opponents of the Conable-Moynihan legislation are telling dairymen that the legislation Farm Bureau is supporting would immediately reduce the support price by \$1.50 per cwt. and establish an \$11.60 per cwt. permanent price support level. This is not correct. Let's take a look at the actual wording of the legislation:

"The price of milk shall be supported, through purchases of milk and the products of milk, at such level **not less** than \$11.60 per hundredweight as the secretary determines necessary in order to assure an adequate supply of milk to meet current needs and taking into consideration the net price support purchases of milk or the products of milk by the Commodity Credit Corporation during the preceding fiscal year. The support price shall be established **annually** by the secretary at the **beginning** of each fiscal year."

I fail to understand how the Conable-Moynihan amendment could be interpreted to mean the price would drop **immediately** or that it would be **permanent**. The legislation would give the secretary of agriculture the authority to adjust the price **annually** — not permanently — to a level **not less** than \$11.60 per cwt. It gives him the authority to move it up or down, but to not less than \$11.60.

This legislation is in line with the policy our farmer members adopted as the best solution to the worst milk supply-demand imbalance problem we have ever faced.

I recognize the tough decision our delegates had to make. They took a look at history and found that from 1949 to 1977, when the secretary had the authority to adjust the price support, dairy farmers kept production in reasonably close balance with market demand. During that nearly 30 years, the price support was lowered only five times, it was left the same

six times, and raised in all the other years. It was effective because it sent a signal to the industry when production was getting out of line with demand.

On the other side of the coin, since Congress took the authority to adjust the price support away from the secretary in 1977 and started mandating price support levels based on political reasons, the dairy industry has been producing milk far in excess of market needs.

Let's face it — a decision will be made soon regarding the dairy program and we need to be aware of the alternatives:

- Legislation that will bring a tremendous amount of government involvement into our businesses, with no guarantee of a supply/demand balance;

- A return to a system that history proves was effective in addressing the supply-demand imbalance problem;

- A realization by the general public that present farm price supports have turned into entitlement programs and a demand for relief from this tax burden. The result — no dairy program at all.

Doesn't a return to a system that worked well for nearly 30 years make the most sense? That is what the Farm Bureau backed Conable-Moynihan amendment would do.

Elton R. Smith

Elton R. Smith, President Michigan Farm Bureau

Format Change to Improve Communications

By Connie Turbin

Getting ready to write this column, I used so much paper that I was beginning to feel like a very serious environmental threat. Visions of trees toppling and huge, churning vats of wood pulp chided me as I pulled each unsuccessful attempt at written communication from the platen of my typewriter.

Why the agonizing over a few simple paragraphs explaining the reason for discontinuing the county newsletters as a part of *Rural Living* magazine after the November issue? Because it was not a simple decision and because I believe in the need for communication in the county Farm Bureaus — in any organization. It's not simply because I am concerned that county boards and members will read the wrong signals and interpret the change in the delivery of the county communications as a change in priority — nothing could be further from the truth! In fact, county communications need to be more timely, more responsive than we are able to offer through the *Rural Living* county newsletter service.

Happenings in your county Farm Bureau deserve the best advance publicity direct to the membership and the fullest, most detailed reporting to keep members informed and up to date. A county newsletter timed and published on your county's specific communications schedule is the best possible way to accomplish these communications goals. Publication sched-

ules set at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing keep your newsletter coming regularly, but without that all important news "punch" — timeliness.

County information volunteers have been trying to "beat the clock" in each publication month. They have devoted their best, hardworking efforts to surfacing local news (almost before it happens), preparing articles with the sketchiest of details, and taking photographs of the actual county events and activities whenever possible. They deserve a real vote of thanks. During the two years of this program they didn't lose their punch, but, to be sure, there were times when they felt a little "punchy" with the monthly newsletter deadlines looming ahead.

Producing the homegrown county newsletter may give these volunteer editors relief from the six-week advance deadline schedule, but they will need the support and assistance of county Farm Bureau members to continue this county communications effort. Deadlines will be more flexible, more easily tailored to your county's needs. There will be time and space for publicity, promotion, recognition and announcements. There will be need for your input. Whether it's to publish details of a membership campaign contest or review a "hot" local issue, your county newsletter should be the best, most direct avenue to the county membership.

"Hold the presses" for a countywide information meeting? With your own county newsletter publication — you bet!

Our recommendation to discontinue the newsletter service as part of the magazine was a tough one for the coordinators of the *Rural Living* county newsletter service as we weighed our own personal interest and investment in the success and continuation of the county newsletter service against the risk of losing this important local member communications vehicle. Your Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors recognized the risks involved, but because they are your leaders and your representatives, they saw the positive challenges and the benefits of returning that interest and investment in the program's success to the county Farm Bureau membership.

They asked for, and got, our commitment to give assistance and support to the county Farm Bureaus in establishing locally produced newsletters, to provide training and maintain regular contacts with the information volunteers so vital to the success of the program.

I was reminded as we grappled with this difficult decision that the Chinese symbol for challenge and the symbol for opportunity were the same. Our mutual challenge and opportunity is to build an active, responsive county-run communications program for members and among the non-farm public. We can make it happen!

WASHINGTON

New Protections in PACA —

Legislation to amend the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) by requiring buyers of perishable agricultural commodities to maintain a statutory trust has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

The bill, H.R. 3867, would amend existing legislation by adding a provision that requires buyers to maintain enough assets to cover their obligations to produce sellers. In addition, the proposed legislation gives priority position to produce sellers in the event of bankruptcy or insolvency by the purchaser and declares it to be an unfair trade practice to fail to maintain the statutory trust.

Agricultural Weather Funding — Agricultural weather services funding for fiscal year 1984 is part of the appropriations bills for the Departments of State, Justice and Commerce.

H.R. 3222 and S. 1721, which continue funding at the fiscal year 1983 level, have been reported to the floor by their respective House and Senate committees. It appears likely, however, that funding for agricultural weather services will be part of a continuing appropriations resolution.

Domestic Content Legislation — Farm Bureau opposition to domestic content legislation, H.R. 1234, has been expressed in a letter to the chairperson of

the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. The legislation would restrict imports of automobiles and trucks by requiring that up to 90% of the components in domestically sold vehicles be produced in the U.S. Such a requirement, Farm Bureau warned, could result in trade retaliation against agricultural exports.

Dairy Program Legislation

— In the House, pending legislation includes H.R. 1875, the dairy compromise plan. Farm Bureau continues to oppose H.R. 1875, favoring instead the Conable substitute legislation, H.R. 3292. The Conable amendment would give the secretary of agriculture authority to adjust the price support for dairy and would eliminate the two 50 cent per cwt. assessments.

Text of the Conable amendment is as follows:

Section 201 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1446), as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982, is amended, effective sixty days after enactment by (1) deleting subsection (d) thereof; and (2) amending subsection (c) to read as follows: "(c) The price of milk shall be supported, through purchases of milk and the products of milk, at such a level not less than \$11.60 per hundredweight as the secretary determines necessary in order to assure an adequate supply of milk to meet current needs and taking into consideration the net price support purchases of milk or the products of milk by the Commodity Credit Corporation during the preceding fiscal year. The support price shall be established annually by the secretary at the beginning of each fiscal year."

Identical language is proposed in S. 1712 to be offered by Sen. Moynihan to amend S. 1529, the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983.

Amendments to FIFRA —

Identical bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The bills, H.R. 3818, introduced by Congressman Harkin of Iowa, and S. 1774, introduced by Sen. Proxmire of Wisconsin, reflect the "wish list" of environmental groups.

Provisions of the amendments would substantially revise the product registration portion of the existing act relative to data collection, registry support data, fees and cancellation or suspension of product registration. New recordkeeping and reporting requirements would be established for commercial applicators and the amendments would eliminate prohibitions against required testing for private applicators, i.e., farmers and ranchers. A definition change would require that all handlers of restricted use pesticides be certified applicators.

The Harkin amendments would also expand the "private right to sue," require vicinity use and protection regulations and give authority to OSHA to prescribe regulations and enforce against occupational exposure for farm workers and others.

Hearings on the Harkin bill are expected to get underway in October. Farm Bureau will oppose the Harkin amendments and will present testimony at hearings before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research and Foreign Agriculture.

Food Industry Economic Recommendations — Earlier this year Gov. Blanchard appointed an Economic Development Commission for the purpose of recommending ideas and programs to improve Michigan's business climate and maintain and create jobs. Michigan has a reputation of being a "high cost" state with unreasonable regulations. Three subcommittees were formed. One was on the food industry which includes production, processing, marketing, regulatory reform, etc. The other two were on auto supply and forestry.

Farm Bureau has been extensively involved in the subcommittee on the food industry. A report has been submitted to the Economic Commission. It includes 15 broad areas. The recommendations include:

- Encouraging Gov. Blanchard to identify with the food industry including agriculture in a positive way and demonstrate his awareness of its existing strength and diversity as well as its great potential.

- Locate a Food Industry Institute at Michigan State University to coordinate research, on-campus teaching and Extension programs. It would serve marketing organizations, processors and consumers by providing market analysis, new product development, consultants to aid new operations locating in the state and maintain an information base for the entire food industry. It would include a Center for Food Engineering

(continued on page 34)

Proclamation Praises Cooperatives' Role in Building a Better America



Leaders of Michigan farm cooperatives and associations met in Gov. Blanchard's office Sept. 19 for signing of the Cooperative Month Proclamation. Since 1964, October has marked the observance of National Cooperative Month.

From the generation of cooperative pioneers who formed the first supply and marketing cooperatives for the economic benefit of their members to the contemporary cooperative enterprises for credit, utility services, child care, health services and housing, the success of each new generation of cooperators is a tribute to the resourcefulness and independence of the American people.

Today, over 40 million Americans are members of their own cooperatives, working together to secure for themselves and their neighbors needed goods and services. The future of such cooperative enterprise depends upon public understanding of what these member-owned businesses are and the economic stimulus they provide. Since 1964, this goal of cooperative understanding has been furthered by the national observance of Cooperative Month.

The 1983 theme — Cooperatives, Building a Better America — is especially fitting for Michigan which has long been a source of cooperative leadership and support, including recent work on the development of a school curriculum on cooperatives and a proposal for a model consumer cooperative law.

Therefore, I, James J. Blanchard, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby declare the month of October 1983 as COOPERATIVE MONTH in Michigan. I urge all citizens to recognize the contributions and potential of cooperation as a way of doing business.



Farm Bureau

It's Happening! Because of You

Don't let your county Farm Bureau annual meeting happen without you!

By *Connie Turbin*

The Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting drew 260 persons for the dinner and policy session held Sept. 13, reports county Farm Bureau President Gerald Heck. "That's down 20 from last year, but still represents about 10% of our 2,500 county membership."

Basically, he says, he is pleased with the quality of the meeting arrangements and the participation of members in policy deliberations. Monroe County considered 12 local resolutions, 12 state resolutions and four national during its three hour meeting.

"The discussion was very good," Heck says. "I was especially pleased to have state Sen. Norm Shinkle, state Rep.

Richard Sullivan and a representative from Congressman John Dingell's staff attend our meeting to hear the discussion of the state and national resolutions.

"When the legislators are there to hear our local farmers speak on these issues in the policy setting portion of our meeting, the grassroots basis of our Farm Bureau policies is reaffirmed for them. The fact that they attend shows that Farm Bureau is considered an important influence. These lawmakers recognize that Farm Bureau members are informed and ready to speak on the issues that concern them. It also builds greater appreciation and a closer relationship between the membership and the legislators."

Heck says the Monroe County board will start planning for the 1984 annual meeting within two weeks of this year's meeting date.

"Following the annual meeting, our board will critique this year's meeting, set a date and location for the 1984 meeting, and determine whether to have a speaker and possibly determine who that speaker will be. If we expect there will be scheduling conflicts near our annual meeting date, we send a letter off to the proposed speaker inviting him or her to attend and requesting that they reserve that date."

Heck is very proud of the planning and of the smoothly run county meeting. The low cost of the dinner and a well run, orderly meeting, he says, has contributed to good atten-

dance and participation over the years. Long meetings, he says, discourage people from coming.

"Our meeting generally starts about 7 p.m. and we will have completed our agenda by about 10 p.m. There's plenty of time for policy discussion. We try to keep other portions of the meeting from dragging out."

To attract members to the meeting, the county offers lots of door prizes and "thank you" kinds of incentives. For example, the county board agreed to offer Farm Bureau stop signs to those at the annual meeting at half price. The meal is half price, too, with the county board picking up part of the cost. Heck recognizes that his county's good financial position gives them this advantage and he feels that these expenses are money well spent in the county Farm Bureau.

How does the county pack a dinner, guest speaker, awards

and recognition, door prizes and policy discussion into just three hours? "We cut corners," says Heck. "Wherever we can save even a few minutes, we do it. I guess that's the most important responsibility I have as chairman before and during the meeting — to keep things moving along."

In the policy session, there is more emphasis on local and state resolutions, he says, because county people tend to be more familiar with these issues. "Farmers are concerned about drainage issues, roads and bridges, taxation and safety, so we find these issues get good discussion."

Unfortunately, not as much is done to follow up on these local policies as he would like to see.

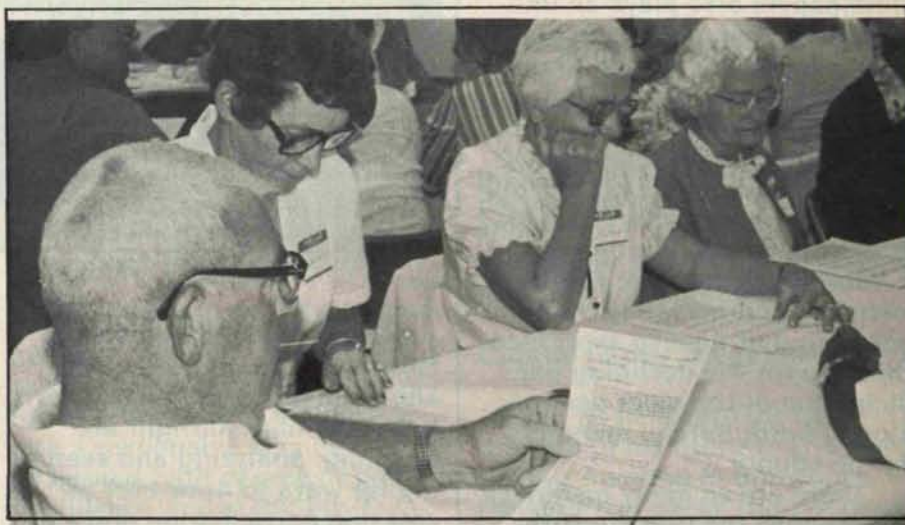
"That's something our county will be working on in the year ahead. We have been building our policy execution activities with a focus on the Lansing and Washington Legislative Seminars and, I believe, we are making good progress there, both

in terms of member participation and in relationship building with the legislators.

"In the past year, we have combined our local, state and national affairs committees into one legislative committee with eight to nine members. This year, we are planning more personal follow-up on our policies with the members of that committee taking the lead. Our goal at the local, state and national level is to have more and more contact with our elected officials and to get to know them. We want to have Farm Bureau members in Monroe County recognized by our lawmakers as constituents who keep up with the issues and who are willing to take a stand."

Willingness to take a stand hasn't been a problem for the Branch County Farm Bureau either, says county President Gary Albright.

"We've taken on some pretty controversial local issues in re-



While there's plenty of time on the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting agenda for policy discussion, meeting organizers find time for door prizes, awards, recognition and a guest speaker. A smoothly run meeting, says County President Jerry Heck, has contributed to good attendance and participation over the years.

cent years and while we haven't always been 100% successful, we are playing a role in the county by getting another point of view aired and talked about."

Local policies adopted by Branch County members at their annual meetings have ranged from opposition to a \$60,000 expenditure of local hospital funds for a services feasibility study to fire protection, drains maintenance and crime prevention.

Follow up is usually done on a one to one basis, Albright says. "The policies adopted at our Sept. 19 annual meeting will be sent to the appropriate county board or agency stating our policy position and requesting comment or questions. But generally, our board members or committee chairpersons will make some personal contact with county officials. I guess it's pretty informal but effective. Our members are active in the community and the interaction usually happens that way."

Annual meeting coverage by the local radio station and newspapers also plays an important role in getting the policy stands of Branch County members out to the community. "For the past several years, the station's reporters have attended our annual meeting and done taping and interviews for broadcast the following day."

Albright praises the involvement of members in the annual meeting, but he also expressed concern for the declining participation of the older generation of Farm Bureau members in the county.

"There are so many instances throughout the year when the experience and judgment of these seasoned farmer members would be a valuable asset to the total organization."



MFB President and AFBF Vice President Elton R. Smith emphasized to Branch County FB members the vital importance of involvement in the policy development process, especially this year when farm programs are at a crossroads. Broad member involvement, he said, is needed to assure that FB policies are a reflection of grassroots farmer-member concerns.



Around the state, county Farm Bureau board members and county presidents like Jerry Heck and Gary Albright are planning, analyzing and searching for ways to draw ever increasing participation and support from their total membership for this important grassroots policy meeting.

Well planned meetings with an awareness of the social aspects of the county annual meeting and meaningful policy recommendations for con-

sideration by the membership, they agree, are undeniably important to the success of this county Farm Bureau happening. But they are critically aware that without the involvement of Farm Bureau members — young and old — the organization and, ultimately, the agricultural community is adversely affected.

They remind members that the county Farm Bureau is "happening because of YOU!"

Good Guys Don't Always Win



Confident that the Agriculture Commission would not bend to gubernatorial pressure, the farm community was unprepared for the political finale to Pridgeon's career as director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

By Donna Wilber

On Aug. 31, the Michigan Agriculture Commission, by a unanimous vote, accepted the resignation of Dean Pridgeon as director of the Department of Agriculture, effective Nov. 1, 1983.

"The only off-the-farm job I ever had and I get fired!"

Dean Pridgeon's summation of the stormy finale to his career as director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture reflects the persistent sense of humor that's been dampened, but not completely extinguished, by recent events. He knows, as he says it, that "fired" is an overstatement of

what happened to him, but the hurt and disappointment are still there, too new yet to be tucked beneath a cheerful facade.

Who would fire a man credited with taking a staggering, demoralized department out of the PBB debris and molding it into a responsive agency with an earned high degree of public confidence and credibility?

The acceptance of his resignation (requested by Gov. Blanchard) by his "bosses," the five-member Michigan Agriculture Commission, is a more palatable description to everyone concerned — the Democrat administration that is the target of public criticism for its interference, the commission that appeared to have succumbed to

political pressures, and the ag community that wonders if it should have shouted louder to protect the commission system it strongly supports.

Commissions Frequent Target

Even as he clears the desk drawers in his office in the new Ottawa Building in downtown Lansing and packs the Pridgeon family photos that were proudly displayed on the walls and credenza, observers wonder why this is happening.

Why would a man, whose personal integrity is beyond reproach, whose dedication to his industry transcended him beyond the games politicians

play, be the victim in this non-fiction scenario? What happened to the old-fashioned "good guys always win" Act III?

Pridgeon has known, since November 1982, that his time as MDA director was limited. It's a political fact of life that a new governor will want his own people in positions of power, even if it means replacing competent people. When he accepted the position of MDA director, Pridgeon, an active Republican, left partisan politics behind and he had, so he thought, one good thing going for him, no matter who was elected governor — a commission to which he was accountable that was, by its structure, insulated from partisan politics.

He had been the first farmer in history to be appointed to the Natural Resources Commission, later serving as its chairperson, and was familiar with such a system. Both the MDA and DNR have had battles keeping their commission systems intact. Governors of both political parties have tried, by legislative action, to make the appointment of those agency directors their authority rather than the commissions'. So far, those efforts have failed because of the outcry, each time the issue has surfaced, from the people served by those agencies.

This record of success, plus confidence in the commission members, left the agricultural community unprepared for what might happen if a new governor didn't follow the script.

Governor Writes Own Script

Gov. Blanchard chose not to follow the script. If he had, he would have patiently waited until his gubernatorial appointments to the commission would have assured that "his man"

would be appointed as MDA director. Instead, he went directly to Pridgeon and asked for his resignation. Pridgeon obliged, to a point. He submitted his resignation, not to the governor, but to the commission which alone, by law, had the power to accept or reject it.

It seemed at first that the commission, made up of three Republicans and two Democrats, would hold fast to its authority. With Pridgeon's impeccable record of achievement, recognized even by the governor who sought his resignation, and a Republican majority on the commission, the future of the system — if not Pridgeon — seemed secure.

What happened between the governor and the commission members just prior to the Aug. 31 meeting where they announced their 5-0 decision to accept Pridgeon's resignation? Why did a Republican-dominated commission bend to the will of a Democrat governor?

Reporters from every major metro media in the state, on hand to hear the decision of the commissioners, failed in their efforts to unveil this political mystery. A letter circulated among the news people from Blanchard to commission member Robert Chaffin, extolling the virtues of the governor's choice, former state senator John Hertel, and requesting the immediate resignation of commission chairperson John Krone-meyer for withholding Pridgeon's resignation letter, was more revealing than responses to reporters' questions.

Other questions remained unanswered. Why, in view of the well-known, broad support for the commission system, did the governor risk the ire of the ag

community by prematurely requesting the resignation of a director who was so obviously popular? What was the hurry to get his man in that position when, in a few short months, he could have had him there without public condemnation?

Future of the System

It's no secret that the governor is not a fan of the commission system. Even though bills introduced to make the MDA director a gubernatorial rather than commission appointment have failed to make it through the legislative hopper, Pridgeon feels Gov. Blanchard has taken a giant step toward crippling the system.



Reporters from every major metro media, on hand Aug. 31 to hear the decision of the commissioners, surrounded Director Pridgeon following the announcement that the commission had voted to accept his resignation by a unanimous vote.

"I think the system is sadly hurt. From now on, the director of agriculture will be on the list every time we change governors. When one commission succumbs, then the next governor comes in and decides, we'll try the same thing," he said.

While Pridgeon is clearly disappointed by the commission's acceptance of his resignation "because the whole commission system depended upon them being independent," he still shows compassion for their action.

"There's a certain awe of the governor's office and he does have some power over the commission when appointments are pending. He doesn't have to promise anything; it's just there in the air. He's a very personable and persuasive individual and he did not run me down. He said 'Dean's done a great job, but I want my own guy in there; I have a right to that.' I think it had gotten to the point where they didn't have much choice," Pridgeon said.

Advice for His Successor

What about Pridgeon's successor? Will the anger of the agricultural community over what's happened make for some special challenges for the new director?

"I think it's going to make it tough. It's a lot easier to have everyone on your side and not have any group out there shooting at you. It's important that the people you serve trust you because you have to make some really tough decisions in this position. If you don't have their trust when you come in, you really have to earn it the hard way," Pridgeon said.

If he had the opportunity to share some advice with his suc-

cessor, the outgoing director would tell him to remember that a department is only as effective as its people.

"Don't form the nucleus of your organization around a group of people whose primary goal is political and ignore all those who have dedicated themselves to service. It's dangerous to bring all new people in for all the key spots. Sure, it makes a center of power, but it doesn't make a good department," he warned.

Characteristically, the director is concerned about the morale of the current MDA staff.

"They feel hurt; they feel betrayed right now. Personally, I'll be okay. I'm lucky I don't have to go out and find another position. I can go back to the farm. It will probably be good for me and for the farm," he said.

The farm is a 2,200-acre hog operation in Branch County. It's a family operation involving his two sons, who are the sixth generation of Pridgeons to farm that land, and his father. "It's a good life and Mary and I, even though it's been a great experience serving with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, look forward to going back to the farm," Pridgeon said.

Challenges and Accomplishments

As he reviews his nearly five years of service as MDA director, Pridgeon remembers two major goals he tackled when he took over the helm.

"The first was to make sure the department survived. When I came in, the department had withdrawn within itself and kind of pulled their wagons in a circle. Nobody wanted to be associated with the MDA because of PBB and there were relationship problems with other agencies, with the university and the

governor's office. My challenge was to re-establish those relationships and make the department credible and put it on an equal basis with other state agencies.

"My other goal was to elevate agriculture so it was considered equal in importance to other industries.

"I think I accomplished both of them."

The Commission's Side of the Story

"Leaving the responsibility of hiring a new director to a new commission would have been the easy way out," according to John Kronemeyer, U.P. dairy farmer who chairs the Michigan Agriculture Commission. "We made the tough decision to accept that responsibility ourselves. Most of us have a number of years experience on the commission and we're still learning. I just think this commission can make a better choice."

Refusing to accept Pridgeon's resignation would have left that job to a new commission, created by gubernatorial appointments in January 1984. At this point in time, none of the current commissioners who are up for reappointment — with the exception of Kronemeyer who was requested by the governor to resign — know whether, come January, they'll still be members of the commission.

Kronemeyer admits that the Nov. 1 resignation date was a compromise because the Dec. 1 date the Republicans were pushing for was not acceptable to the Democrats on the commission.

"Moving that acceptance date up a month seemed the right decision to make even though we knew it wouldn't be a popu-

lar one with the agricultural community," Kronemeyer said. "Now that we've invited their input, I hope they respond."

In action at the Sept. 12-13 commission meeting, a screening committee was appointed to surface candidates for the job and an invitation was issued to agricultural groups to make recommendations. Michigan Farm Bureau declined to recommend a specific individual but outlined the qualifications it believes a new director should have.

The commission recognizes that their action may result in the surfacing of a candidate who might be acceptable to them and to the agricultural community, but not to the governor and the new commission, which will have the authority to fire and hire the director of agriculture. This means an unacceptable choice could have a very short career. But Kronemeyer is hopeful.

"There just has to be good people out there who are qualified and will work for the betterment of agriculture and who will be acceptable to the governor, the new commission and the farming community," he said.

The governor's choice, John Hertel, may end up being the commission's choice. Kronemeyer says he's already received several letters from ag groups recommending Hertel, who is actively seeking the job. But because of the governor's aggressiveness, that choice, even though it might also be the commission's choice, creates some problems.

"It could make the commission look terrible, as if it really had been manipulated. It will make the governor unpopular with the agricultural community because it will look as

though he got his way the wrong way. That will be two strikes against a man who just might be the best person for the job," Kronemeyer said. "But I really think we (the commission) are strong enough to do what is best for Michigan agriculture."

And, what about the governor's request for Kronemeyer's immediate resignation? It got turned down — flat! The gentle but strong-principled farmer informed Gov. Blanchard that he would finish his term which expires Dec. 31, 1983.

In Summation

As he reviews his four years of service on the commission, Kronemeyer sees the experience as an enjoyable time of learning, learning by the experiences and opportunities the position

has offered and even by the mistakes he's made, which he hopes he's learned by but which haven't made him paranoid.

As he told one young reporter at the Aug. 31 commission meeting in response to her question, "How will the governor's request for your resignation affect your career?"

"It won't hurt it a bit, ma'm; I'm a dairy farmer."

And so Dean Pridgeon will return to his hog farm in southern Michigan and John Kronemeyer to his dairy farm in the U.P., their "careers" unmarred by decisions made in the ivory towers of Lansing. But along the hallways of those ivory towers, there are imprints left behind by those who served, not for political glory, but for the betterment of their industry.



Ag Commission Chairperson John Kronemeyer and other commission members accept responsibility for what they termed a tough decision in a stormy political climate. "Leaving the responsibility of hiring a new director to a new commission would have been the easy way out," Kronemeyer says. "I just think this commission can make a better choice."

Position Statement of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors Regarding Michigan Department of Agriculture September 7, 1983

The ability of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to administer programs benefiting farmers and consumers has been seriously diminished following recent political interference by Gov. Blanchard with the independent Agriculture Commission.

Past political appointment of the director of the Department of Agriculture failed to provide the continuity necessary to build a great department. For example, from 1921 to 1944, when the governor had authority to appoint the director of agriculture, a total of nine persons served as director during the 23-year period. Their average tenure of 2.6 years provides clear evidence that the director and the administration of department programs were susceptible to constant political interference under direct gubernatorial appointment system. A return to such political interference must not be allowed to happen.

In 1945 the authority to appoint the director was transferred from the governor to the Agriculture Commission. During the 37-year period since the transfer, only four persons have served as director, with an average tenure of 9.3 years. This proven record of stability, continuity of programs, and lack of political interference has been compromised by Gov. Blanchard in his urging the Agriculture Commission to appoint a director of his liking. This is especially true in view of the fact that the terms of two of the five commission members expired in December 1982 and a third will expire in December 1983.

The request from Gov. Blanchard that Agriculture Commission Chairperson John Kronemeyer resign before his current four-year term expires in December is unfortunate. Mr. Kronemeyer should not resign from the commission. For Mr. Kronemeyer to bow to the request would further compromise the independence of the commission.

The present Agriculture Commission should take prompt action to identify capable individuals for the position of director, conduct appropriate interviews with the top candidates and hire the best individual by Jan. 1, 1984. The person hired should have recognized experience in the agricultural industry, be a strong communicator, possess the ability to work with all segments of Michigan's diverse agricultural industry and have demonstrated organizational/administrative skills.

Michigan Farm Bureau will continue to vigorously support an independent Agriculture Commission system and vigorously oppose efforts to weaken or repeal the system.

Dr. John Hannah, former MSU president, and L A Cheney, former secretary of MAFC, were honored for their "meritorious service to agriculture" by the Production Credit Associations of Michigan and St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives during a 50th anniversary celebration at Long's Convention Center, Lansing, in early September. Each was presented with a commemorative eagle sculpture entitled, "Between Sky and Soil."

Bill Byrum, Ingham County grain and pork producer, is the lone farmer on Gov. Blanchard's recently-appointed 27-member Governor's Commission on the Future of Higher Education. The commission is charged to explore, assess and offer recommendations on the mission of higher education toward meeting Michigan's future needs.

FB's opposition to cancellation of the U.S./Soviet grain agreement does not, in any way, diminish the anger of farmers, along with all Americans, regarding Russia's inexcusable action of shooting down the Korean airliner, MFB President Elton R. Smith told reporters at recent agricultural news backgrounders in Lansing and Grand Rapids. Rather, it is a realization that grain embargoes do not work and only result in the labeling of U.S. farmers as unreliable suppliers in world markets, he said.

Markets took a nosedive in immediate reaction to news that a congressional resolution had been introduced to suspend grain shipments under the new agreement until the incident is resolved. To date, President Reagan has taken a strong stance against the use of a grain embargo as a retaliatory measure. In a telegram to Reagan, Smith urged the president to reject any actions against the Soviet Union that would ask farmers to assume an unfair burden. If economic sanctions are taken, they should be total, involving all segments of the economy and be joined by all free world allies, he said.

The USDA's 50-cent per cwt. assessment on milk has been upheld by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. The ruling said Ag Secretary John Block's compliance with federal regulations and imposition of the tax are constitutional. The court ruling came as a result of an attempt by the state of South Carolina and several dairy groups to have the assessment overturned.

AFBF has gone on record in opposition to a proposed cabinet level Department of International Trade and Industry. In testimony before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, an AFBF spokesperson said that the interests of farmers — as major exporters — are sufficiently protected and safeguarded by the existing services of the Foreign Agriculture Service of USDA and the U.S. Trade Representative's office. John Datt, AFBF secretary and director of the Washington office, told the committee that FB fears that the new trade department would be built around the nucleus of the Department of Commerce which has an industrial constituency often with interests that don't coincide with those of farmers.

Autumnfest '83, MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources reunion for alumni and friends, has been scheduled for Oct. 29 preceding the MSU vs Minnesota homecoming football game. A pre-game "Superbrunch" of Michigan foods will be served from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jenison Fieldhouse. For ticket information, see the ad in this issue.

Michigan Commission of Agriculture members Robert Chaffin, Ithaca, and David Diehl, Dansville, have been appointed to a special screening committee to seek qualified candidates for MDA director. The committee will accept applications through Oct. 7. Ag industry leaders are encouraged to make recommendations to the committee. Applications may be submitted to the Screening Committee, Commission of Agriculture, Attention Betty Daley, Michigan Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 30017, Ottawa Bldg. North, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

No Crystal Ball

As pointed out in the September *Rural Living* article, "A Look Back. . .," getting local Farm Bureau members involved in the policy setting activity is a challenge that continues for county Farm Bureau boards of directors.

We feel that we have made good progress in Gratiot County this year with the increased attendance at our 1983 county annual meeting, Aug. 27. A new, earlier date and a new dinner-dance format doubled attendance from the previous year. We are hoping for even better participation in 1984.

We're also staying active in a number of projects throughout the year that invite member participation and support. These county and inter-county activities include: the Fashion Square Mall "Farm Days" show, the annual Bean Smorgasbord, and the new Channel 5 television program, "Farm and Garden," produced and hosted by Farm Bureau members in the

Saginaw Valley and Thumb Regions.

I don't have a crystal ball for the Gratiot County Farm Bureau, but I'm counting on increased involvement from our membership to build a strong Farm Bureau in Gratiot County.

*Doug Kostal
Ithaca*

A Feather in Our Cap

I just read in the (September) *Rural Living* about your fantastic success at the AFBF Information Conference. Congratulations on your awards! And don't forget to put more feathers in Farm Bureau's cap!

It's always been my feeling that Farm Bureau should toot its horn more often. It makes all the long hours and sleepless nights somehow a little easier.

Just wanted to say congratulations and keep up the good work.

*Marcia Spink
West Branch*

Old Friends

Here's an interesting sidenote to your September *Rural Living* cross stitch cover of the Appleton School in Clinton County. My father was one of the students at the school and since we were youngsters, our family has been taking part in the annual reunion of the "Appleton school kids."

The families gather for the reunion at the home of one of the former classmates or a family member. There are about 12 families now that take part in this nostalgic get together.

While the school was destroyed by fire many years ago, the friendships made during those years in the one-room school-house have endured.

If there are any other Appleton alumni or their families who would like to be a part of this annual tradition, they can write to me for information: Judy Fick, 7034 Lennon Road, Swartz Creek, Mich. 48473.

*Judy Fick
Swartz Creek*

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. Five farmers were honored in August 1983:

Aug. 1 — Tom Guthrie, 42, operates a 420-acre dairy farm near Delton. He is area 4-H Council vice president; Barry County FB president; Barry County DHIA president; chairperson of the township board of review and serves on the township planning and zoning committee; Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame vice president; a member of the MFB Policy Development Committee; and was named Farm Manager of the Year in 1977 by the MSU Telfarm program.

Aug. 8 — William Dalton, 55, a fruit farmer from Fennville, grows ap-

ples, peaches, cherries and pears. Dalton serves as Manlius Township clerk; is a member of the Allegan County FB and the local Rod and Gun Club; is past Lakeland Fruit Growers vice president; and he served on various committees for the Fennville Public Schools.

Aug. 15 — William Wagner, 45, is a dairy farmer from Kingsley. He is on the Northwest Michigan Fair advisory council; is a member and past president of the Northwest Michigan FB; serves as a 4-H leader; is past Northwest Michigan Livestock Commission president; is a past member of the Regional Planning Commission and the township zoning board; and was recipient of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from Northwest Michigan FB.

Aug. 22 — Douglas Kostal, 36, operates a 750-acre farm near Ithaca with his father. They grow a large percentage of their crops as certified grain. Kostal is treasurer of Neward Township; member of the Ithaca First United Methodist Church; Gratiot County Selective Service Board chairperson; and Gratiot County Farm Bureau president.

Aug. 29 — Wayne DeForest, 44, runs a 200-acre dairy farm near Ann Arbor. He is membership chairperson of the Ann Arbor local of the Holstein Association; serves on the Washtenaw County FB board; is a member of the county FB policy development committee and chairperson of the membership committee; is a former DHIA board member; served 20 years in the National Guard and was named Soldier of the Year in 1968.

Time for Change?



Editorial by Gwen Nash
Clinton County Farm Bureau
Newsletter Editor

During the past several years, farmers have seen changes take place in their profession that they never would have imagined 100 years ago. Men of the early 1900s were true men of the soil. They could tell by the feel and smell of the soil what crop would be best suited for the year and tell you within one-half bushel what the yield would be.

In today's world, the man of the soil has become a man of technology. We have become obsessed with change and "progress" and increased yields and more land and... have we over done it?

Some have said that we did all right until the government stepped in and messed us up. They're probably right, to a degree. Government

programs have inspired farmers to take on tremendous debt loads and to "over produce." The payment of interest (as opposed to principle) is rewarded by tax breaks. There are government regulations which add to the cost of the product but do not necessarily increase the quality of the product. Subsidies are paid for products that are of low use or are "hazardous to your health."

They tell me you can't go back. And simple solutions are for simple people. Maybe you can't go back... Perhaps we should examine our incentive programs. Maybe we should smell the soil... Are we afraid of "going back" because of the loss of the progress that we have made, or because of what we might find when we get there?

Cooperative Recipe Serves Over 60 Million People

Take a good idea, add a group of people, mix with a sound business philosophy and practical know-how and you've got 40,000 cooperatives owned and operated by the people they serve.

Cooperatives meet just about any need you can think of serving people and their communities. They get jobs done efficiently and economically that individuals simply can't do alone. There are cooperatives for electric and telephone service, housing, food, insurance, farm credit, farm marketing and farm supply, health and day care, and credit unions.

Look around you. Count the cooperatives. See what's cooking with these thriving businesses that are working hard to provide goods and services and jobs that benefit not only their communities, but all of America.



October Is Co-op Month.

Montcalm County Farm Bureau Fights Drugs



Sheriff Tom Hebert accepts FB's contributions to the Drug Information Fund from secretaries Audrey Quisenberry and Ruby Jeppesen.

Audrey Quisenberry and Ruby Jeppesen, secretaries of Montcalm County Farm Bureau, each presented Sheriff Tom Hebert a check for \$300 recently. Montcalm County Farm Bureau Women and the Farm Bureau board each voted to donate \$300 to the Montcalm County Sheriff Department's Drug Information Fund. The drug investigation unit was formed six months ago on a very limited budget of \$16,500 to cover all costs of operation. In the first four months that program was in force the Sheriff's Department drug unit has arrested 34 drug dealers.

Chamber of Commerce Takes Farm Tour

The Kalkaska Chamber of Commerce recently had the chance to get a first hand view of the business of farming. Members of the group took their community breakfast on the road for a tour of some local farming operations at the Ralph Iott potato farm and then to the Jake/Diana Uitvlugt hog and dairy farm.

A dairy punch was served at the Uitvlugt farm and fun items provided for the children.

The visits were part of the Kalkaska Cooperative Extension Service and Farm Bureau Agricultural Tour. It allowed Chamber members to get a hands-on experience with different types of farm operations. Those attending indicated the tour was very interesting and informative.

Let's hope more community breakfasts with similar tours may be arranged and the general public invited.

You Have Influence**Today's Ideas Could be Tomorrow's FB Policies**

By Elva Boyles
Eaton County Farm Bureau

There is a common factor in all legislation from the beginning to the end. This factor is people. You and I are the people. If we don't suggest, study, redefine, consider and give final approval to proposals/ideas, then the needed legislation never happens. We have lots of influence in the legislative process if we will only use it. More important, we have total responsibility for communicating our ideas to other people who can help us with the refining and gleaning of ideas.

It's important for all of us to remember that no one has the ability to read our minds. Included in the "non-mind readers" are family, legislators and Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee members.

You all have ideas on what you'd do if you had power and influence in government. You do have power and influence! Just exercise your rights and give the Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee some ideas to work on.



**Farm
Bureau**


**It's Happening!
Because of You**

The policies we (1) work on; (2) present at county annual meetings; (3) send those proposals which are approved at the annuals to the state Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee. The state Policy Development Committee presents propos-

ed policies to state annual meeting delegates to vote on. These are really all your ideas. We are one of the "refiners" and "gleaners" groups that you can use to make your ideas become legislation.

You and I are the common factor in legislation, so put on your thinking cap and help out your county PD Committee with some ideas of your own. That idea of yours may become Michigan law in 1984-85.

Some topics now being considered are: computers in education, revisions to the farm program, land conservation (marginal), water rights for farms, Social Security reform, hospital cost containment, transportation — train and water, organized labor and society, and elimination of unnecessary food contamination.



'Too Busy' Excuses Make for Lonesome New FB Members; Do All You Can to Make Them Welcome in Our Organization

By Deni Hooper
Northwest Michigan FB
Newsletter Editor

A brand-new Farm Bureau member just called me to ask what was going on. Since he joined the organization three months ago he had neither seen nor heard from anyone in Farm Bureau. Is the organization really bankrupt?

After an apology — harvest time is really no excuse, but I use it anyway — I consider how remiss I

have been. Maybe how remiss we all are in welcoming new Farm Bureau members.

Do I explain what it is that they are joining? That it is the most active farm group going? That the FB family exists as multiple members of one body? That our Farmers Petroleum, Farm Bureau Services, Farm Bureau Insurance Group and the community organization operate under separate corporate boards headquartered together in one big Lansing complex?

Today FBS is in the process of reorganization. The plan, according to Executive Vice President Newton Allen, would also bring to the organization the expertise and to the marketing area the products of one of the nation's most reputable suppliers of top quality farm input products, Land O'Lakes, Inc. In addition, it will bring to the membership new efficiencies that will be beneficial both long and short term.

This does not affect some pretty exciting programs offered by the insurance company, including the adaptable Universal Life or the fantastic IRAs or the essential estate planning service. No, I am not selling insurance, but I know someone who is, do you?

We do all feel the after effects of the PBB explosion. I feel that is an excellent term for the massive emotional excesses of our news-starved media. Maybe someday things will settle down and the facts will be understood.

Today our lonesome new member will be swamped in literature, attended by an FBIG agent, and certainly receive a copy(s) of our wonderful *Rural Living* magazine. Most important, he will receive an invitation to attend the next Community Action Group meeting in his area to gain a better understanding of how we feel. How about all the others who don't call?

LIVESTOCK

Registered Rams: 1 Suffolk — 3 Columbia. Delbert Myers, North Branch, Mich. Phone 313-688-3206. (10-13p)

Corriedale sheep breeding stock, 313-429-7874. (1-12t-5p)

Sheep, C & S Curtis. Reg. Suffolks and Reg. Southdowns. Helping small flock owners and 4-H'ers our special interest. 204 N. Williams, Stockbridge, Mich. 517-851-7043 — 517-851-8017. (7-12t-22p)

Paint Horses — Weanlings, yearlings, bred mares, Lawrance Baumunk, Big Rapids, Mich. 1-616-796-2346. (9-10t-12p)

Morgan horses, mares and colts. Phone 313-727-7679. (8-6t-7p)

3 Montadale 3-4 yr. old ewes. \$75 each. Ram lambs. Romney ram lambs, yearling, aged ram. 313-439-1425 evenings. (10-18p)

Lambs for freezer. \$65.00 plus processing. 313-439-1465 evenings. (10-8p)

Registered Suffolk rams — 2-year-old by Mainliner and Queen's daughter. 2 sons from 13 Carat and Queen's Diamond daughters. 517-655-3388. (9-2t-21p)

DOGS

AKC English Setter puppies. Show, obedience and field potential. 616-663-8354. (10-10p)

Sheltie (Miniature Collie) pups. AKC, shots and wormed, all colors. Beautiful Ardyth Schroeder, 7080 Billmyer Hwy., Tecumseh, Mich. 49286. 517-423-3069. (10-2t-18p)

FARM EQUIPMENT

One Myers irrigation pump, 6x6, good condition, 20 pc. 30" - 4" pipe, 30 pc. 30" - 3" pipe. One New Idea cornpicker No. 10, phone 313-327-6316. (9-2t-24p)

New Steel Special Sale: 15¢ per lb., new air compressor, ¾ hp oil-less with tank, plastic & steel 55 gallon barrels, Ida, Mich. 313-269-2868. Closed Saturday. (9-3t-23p)

For Sale — 400 gal. mixer, 100 - 3 gal. pails, 40 pall rack, pump with extra motor, 100 leather neck belts with chain. Call John Bouman, 6044 Pt. Sheldon, Route 3, Hudsonville, Mich. 49426. (10-32p)

Scales and parts, new, used, rebuilt, all types, scale service. (10-11p)

Wanted to Buy: Papec Model L or Model K silo filler. Rosenthal 40 corn husker. International No. 9 or No. 7 silo filler. John Spezia, Leonard, Mich. 48038. 313-628-4147. (10-29p)

Machinery For Sale: All housed and in excellent condition. J.D. 4020 Diesel with Turbo, cab and duals, J.D. F145, 5-bottom plow, J.D. 3-point Rotary hoe, International 3-point 4-row cultivator, International 4-row planter, Oliver H.G. Cletrac 1948, also Hondo II, lead guller with Mica 75 watt amp. Used very little. David Yallup, St. Johns, Mich. 517-224-2514. (10-50p)

Antique tractors, some restored, JDs, McDeering, Fordson, A. Magsig, 8833 U.S. 27, DeWitt, Mich. 48820. (10-12p)

Farrowing Stalls — All steel \$180.00. Includes feeder-waterer, top rail, rump rail. Weighs 196 lbs. Free literature. Starr National, 219 Main, Colchester, IL. 62326. (10-24p-ts)

MISCELLANEOUS

Save \$400: Cookware, extra heavy 19 piece stainless steel sold through in-home demonstration at \$595. Now available direct only \$189.95. Only 100 sets from bankruptcy. Order now to avoid disappointment. 100% refund if returned within 10 days unused in original condition. Send check, money order, Visa or Mastercard number and expiration date. Yankee Trader, 4600 Stein Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105. \$1 for brochure. (7-6t-65p-ts)

CEDAR fence posts, any size. Rustic round rail sections. Log homes, Rapid River Rustic Cedar Log Homes and Fencing, Rt. 3, Ensign, Rapid River, Mich. 49878. 1-906-474-6427. (2-11t-27b)

Wanted: Old Indian Artifacts. Axes, celts, arrowheads, drilled slate. Information to: Relics, Box 152A, Eau Claire, Mich. 49111. (5-6t-18p)

Quilt Show — Over 100 quilts, quilts and dolls for sale. Shepardsville Church — Oct. 14 and 15, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. \$1.50 admission. For more information phone 517-834-2895. (9-2t-22p)

Book Sale! Hardcover, \$1.00 each Over 400 titles: fiction, western, mystery. Children's series books and classics. Two 20 cent stamps for list. Glenn Smith, Box 1513, Dept. F-10, Akron, Ohio 44309. (10-2t-30p-ts)

We specialize in handling independent probate estates of all sizes through the mail. Computer assistance helps us help personal representatives. Probate Court supervision can be avoided and you, as representative, can remain in control. Call Michigan Probate Services, P.C. of Burrows toll-free 800-521-8724. (7-6t-48p-ts)

LEE Jeans, Factory outlet work clothes, shoes. Bargains on new shirts (low as \$5.95), jackets, boots, gloves, coveralls. Send \$1 for catalog. SARA GLOVE CO., 16 Cherry Ave., Dept. C-95, Waterbury, CT 06704. (8-5t-35b-ts)

Farm Computer Systems: Does cash-flow, depreciation, grain, livestock and equipment management and more, \$1,995. Complete Computer Center, Blanchard, 517-561-2689. (10-3t-19p)

Quilt Show — Mini Bazaar: First Presbyterian Church, Howell, Oct. 22, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$1.00 admission. Lunch \$3.00. (10-16p)

Are you concerned about the quality of your drinking water? You should be. For free information send a self addressed stamped envelope to: Water Information, P.O. Box 75, Clio, Mich. 48420. We are not promoting a water softener unit. (9-2t-37p)

Why Die Without a Will? Two legal "will forms" and easy instructions. Only \$4. . . Order Today! Guaranteed! TY-Company, Box 752-MF, Pryor, OK 74362. (8-6t-22p-ts)

Wholesale Panty Hose, all sizes and colors. Fantastic savings — send self addressed stamped envelope and \$1.00 for catalog to: P. H. Wholesale, P.O. Box 75, Clio, Mich. 48420. (9-2t-26p)

Earn extra income. Addressing labels, easier than addressing envelopes. For free details, send two stamps to: LISTS, P.O. Box 17597-RR, Atlanta, GA 30316. (10-2t-25p-ts)

"See Through People 50 Ways" Stop deceivers! 50 protections! \$1. Newlife, Box 684-SQ, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. (9-6t-16p-ts)

FOR HOMEMAKERS

SAVE! Make Your Own Frozen hash-browns, later tots, french fries! Complete, easy, instructions, \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (10-20p-ts)

Lose weight forever! 20 lbs. monthly! No diet pills! No starvation! Enjoy losing! Even when all else has failed! New weight control tape! Use the power of the subconscious mind! Stay trim forever! This cassette tape will change your life! Only \$12.50. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (10-48p-ts)

Recipes! Coupons! Cooking Delight Magazine, Cookeville, TN 38502-2727. \$3/year. (4-10t-10p-ts)

Free! Hawaiian toast recipe when you order delicious country french toast recipe. Send \$1.00 to Better Days, 135 San Jose Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110. (9-2t-25p-ts)

Pecans! Quart each halves, pieces, meal, 3 qt. sampler, \$12.95. Postpaid. Canecreek Farm, Dept.-MF, Cookeville, TN 38502. (7-12t-16p-ts)

Fantastic 3 week coleslaw! It's delicious, easy and lasts 3 weeks. Send \$1.00 to Better Days, 135 San Jose Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110. (9-2t-24p-ts)

Exciting foreign dinners with complete menus, recipes, ideas. Italian, Chinese, Mexican, Polynesian. \$1.00 each, all for \$3.00. Brenda Riddle, 11255 Tuttle Hill, Willis, Mich. 48191. (10-2t-25p)

Herbs — Your one stop herb center. Teas, books, seeds, medicinal, vitamins. "Herbs for Everything Catalog" — \$1.00 (Refundable). Saint Jude Herb Center, Box 563-RL, Huntington Station, NY, 11746. (10-2t-27p-ts)

REAL ESTATE

For Sale — Five acre mini farm. Three bedroom new home, barn with water and electric, chicken coop, large new tool shed, walkout basement, black top road. Oceana County — \$39,900. 616-861-2750. (10-30p)

For Sale — 12x60 well kept mobile home on own tree shaded lot, 100x235, lake frontage in central Florida. Variety of citrus. For information write H. A. Bradshaw, 5833 Bradshaw Road, Ludington, Mich. 49431. (9-2t-32p)

200 acre farm, large set of buildings — barn, granary, large heated shop, and a 13 room house. A creek runs through the pasture, and a very nice pond, good soil, woods. Phone Sand Lake, 616-636-4116. (9-2t-35p)

New condominium project "MARINA BAY" on beautiful Duncan Bay off Lake Huron in Cheboygan, Mich. Two, three and four bedroom units. Adjoining marina. For information write: Lofgren Construction Co., P.O. Box 35, Cheboygan, Mich. 49721. Phone 616-627-9506. (10-2t-40p)

89½ acre Southwest Michigan Fruit Farm — 65 acres apples, 9 acres cherries, 7 acre woodlot, some open ground, packing house, new 44 x 88 pole barn. Other storage buildings. Four bedroom home. Machinery available. Phone Lawrence, 616-674-8234. (10-2t-35p)

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Members pay 10¢ per word for non-commercial ads and 15¢ per word for ads which promote a commercial business other than agriculture. All other advertisers pay 20¢ per word for one insertion and 15¢ 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.

Name _____ Member Non-Member

Address _____

Run this ad in the _____ Issue(s):

Words _____ Insertions _____ Total Due _____

CHRISTINE WIZNER

Michigan Farm Bureau's 1983 Outstanding Young Farm Woman



By Marcla Dltchle

For a young Clinton County farm woman and her husband, life has been on the fast track since graduation from Michigan State University in the mid-1970s, and especially during the past year.

At the 1982 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, Christine Wizner, who with her husband, George, farms 185 acres of fruits and vegetables near Laingsburg, was named MFB's Outstanding Young Farm Woman. This has meant adding

the responsibilities of being an organizational spokesperson to an already busy schedule.

After graduation from college, the couple worked for other fruit farmers for a few years with George as farm manager and Chris handling the marketing.

"After we had worked for other people for a couple years, we had to make a decision about our future," Chris said.

"That's when we made the break, purchased a former cash crop and beef farm in 1976 and started a pick-your-own fruit operation in partnership with my parents."

The Wizners' main fruit is apples, but they also have peaches and raspberries and this year they had their first sweet and tart cherry crop. They have also purchased an additional 80 acres which they are in the process of planting.

As the variety and quantity of their fruit has increased each year since they planted their orchard in 1977, so has their business.

"We started with pick-your-own, but our crop last year was so large that we needed to find a new market. You have to grow and make changes as your business grows and it was a big switch for us to go from retail to wholesale," she said. "We now sell our apples and cider to five different Shop Rite grocery stores in the Lansing area, as well as two food cooperatives in East Lansing."

Wizners Divide Farm Responsibilities

With an estimated crop of 10,000 to 15,000 bushels of apples this year and switching from retail to wholesale, the Wizners also had to make some changes in their responsibilities on the farm so that they could meet the demands of their new customers and still have time for their young family.

"George and I do most of the work, though we have one local family, a woman and her three sons, who work part-time," Chris said. "I pack the apples, both bulk and in three-pound bags, and make the deliveries to the stores, which includes unloading the truck and putting

(continued on page 31)



On the Track to Leadership Development

By Marcia Dltchie

Life basically has no meaning if you don't have an objective and purpose, according to the founder and president of Woman Alive, Incorporated.

Speaking to the 165 men and women attending the annual State Leader Conference sponsored by the MFB Women's Committee in Grand Rapids in late September, Karen C. Stophel, president of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, firm, said that once personal objectives and purposes are determined, a plan has to be established in order to accomplish them.

"I refer to this as 30, 1-30," Stophel said. "Thirty in jour-

nalism means the end, or what we are trying to accomplish. Once we set our objective and purpose, whether in our lives or Farm Bureau, that then becomes our 30. In order to achieve these, we then need a plan, a 1-30."

Stophel related her 30, 1-30 concept to a railroad track, where the 30 is as far as you can see down the track and the 1-30 are the ties that you lay to get to the 30.

Participants at the conference were then taken through a procedure by Stophel to help them learn to better utilize their time simply by making sure that the time they use is somehow con-

nected to every tie in the railroad track. She also discussed the need for keeping a balance in life by prioritizing objectives.

"You must identify those objectives in your life, guard them and be very careful not to let other people tell you what the objectives in your life should be," Stophel said.



The key to leadership is understanding yourself and others, conferees learned from speakers Mary Lord (left) and Karen Stophel (above). The women instructed respective sessions on understanding personality types and self-development.



Spirited participants found ample opportunity for fun, fellowship and thoughtful questions during the two-day State Leader Conference.



Accepting Responsibility

With increased concern in the country about quality rural health care and its spiraling costs, a session at the conference was devoted to rural health care, conducted by Dr. Keith Long, director of the Institute of Agricultural Medicine at the University of Iowa.

Long discussed the factors involved in the high cost of medical services, the role of physicians and technology,

what government is doing to sponsor cost containment and the responsibilities of organizations such as Farm Bureau in developing rural health care programs.

"There has to be some form of health advisory committee established within organizations like Farm Bureau," Long said. "This committee should have certain responsibilities in finding out the utilization of health care services, the utilization of insurance programs and the utilization of the private sector for health care.

"Community education programs then need to be developed to encourage insurers, organizations and individuals to develop incentive programs to reduce the cost of insurance."

Long also reviewed, "To Your Good Health," a suggested health care program developed by the AFBF national health advisory committee and its consultants. It suggests ways that local health advisory groups can govern themselves and the steps that should be taken in developing programs.

Workshops Assist in Personal/Leader Development

Six workshop sessions conducted during the two-day conference provided participants with the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills and to better understand themselves and others.

The workshops included understanding personality types, interpersonal relationships in farm partnerships, handling conflict constructively, making things happen through effective leadership, patterns for successful communication and highlighting action programs at the county level.

"Farm Bureau has long been in the business of building leaders and Farm Bureau Women have been leaders in providing opportunities for personal growth and leadership development," said Faye Adam, chairperson of the MFB Women's Committee. "We believe in this role. We believe it is one of the most important contributions we can make to our organization, to the agricultural industry and to the members who take advantage of the opportunities that are offered to them to reach their potential as leaders."



Butz' Straight Talk Still Draws a Crowd

In an interview with Bob Driscoll of the Michigan Farm Radio Network, Butz praised the productivity of American agriculture and took verbal jabs at government farm programs.

By Cathy J. Kirvan

Earl Butz, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture under Presidents Nixon and Ford, was in the mid-Michigan area recently espousing his "plow fencerow to fencerow" philosophy.

Speaking at Funk Seeds International's Michigan Ag-Review on Sept. 14 near Charlotte, Butz, 74, praised the productivity of the American farmer which has allowed the U.S. farm population to shrink from 40% when he was born to 2.5% today, and permitted the average American family to spend only 17% of its take home pay for food.

Speaking before over 1,600 farmers, he said they should be proud of the \$35 to \$40 billion of agricultural exports last year and should continue to produce for that market.

Discussing the possibility of a grain embargo against the Soviet Union in retaliation for the downing of a civilian Korean jet, Butz said, "I think any embargo of an internationally traded commodity is a mistake. It injures the one imposing the embargo far more than the other country.

"That applies to some things besides grain," he said. "When we embargoed high technology for the Russian pipeline last year, all we did was raise unemployment in Peoria, Illinois, where Caterpillar is located. Embargoes simply don't work."

Butz believes we should sell the Russians every ton of grain they pay for. "I said pay for — I wouldn't give them credit or anything like that. I think it is great to soak up their precious foreign exchange for a consumable like food so that they can't

spend it for high technology or for hardware they might one day throw back at us.

"I think we've got them where it hurts when we sell them grain and make them pay for it," he said.

Government embargoes and other government programs have made a mess of the free enterprise market system as it relates to agriculture, Butz said.

"If we've learned anything in this mess, it's that a government bin is not a market.



Farmers attending Funk Seeds' Michigan Ag-Review in Charlotte Sept. 14 gathered around the Michigan Farm Radio Network broadcast booth to eavesdrop on Butz' live radio interview.

"We've sent false signals out in recent years. Our government has sent a price signal to dairy farmers — we want more milk — and farmers not being stupid produced more milk. And at the same time they sent a price signal to consumers — eat less cheese — and consumers not being stupid have eaten less cheese.

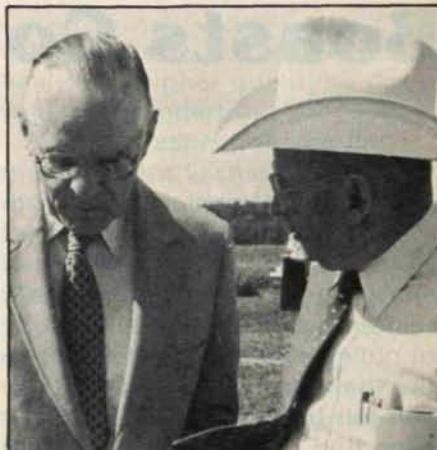
"As a consequence," Butz said, "we've got enough cheese and butter and dry skim milk in warehouses around this country — owned by the government — to supply us for eight months if we didn't milk another cow.

"And what do you do with it?" he asked. "If you start giving the cheese away all you do is displace a sale in the store and you meet yourself coming back."

Butz believes the answer lies in setting target prices at market clearing levels.

"We're in a very untenable situation right now because we were not market oriented. In crops, we've accumulated all this surplus — we carry the world's reserves," he said. "As the Farm Bureau has said, as Secretary Block has said — we

need protection under our farmers but at a market clearing level so that the government does not become the market.



Butz and MFB President Elton Smith take advantage of the Michigan visit to exchange ideas. The former ag secretary praised FB's market-oriented policies.



Exhibits by more than 20 agribusinesses and equipment dealers were part of the attractions at the Michigan Ag-Review in Charlotte. The event was co-sponsored by Funk Seeds International and its parent company, Ciba-Geigy.

"It takes a lot of courage for a farm leader — like Elton Smith in the state of Michigan and Bob Delano who is president of the American Farm Bureau — to come out and recommend a freezing in target prices. It takes a lot of courage to come out and recommend lowering the loan rates. And they don't do that because they're not interested in the farmers. They're doing it because they want to maintain a long range market opportunity for farmers in the corn belt."

Funk Seeds' Michigan Ag-Review was held on the farm of Ken Forell, an Eaton County Farm Bureau member and a Funk Seeds cooperator.

Activities at the 80-acre site included corn, soybean and forage plot tours, corn harvest demonstrations by International Harvester, and exhibits by more than 20 agribusinesses. Ciba-Geigy, Funk's parent company, co-sponsored the event.

U.P. State Fair Boasts Country Character

By Cathy J. Kirvan

Upper Peninsula farmers are very proud of "their" State Fair, held annually in Escanaba. "It's an old type country fair — not like that carnival in Detroit," said fair board chairperson Hugo Kivi.

"It's commercialized to a certain degree, but that's part of the fair. Basically, it's still an agricultural fair and we hope to keep it that way," he said.

Kivi should know. He's worked at the fair for over 30 years, many of those as superintendent of the dairy exhibit. Three years ago he was named to the U.P. State Fair board and now serves as its chairperson. Kivi is well qualified for the position. He spent 17 years with the

Dairy Herd Improvement Association before joining Michigan Farm Bureau in 1957 as regional representative for the entire U.P. He retired 23 years later and now "this fair is my only responsibility."

The U.P. State Fair is still controlled by the Michigan Agriculture Commission and the Michigan Department of Agriculture, unlike the State Fair in Detroit, which is supervised by the Department of Natural Resources.

Thousands of tourists visited the U.P. State Fair, held Aug. 16-21 this year. "A lot of them were surprised at the diversity of agriculture in the U.P.," Kivi said. "You just don't see agriculture driving on U.S. 2 — you have to get on the byways and side roads."

Besides dairy and beef, U.P. farmers raise potatoes, sheep, poultry, milking goats, Angora goats, horses, corn for silage, small grains for feed, fish and mink. "We have quite a bit of soybeans, which most people don't realize," Kivi said.

U.P. Counties Cooperate in FB Promotion at Fair

Bernard Doll of Dafter in Chippewa County, a retired dairy farmer who now grows cash crops, has only visited the U.P. State Fair in recent years. "I always wanted to but with dairy cattle I was tied down," he said.

This year Doll was working at the Farm Bureau booth, coordinated by the Hiawathaland Farm Bureau.

"This was the first time in quite a few years that the counties in the U.P. cooperated on a booth at the U.P. State Fair," said Joanne Stefl, Hiawathaland Farm Bureau president. "Every county was very responsive."

She said the goal of increasing visibility was met.

"People had many questions — a lot of people think of insurance and nothing else when they hear the name Farm Bureau," she said. "We tried to stress the legislative aspect which was very easy to do with Congressman Bob Davis' booth just across from us and the county Democratic Party booth nearby."

Doll, who serves as District 11 director on the Michigan Farm

(continued on page 31)



This cow ain't got much kick, grins a participant in the Hiawathaland Young Farmers milking competition. The exhibit was a popular one at this year's Farm Bureau booth and will be repeated next year.

Woodlot Management Offers Environmental and Economic Benefits

Just over one-half of Michigan, some 19 million acres of land in total, is forested. Over 54% is owned by 180,000 non-industrial private owners. This forest resource constitutes a tremendous growing resource, which can benefit both individual owners and the state's overall economy.

Unfortunately, many private owners realize little economic return because their woodlots are poorly managed or poorly stocked with desirable trees. In many cases, woodlot owners do not realize the need to manage their resource nor do they know how to go about managing a woodlot. They are also unaware of the benefits that a managed program can have on their woodlot.

Simply put, woodlot management involves controlling the kind, size and number of trees to achieve certain goals. They may be to provide firewood,

recreation, wildlife, lumber products or maple syrup. Clearing or cutting is the usual means by which the goals are reached. However, sometimes not cutting is equally important. The skill is in knowing what method is needed and when to use it.

Why Should You Bother to Manage Your Woodlot?

Why does a farmer cultivate his field or a gardener tend his garden? Because proper care returns higher yields to the farmer and more vegetables to the gardener. The same is true for a woodlot. The amount of growth in a woodlot is generally consistent. In an unmanaged woodlot, the growth is spread out over all trees regardless of their value or size. Using the proper methods and timing, this growth is directed to maximize the number of the most

valuable trees. The result is a healthier, higher quality, more valuable woodlot.

One nice aspect of woodlot management is that usually more than one goal can be attained at the same time. In hardwoods, for example, thinning a woods can also provide firewood. It also improves conditions for many species of wildlife, and upgrades the quality and future value of the remaining trees.

Another important aspect of woodlot management is the timing of certain practices. Whether a particular method is applied at one month or another is not usually as critical as it is in the case of growing corn. But, some forms of management do need to be applied within reasonable time limits.

What Methods are Used to Manage a Woodlot?

Many different methods are used. Often they can be modified to meet the exact situation of the woodlot and the desires of the owner. They are:

Harvesting

Harvesting is needed to remove mature trees, to reduce the number of large trees and to provide for the development of new and young trees. Different types of harvesting are used depending on the species of tree involved and the objectives of the landowner.

- Clear Cutting — Removing all trees. Clear cutting is used on woodlots containing tree species such as jack pine and aspen, which require full sunlight to develop.



•Selection — Removing selected trees. Applies to most hardwoods, red pine and white pine woodlots.

•Shelter Wood — Removing about 60% of the trees. The remaining 40% are large trees and are removed after the young trees are well established.

Timber Stand Improvement

•Thinning — Reducing the number of trees in a crowded, young woodlot. Care is used to remove damaged, diseased, rotten and undesirable trees. Sometimes good trees are removed if too many are crowded together.

•Pruning — Removing the side branches on the most valuable trees to improve their quality and value. This must be done when the branches are less than two inches in diameter and when the tree is less than 10 inches in diameter.

•Grape Vine Control — Cutting grape vines which kill and deform trees.

Protection

•Fencing — Grazing animals should be kept out of woodlots; they are very destructive.

•Fire Lanes — To provide access and, in some instances, to reduce the chance of wild fires and their spread.

•Edges — Leaving thick woodlot edges reduces drying winds within the woodlot and provides important habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife

•Den Trees — Trees with holes, especially in the upper branches, are of value to many species of wildlife. Leaving one den tree per acre, and particularly those trees along the edge of the woodlot, encourages and attracts wildlife.

•Nut Trees — Certain tree species such as beech, oak, hickory and walnut provide nuts for wildlife. Leaving some of these trees at strategic locations encourages and attracts wildlife.

•Dead Snags — Cavity-nesting birds need dead snags for nesting and/or as a source of food. Leave a few dead snags to attract these birds.

Where Do I go From Here?

Once an owner has committed himself to woodlot management, he will generally need to get professional assistance, since few landowners know the

management needed for their woodlot.

For more information, contact your local Department of Natural Resources forester, Soil Conservation Department forester or consulting forester. A list of consulting foresters is usually available from county Cooperative Extension offices, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices, or the Soil Conservation Service office in your county.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is based on Forest Management Notes prepared by the staff of Region 3 of the Department of Natural Resources.)



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The Discussion Topic is used by Community Action Groups for monthly policy discussions.

Agricultural Credits and Exemptions Face Challenge in Legislature

This month's discussion topic was prepared by Robert E. Smith, senior legislative counsel with Michigan Farm Bureau.

Just before the Legislature recessed for the summer in early July, six bills were introduced in the House by Rep. Saunders (D-Detroit). The bills, if passed by the Legislature in original form, would put a "sunset" or expiration date on every tax exemption and tax credit in the state and local tax structure.

To begin the discussion, it should be pointed out that exemptions and credits are being called "tax expenditures," defined as "revenue foregone by the government" due to such credits, exemptions, etc., in over 30 state and local tax statutes. It is claimed that such "tax expenditures" are similar to "direct expenditures" or appropriations because "they provide government aid and subsidy through reduced taxes." However, it is claimed, "a direct government expenditure is subject to an annual budget review whereas a tax expenditure is not."

A subcommittee of the House Taxation Committee was formed to study all exemptions. It is chaired by Rep. Padden (D-Wyandotte). Other members are Rep. Weeks (D-Warren), Rep. Bullard (D-Ann Arbor), Rep. Jondahl (D-East Lansing), Rep. Hil-

legonds (R-Holland) and Rep. Engler (R-Mt. Pleasant).

The subcommittee has met during the summer recess. One session was to review a 52-page report prepared by the Department of Management and Budget listing most of the "tax expenditures."

The report is in three sections and contains numerous tables and lists. All exemptions and credits (tax expenditures) studied add up to a total of \$6.9 billion (\$4.4 billion state and \$2.5 billion local).

State taxes are listed in categories. They are:

- Business privilege taxes (single business tax, corporation fees, foreign insurance companies, oil and gas severance, boxing and wrestling and horse racing)
- Consumption taxes (alcohol, cigarette, sales and use taxes)
- Individual income taxes
- Property taxes (commercial forest, inheritance, intangibles, stumpage, utilities)
- Transportation taxes (aircraft and aviation, marine vessels, motor carrier fees, motor fuels, motor vehicle weight taxes, watercraft fees)

Local tax expenditures include:

- Property taxes (general property tax, iron ore, mobile home, real estate transfer, swamp tax)
- Other local taxes (accommodations tax, city income tax, city utility users tax)

All of the state and local taxes listed have numerous ex-

emptions and credits within them, including those of particular importance to farmers and agribusiness.

The bills introduced by Rep. Saunders are:

H.B. 4756 — Amends the General Property Tax Act to eliminate personal property exemptions after Dec. 30, 1985. This includes all farm personal property (machinery, livestock, feed, etc.); farm products, "processed or otherwise" in public warehouse, dock or port, and sugar made from sugarbeets in processor storage; mechanics' tools; household furnishings; appliances; fuel; wearing apparel; jewelry; etc.

It would also eliminate the exemption of growing farm crops (trees, shrubs, plants, bushes, vines, annual or perennial) and the assessments on public rights of way exemption.

It also applies to senior citizen deferments, farmland inheritance and P.A. 116, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act.

This is not a complete list. However, every farmer can quickly estimate his or her increased property tax if all livestock, machinery, feed, all crops growing in the field (fruit trees, bushes, wheat, hay, etc.), household goods and other personal property is assessed and taxed.

H.B. 4757 — Amends the Income Tax Act to eliminate, after

Dec. 31, 1983, the \$1,500 personal exemption and various deductions including retirement benefits, contributions, energy credits, and the homestead tax credit program known as the "circuit breaker." It would also eliminate the credit a farmer can take when he or she allows charitable organizations to "glean" fields or orchards for usable food. Again this is not a complete list.

H.B. 4758 and H.B. 4760 — Amends the general sales tax and use tax laws to eliminate all exemptions after Dec. 31, 1984, including the sales tax exemption for agricultural machinery, livestock, feed, seed, fertilizer, all supplies, etc. It also applies to churches and other exempt groups.

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The sales tax exemption is crucial to farmers. Farm Bureau first achieved this many years ago and has had to fight to keep it throughout the years. The Michigan exemption is the best in the nation; however, other states are slowly getting similar exemptions.

H.B. 4761 — Amends the Single Business Tax Act and among other things would again impose the tax on farmers. Agriculture was under the tax when it first passed, but Farm Bureau successfully supported legislation to exempt farmers.

H.B. 4759 — Amends the Severance Tax Act in a similar manner.

This tax could affect some farmers who have oil or gas or other minerals being extracted from their land.

Tremendous Impact on Agricultural Industry

What does it all mean to agriculture as a whole? It's not possible to know the total effect. For example, no one can guess how much the total farm personal property would amount to.

This is also true with some other exemptions. For example, the Department of Management and Budget's report estimates that the agricultural sales tax exemptions amount to \$28.9 million compared to a total lost of \$477.6 million. The exemption on food and drugs which was put in by a vote of the people totals \$330 million.

The report indicates that the single business tax exemption for farms totals \$5.8 million, compared to total exemptions of over \$310 million. Similarly, farm inheritance exemptions total \$800,000 compared to \$52.6 million total exemptions. P.A. 116 credits now total \$36.4 million, but compare that to an exemption for industrial facil-

ities of \$90 million. The homestead tax credit program, which also includes farms, now totals about \$540 million in exemptions.

If exemptions were removed from the state income tax, increased revenue would total well over one-half billion dollars.

The report does not indicate what the exemption on fuel taxes for agriculture would amount to. It does, however, list the tax credit on gasohol at about \$5.7 million.

Total agricultural exemptions that are listed add up to \$77.4 million which is small when compared to the total. However, because farmers are such a small portion of the total state population, it is of tremendous importance to the individual farmer. Also, keep in mind that the report does not list many of the smaller exemptions and credits.

Necessary for Equity, Future Development

Exemptions and credits (tax expenditures) serve an important purpose in a total tax structure. They are used to provide equity in the structure. There is no tax that is not seriously unfair to some people.

Exemptions and credits are also used to encourage new development and investment and other purposes thought to be for the public good. Some are intended to expire after they have served the purpose.

It should be understood that the chairperson of the tax subcommittee has made it very clear that every tax exemption and credit will be studied and will have to be justified if it is to survive.

Farm Bureau has promoted and supported all the tax pro-

grams for farmers through the years and now, as in previous years, will continue to justify those tax programs as equity for agriculture. This will be a major challenge in the coming months and the cooperation of Farm Bureau members will be needed.

It is not known when particular "tax expenditures" will be considered. The bills, as introduced, will only serve as "vehicle bills" which provide the reason for the tax review.

Discussion Questions

•Do you think that the Legislature should review all exemptions and credits (tax expenditures) to determine which should be terminated and which should be continued?

•If all exemptions and credits were repealed (which amounts to at least \$6.9 billion), do you think it would result in the tax rate being cut?

U.P. State Fair

(continued from page 26)

Bureau board, commended Hiawathaland for taking the initiative for the booth.

"It was a wonderful idea for Hiawathaland to invite the other county Farm Bureaus to participate in the booth," he said. "At least the Farm Bureau members themselves had the opportunity to get together to share their ideas. If you're apart so geographically as we are in the U.P., it's pretty difficult to do that."

'Milking' Contest Popular

The Hiawathaland Farm Bureau Young Farmers sponsored a "milking" contest on Satur-

day, Aug. 21 at the fair to raise money and educate non-farmers.

Young Farmer Neil VanDrese built two cows (a Holstein and a Jersey) from old barrels and offered youngsters and adults alike the opportunity to "milk" a cow. The exhibit proved very popular.

"The kids paid 25 cents each to race against each other," Stefl said. "They had a line of over 200 kids waiting for a turn. The parents said it was the most fantastic thing they'd ever seen — very educational.

"We didn't raise a lot of money — about \$60 — but next year we'll go with it again and have longer hours and give it more publicity," she said.

Christine Wizner

(continued from page 21)

the apples and cider in the coolers at the stores."

The Wizners have two daughters, Kelly, 5, and Tracy, 4. It requires a concerted effort to balance their time between the business and their children.

"Many times the girls go with me to deliver fruit, but after a while that gets to be old stuff," Chris said. "We try to get things caught up during the week so that we can have one day during the weekend that we are free to spend with them, as well as a couple hours each evening."

What qualities does Chris believe an Outstanding Young Farm Woman should have?

"You can't be afraid of hard work, and most farm women aren't. You have to have confidence in yourself and understand the field that you're in, whether it's fruit, dairy, etc., and you have to be the kind of person who is willing to work with your husband in order for the business to really work."

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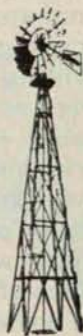
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Trade Agreements Exact Political Price

By Robert Delano, President
American Farm Bureau Federation

The U.S./Soviet grain agreement was signed Aug. 25 in Moscow. One week later on Sept. 1, trigger happy Soviet ground officials ordered a ruthless ambush of commercial Korean airlines flight 007. In what President Reagan called "a crime against humanity," the Soviet gunners blasted it out of the sky, killing all 269 persons aboard, including 61 Americans — among them a member of Congress.

Farmers joined Americans everywhere in expressing horror at this barbaric act. Speaking for Farm Bureau, I urged President Reagan to take an international approach to the atrocity — calling for a full Soviet accounting and appropriate concerted action by the world community — including denial of Soviet air rights and landing privileges.

In my opinion, the president reacted well to this crisis. U.S. offices of Aeroflot were closed and Soviet wings were further clipped by a Civil Aeronautics Board order instructing U.S. airlines to refuse traffic to, from, or within, the United States when an Aeroflot flight is listed on the ticket.

Trade-Limiting Agreements

Would there have been a grains agreement with the Soviets if, by chance, the airline massacre had occurred a week before the scheduled signing of the U.S./USSR grains agreement? I think not.

Therein lies the inherent contradiction tied to the enthusiasm some people have for long term international trade agree-

ments. They act as if there would be no market without them. They ignore obvious agreement limitations and the distinct possibility that, because of unforeseen political happenings, there may be no market with them. Where governments are involved in the sale of anything from grain to airline tickets, international "politics" always rides along with the price.

Why then do we persist in thinking of these government-to-government sales arrangements, involving farm commodities we produce and own, as necessary, normal business deals in the face of a wealth of disastrous experience to the contrary?

Recent History . . .

In 1976, during President Ford's administration, the long-term grain agreement was deliberately written to control and limit sales to the Soviet Union after public outcry over Moscow's supposed "Great Grain Robbery."

Can we not see that with a purchase "cap" of 12 million tons, this year's version of the agreement with the Soviets is also limiting? Besides, how firm is any commitment with unprincipled people? Is it not reasonable to expect a government which kills without conscience to be just as quick to renege on an agreement of any kind were it advantageous to do so?

It is easy to get excited over the possibilities of expanded trade with the Chinese, involving over one billion people, one fourth of the world's population. But, the defection to this

country of a youthful Chinese tennis star along with a breakdown in U.S./Chinese textile negotiations, caused Peking to retaliate with a complete buying freeze on American cotton and soybeans and curtailment of grain purchases. The signing of a new textile agreement brought a recent lifting of these trade restrictions.



ROBERT B. DELANO

Bilateral Disadvantages

Farmers and ranchers have learned to place very little faith in bilateral trade agreements which, at best, interfere unduly with the workings of a market-oriented agriculture. Such pacts invite embargo actions or other intervention by governments. They can involve union-promoted maritime agreements requiring a large portion of all commodities to move in U.S. ships at higher costs.

American farmers have been bombarded by propaganda urg-

ing U.S. participation in various proposed international commodity agreements. The enthusiasm for them generated among some members of the grain trade, and even some farm groups, is always surprising. To some, the lure of "orderly marketing" or attempts to fix commodity prices outright appear irresistible.

Farm Bureau policy flatly opposes any agreement to control price, or supply, or otherwise rig world commodity markets. We see many disadvantages and no advantages for U.S. producers in proposals for an international wheat agreement. Without exception, international commodity agreements greatly restrict U.S. farmers' marketing opportunities and substantially reduce net farm income. It is significant that, without exception, all of the dozens of international commodity agreements attempted over the past 100 years have failed.

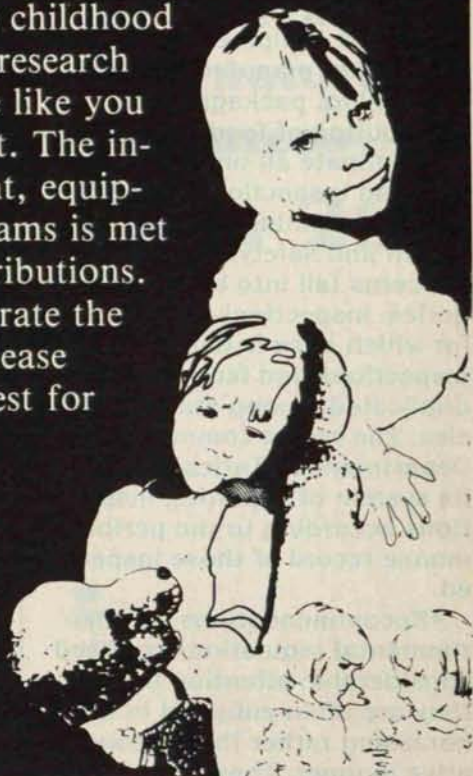
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Legislative Review

(continued from page 7)

Research to stimulate development of new methods, processes and equipment for use in production manufacturing, processing, packaging and distributing of food products.

- Eliminate all unnecessary fees and inspections consistent with maintaining a high level of health and safety. Presently concerns fall into two categories: inspections never done for which a fee is charged and inspections and fees that are duplicated among state agencies. The report commends the Department of Agriculture for its system of adjusting inspections according to the performance record of those inspected.

- Recommendations on environmental regulations received considerable attention in that they are often enforced in a harassing rather than a cooperative manner. Those complying with one set of regulations often find themselves violating another. Some problems include odor, water and air pollution, spray irrigation, waste treatment, etc.

- Transportation is essential to the health of agriculture and the food industry. This includes maintenance of rail service, highways, air freight. Port development could also provide a substantial boost.

- Research and Extension expansion at Michigan State University is also a major recommendation. Reductions in the budget must be restored at the land-grant university to meet the production problems of agriculture and the food industry.

- The Department of Agriculture is recognized by growers, processors and commodity groups as a traditional friend

and source of assistance. It has been a leader in realistic and "performance-based" inspections for those laws for which it is responsible.

- New product development research to include such items as packaged ethnic foods, high protein dry bean flour, fruits preserved and packaged, ultra-high-temperature milk, turkey products, etc.

- Good statistics are essential to agriculture and the marketing of its products. The USDA has eliminated many reporting services for crops and livestock, including many specialty crops that are important to Michigan. It is expected that the states should support those programs.

- The efforts of Paula Blanchard, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and various retailers and restaurants were commended on their programs to promote Michigan food products. Further efforts are needed to promote new out-of-state markets.

- Increased coordination among agriculture, tourism and recreation industries. Agriculture is already attracting large numbers of tourists for pick-your-own fruit and vegetable crops.

- One stop problem solving assistance would help those needing permits, approval, licenses, etc., who are often delayed by bureaucratic delays and the need to go from one agency to another.

- Small cities bloc-grant funds have already been used to help communities to assist in encouraging new processing plants.

- The Michigan Strategic Fund Legislation (now in bill form) sets priorities for the types of business and industry that can be helped. It is recommended that the food industry be one of those priorities.

- General business climate issues include workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, business taxation, etc.

In addition to the above 15 recommendations, the report also contains several areas for study or other action. These include feasibility studies on broiler production and processing; soybean crushing plant; soyfood production; expanded hog production; hard cheese processing; potato processing; and the economic value of fuel ethanol by-products.

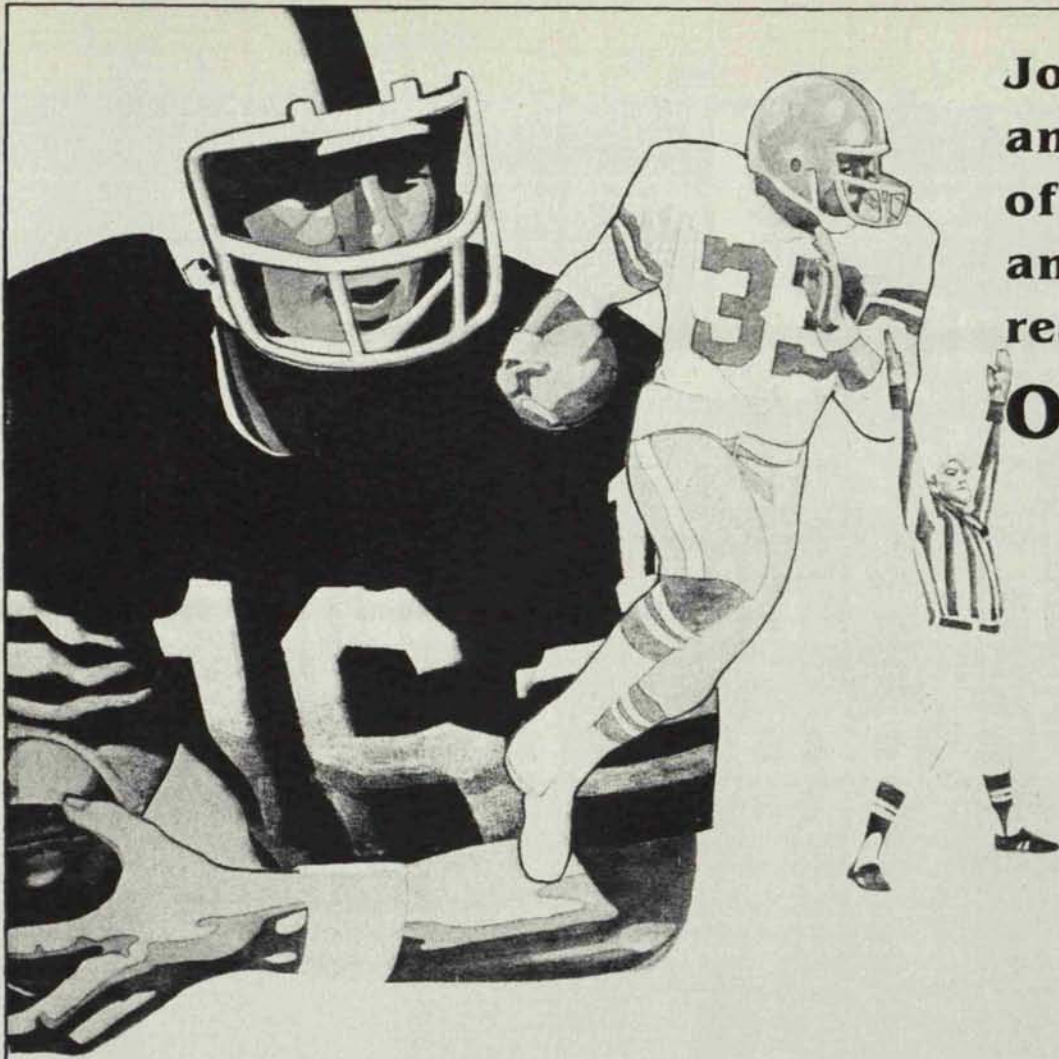
The Department of Commerce has already provided a Small Cities Economic Development Grant of \$267,500 to the Michigan Milk Producers Association for purchase and conversion of the Remus butter plant for the production of hard cheese.

The report also mentions fruit and vegetable processor complaints on the Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344). However, any further consideration is left up to the special House Agriculture subcommittee chaired by Rep. Stabenow. Processors have appeared before the subcommittee and fruit and vegetable producers were scheduled to meet with the subcommittee on Sept. 20.

The report further urges a partnership with business for funding endowed chairs at Michigan State University and consideration of Michigan's "seal of quality" law passed some years ago to promote Michigan farm products such as the new "yellow potato."

As the legislative session progresses, many bills will no doubt be introduced to carry out the recommendations.

Lansing legislative topics are reviewed by Robert E. Smith, senior legislative counsel.



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