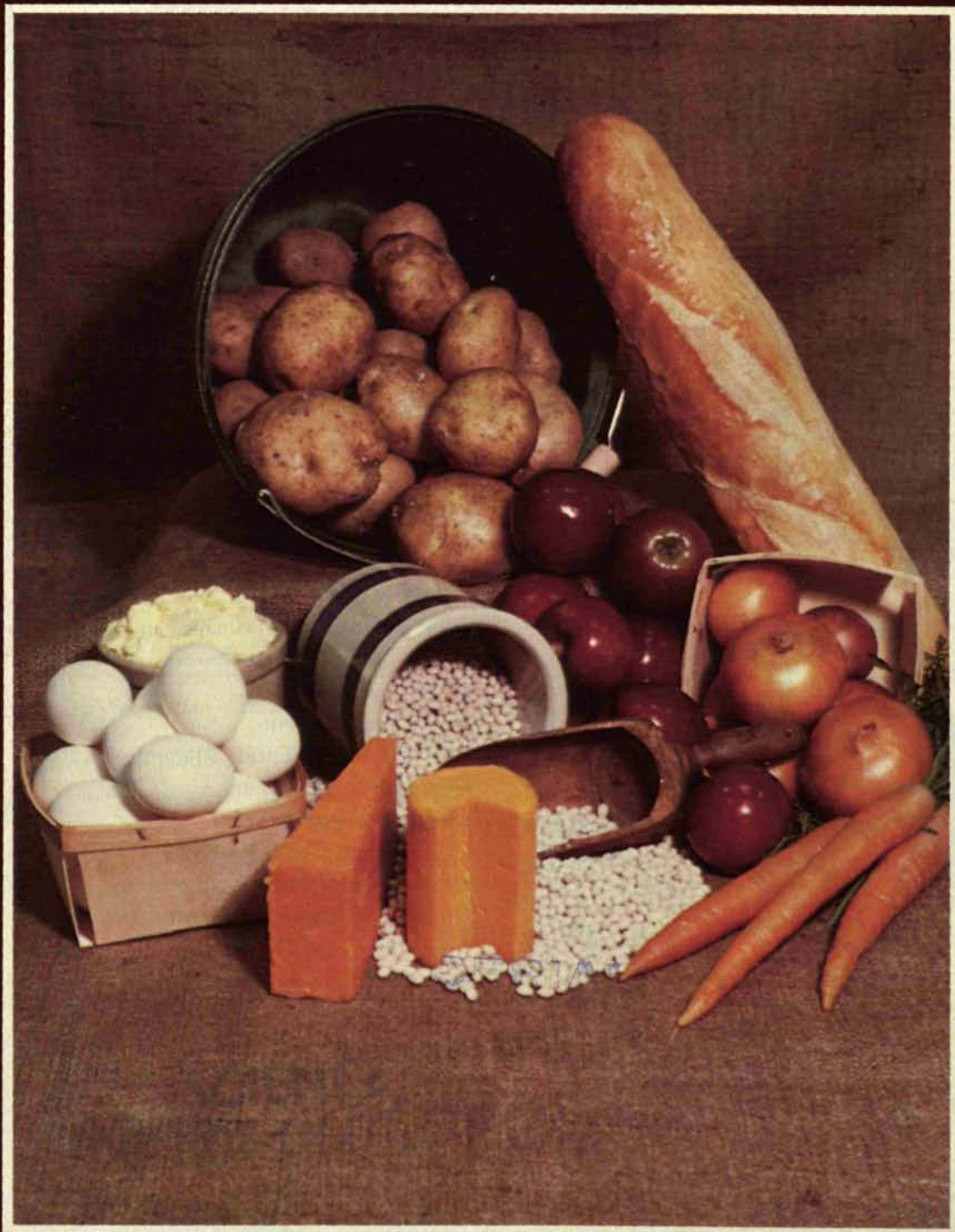


Michigan Farm News

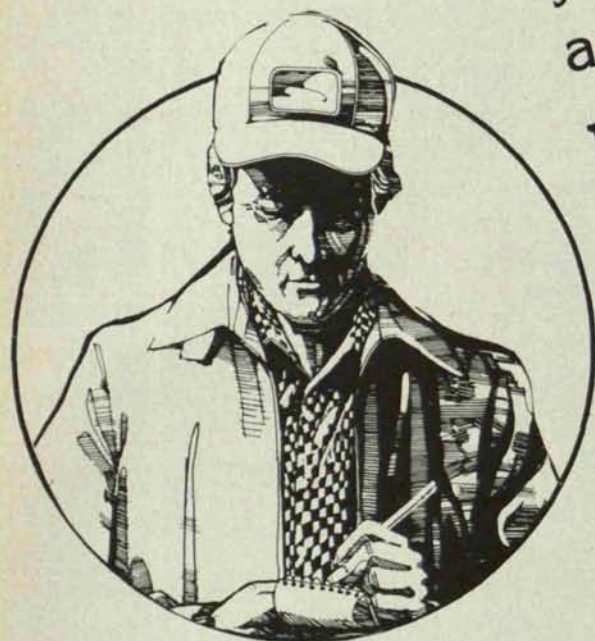
RURAL LIVING



**From the Country with Care
Michigan's Project AIM**

Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau • February 1983
County Newsletter Inside

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RURAL LIVING

FARM NEWS

A publication
of the
Michigan
Farm Bureau

Michigan Farm News
RURAL LIVING



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County Newsletter Title

FEBRUARY 1983
VOL. 62 NO. 2

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Over 400,000 pounds of raw and processed farm commodities have been shipped through Project AIM.
Photo by Marcia Ditchie

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Answer the Challenge to Get Involved in '83 Policy Activities



Smith at the podium during the recent AFBF convention.

As this is written, our Farm Bureau is in the final stages of developing the policies that will provide us with a strong base from which to work during the coming year.

This base was built during discussions and decisions that took place around kitchen tables of Michigan farm homes where Community Action Groups met. It was built in county Farm Bureau offices where policy development and other county Farm Bureau committees analyzed the needs of their industry, their communities, the society of which they are an integral part, and developed possible solutions to the problems they shared.

This foundation, Farm Bureau's power base, was built during our state annual meeting in Grand Rapids last December.

The final blocks of this foundation are being set into place as I share these thoughts with you. The place is Dallas, Texas. The event is the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation. We have considered the viewpoints of world-renowned figures, including the president of the United States of America, before determining our policies.

It is not an easy task. We are a general farm organization representing many often-times conflicting commodities.

For this year, the PD (policy development) portion of our work is completed. We have built the base from which we will work — locally, statewide, nationally and internationally — in 1983.

Although it's an ongoing, year-round activity, February does mark the beginning of the vital PX (policy execution) portion of Farm Bureau's unique and effective PD/PX process. Without this second phase of executing the policies we have developed, we would be neither unique nor effective. The words in our policy books at the county, state and national levels, would remain only words — words without impact.

The arenas we will enter in 1983 to fulfill the PX portion of our commitments will contain some special challenges. In the Michigan Legislature, 38% of the 110 House members and 45% of the 38 Senate members are new. There will be numerous gubernatorial appointments in state government, which will call for the establishment of new working relationships for Farm Bureau.

Some county Farm Bureaus have already met this challenge. They have held meetings or "coffees" with their new legislators to get acquainted with them and provide opportunities for the legislators to meet their farm constituents.

I salute these counties because they are performing a vital function. They are removing potential roadblocks to executing the policies we have developed by promoting understanding and support for our industry and our positions on issues.

It will be these same counties who send their best representatives to the upcoming Lansing Legislative Seminars and the Washington Legislative Seminar for one-on-one communications with lawmakers who have the decision-making power to impact our lives. It is crucial that all county Farm Bureaus respond to the challenges we face in 1983 with strong member participation in our organization's legislative programs.

February is also an important month in the PD/PX process because it is Community Action Group Month, which brings us back to where we started, at the grassroots, which is where Michigan Farm Bureau built its original strong foundation.

As I stood at the podium in that huge arena in Dallas, presenting the recommendations of the policy development committee of the nation's largest, most powerful farm organization, I remembered my roots, a Community Farm Bureau Group meeting around the kitchen table in a farm home in Kent County.

Let's never forget that, in our organization, that's where it all begins — individual farmers making their voices heard through united action.

Elton R. Smith
President

Internal Dialogue: It's a Losing Battle!

By Connie Turbin

It's fifteen minutes past feeding time and my last night's sleep only qualifies as a "nap," so I feel cranky and hungry. Make that hungry and cranky. I keep bumping into things: corners of chairs and, incredibly, walls. More than anything, I would like to crawl back into bed and spend the day alternating between reading and sleeping.

There are some pretty objective folks around this place who would advise me to just go ahead if I'm going to spend the day whining.

No need for that though. My trusty internal dialogue is getting after me to stop this, "oh-poor-me blarney" and get with it.

In my own defense, let me say that my internal dialogue did not even rouse from the sack until 11:30. I mean, not WORD ONE until the growling in my stomach forced it into consciousness.

I'm always glad when my internal dialogue gets going. We have some pretty good times

and by working on things together, we manage to have a few good laughs while the day's tasks are getting done. Yup, she's a pretty good gal; demanding sometimes, but positive. It wears me out and, of course, we keep different hours.

And another thing, she wakes up happy. Do you see what I'm dealing with here? The woman has no sense of balance. It's just up, up, up! I try to talk with her about this neurotic positiveness that is coloring her life. I tell her, "Look, the economy is in traumatic shock. Kids have abandoned the values you and I grew up on. Even the winters in Michigan just aren't the same." I figure reality therapy is the only thing that will set her on course with the rest of the population. And what do I get?

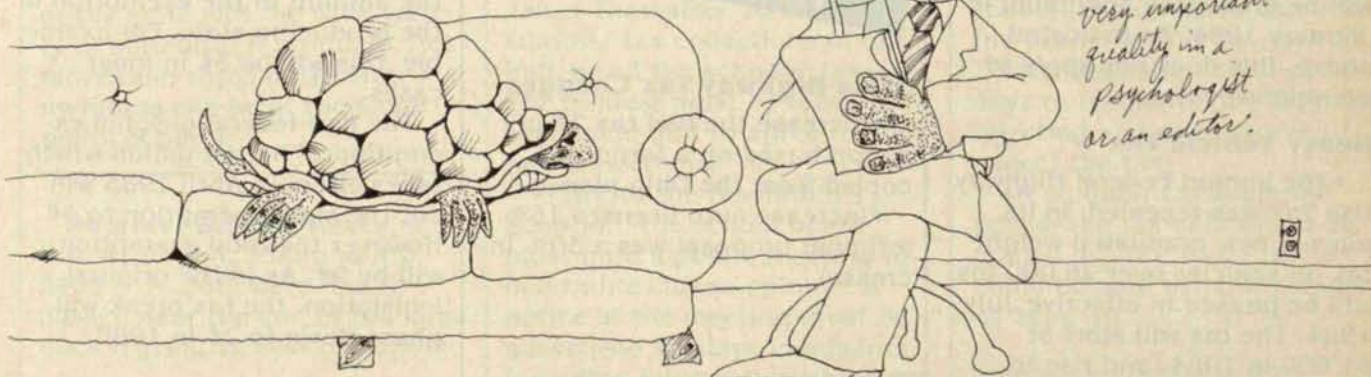
I get responses like: "How can you carry on like that? Could a society that's bereft of hope take the time to care for their fellow citizens? Just think of caring, humanitarian efforts like Project AIM. What an example of the values that our country was built on! Young people see these things and they learn from that what our traditional values are. And about the snow . . . wait a minute. This is Michigan, after all."

It's like that constantly . . . questions and examples. Grueling. Nothing is sacred. Lately she's off on what great leadership opportunities there are in Farm Bureau and she's busy ticking off examples of members involved in the membership campaign, Lansing and Washington legislative seminars, Presidents' Conference, Women's and Young Farmer programs, newsletter editors, and, of course, Discovery '83.

The best one yet is that she has been talking me into agreeing to be the keynote speaker at the District 4 Women's Rally. I argue that I'm shy and try to bargain for a tape recorded message. She counters with recipes for herb elixirs that will "give shy persons the courage to stand up and do what needs to be done."

You know, I can almost see myself doing that speech. I might as well get used to the idea. She'll win out with that positive internal dialogue. It's a losing battle.

We both know she gets more sleep.



Empathy is a very important quality in a psychologist or an editor.

Ag Exemptions Kept Under Transportation Tax

Many have found the various media reports on the federal and state "user tax" changes for highway and road repairs to be confusing and incomplete. Following is a brief summary of both the state and federal changes.

WASHINGTON

Federal —

- The present 4¢ per gallon fuel tax will increase to 9¢ on April 1. Farmers will continue to be exempt from the tax for fuel used for farming operations. Refunds are obtained by filing form 4136 with the federal income tax.

- Gasohol has been exempt from the 4¢ tax. This has expired but gasohol will be exempt from the 5¢ increase.

- Several excise taxes were repealed including: taxes on tires (currently 9¾¢ lb.) under 40 lbs. in weight; all non-highway tires; laminated tires; tread rubber; and innertubes, effective in January 1984. Repeal of the tax on lubricating oil, truck parts and accessories is effective now. These are all helpful to farmers.

- Taxes on tires over 40 lbs. will be graduated beginning in January 1984. As indicated above, this does not apply to non-highway tires.

Heavy Vehicle Tax —

- The annual Federal Highway Use Tax was repealed. In its place a new graduated weight tax on vehicles over 26,000 lbs. will be phased in effective July 1984. The tax will start at \$1,600 in 1984, and rise to \$1,900 on July 1, 1988. There

is an additional one year delay for fleets of five or fewer trucks. However, all trucks driven less than 5,000 miles per year are exempt from the graduated tax. This will be helpful to many farmers with larger trucks.

Truck Related Taxes —

- The present 10% tax on trucks and trailers with gross weights over 10,000 lbs. is increased to 12% but the weights on which it applies are increased to 33,000 lbs. for trucks and 26,000 lbs. for trailers.

Other Federal Provisions —

- All states must permit at least 80,000 lbs. GVW, 20,000 lbs. single axle, and 34,000 tandem axle. All states are also required to permit certain minimum truck lengths.

- Federal width limits are increased from 96 inches to 102 inches. Michigan's special 108 inch width limit for some farm products will not be affected because of a special clause.

- States will receive at least 85% in federal grants for every dollar contributed under this provision. This requirement will give Michigan a much greater share of federal funds than ever before.

LANSING

State Highway Tax Changes—

- Increase the fuel tax 2¢ per gallon based on a formula copied from the Ohio plan.

- Increase auto licenses 15% (original proposal was a 30% increase).

- Change the license fee method on cars sold after October 1983. The fee would be 4/10% of the value for the first year and be reduced 10% per year for the next two years and remain at that figure thereafter.

- Increase commercial vehicle licenses 30% (cut from proposed 45%).

- Require that 90% of the monies go for highway maintenance.

- Change the sharing formula to give counties a larger percentage depending on state's ability to match federal funds.

- Continue the present diesel tax discount.

- Leave unchanged fees on farm trucks and wagons. Farmers will also continue receiving refunds on all fuel tax used off the highway for farming operations.

Gasohol Tax Exemption —

One of the last bills signed into law by Gov. Milliken was S.B. 980 (P.A. 435). This legislation extends the time that gasohol will have a fuel tax exemption of 5¢ per gallon on gasohol made with ethanol alcohol produced in Michigan from Michigan grain. It includes a reciprocity provision that alcohol from other states will only receive a tax exemption up to the amount of the exemption in the producing state. For example, this will be 3¢ in most cases.

The new federal gasohol exemption of 5¢ per gallon which takes effect in April 1983 will cut the state exemption to 4¢. However the total exemption will be 9¢. As in the original legislation, the tax break will phase down to 2¢ in 1986.

The original gasohol legislation promoted and supported by Farm Bureau in 1980 was intended to encourage the production of ethanol from farm grain, usually corn.

It has succeeded very well. For example, in the month of October 1981, gasohol consumption in Michigan was only 5.2 million gallons. In October 1982, the consumption for the month was 39.6 million gallons. In addition, it is expected that more production facilities will be built using Michigan grown corn. Most of the ethanol alcohol is now being used in premium and super premium gasoline.

Ag Commission Changes —

One of the first bills introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Hood (D-Detroit) was H.B. 4027. The bill would change the present method of appointing the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture by the bipartisan agricultural commission to a direct political appointment by the governor.

It would also change the terms of the five-member commission from staggered four-year terms to six years.

Farmers should be concerned about this legislation. The agricultural commission was originally created to "get the department out of politics." The farmers on the commission are representative of the various areas of the state and the wide variety of agricultural products. Not more than three of the five members can be of the same political party.

Summer School Taxes —

H.B. 4150 (P.A. 333) and H.B. 5405 (P.A. 368) were finally passed near the end of the lame duck legislative session. Up un-

Michigan Ag Honors Dodak



Outstanding efforts to support and promote Michigan agriculture has earned Lewis Dodak an award for distinguished service from the Michigan Agricultural Conference. The award was presented by J. W. Erwin (left), conference chairperson, at the organization's annual legislative dinner, Jan. 12.

til now, a school district could request the local township or city to collect school taxes in the summer. As a result, many school districts throughout the state have had summer collections for years. However, if the local township or city rejected the request, there was no alternative.

H.B. 4150 (P.A. 333) provides alternatives to the school in case the request is rejected by the township. Briefly these are:

- The school board adopts a resolution by Feb. 1, 1983, or Jan. 1 thereafter, to impose summer tax collections of one half, or all the schools' taxes. The request must be made to each local unit to agree to summer collections.

- Prior to the resolution's adoption, the school board must hold a public meeting to determine citizen opinion. A notice of the meeting must be advertised six days in advance including information about the

time, date, place and reason for the summer tax resolution.

- After receipt of the request, the township/city has 30 days to reach an agreement on collection procedures, including the increased collection costs which must be paid by the school.

- If the township/city rejects the request, the school has until April 1 to try to work out an agreement with the county treasurer for collection.

- If the county rejects the request, the school can decide to collect its own taxes and notify the township/city by April 15.

- The township/city has 15 days to reconsider its original rejection and could agree to collect the tax.

- If summer taxes are imposed, the tax bills would be mailed by July 1 and the tax could be paid without penalty by Sept. 14.

(continued on page 27)



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From the Country With Care

By *Connie Turbin*

Many of us — sons, daughters or grandchildren of immigrant families — remember the admonitions not to be wasteful of food because "in the old country, many are hungry."

Grateful for the blessings of land, jobs and plentiful food, they could not forget the friends and families in their homelands who continued to struggle for these basic needs.

They remembered them with the few extra dollars tucked into a letter and holiday packages. Often the giving was a sacrifice made, not from comfortable security, but in the recognition that there was a greater need to be met elsewhere.

It is in that spirit Michigan agriculture has responded to the greater need of Michigan people caught in the vise of a

severely depressed state economy and high unemployment.

Through Project AIM (Agriculture Involved in Michigan), introduced in late December, farm people and farm businesses have donated over 400,000 pounds of food to soup kitchens, nutrition centers and food banks around the state. Contributions are still coming in, both commodities and financial donations, but according to project coordinator Jim Byrum, the need will extend well beyond the winter months. AIM is projected to be in operation for at least 18 months.

"The real focus of the project will begin about the first week of February," Byrum said.

"That's when the Farm Bureau county AIM coordinators will be ready to act; when the appeals to ag business will reach fruition and when the Michigan Agricultural Conference discussions with their 39 member organizations and commodity groups will start to bring in significant additional quantities of commodities and donations."

Byrum, who is executive secretary of the Michigan Bean Commission, is a project volunteer from one of the four segments of agriculture involved in the humanitarian effort. AIM will be seeking cooperation and support from individual farmers, agricultural organizations and commodity groups, retailers, processors, packers and agribusiness.

Agriculture Involved in Michigan

Project

AIM

The overall sponsoring agency for Project AIM is the Michigan Agricultural Conference with volunteer assistance provided by the Michigan Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Pigeon Cooperative, Michigan Farm Radio Network, *Michigan Farmer* magazine, MSU Extension Service and the Production Credit Associations of Michigan.

Truly Needy No. 1 Priority

"Our number one priority in this project," Byrum said, "is to make sure that no soup kitchen in the state closes because of lack of food. If there's a food kitchen somewhere in this state that's out of food this morning, we can get produce to them this afternoon."

Wherever possible we want to help low income families help themselves.

Because the humanitarian effort involves private industry working together on a volunteer basis, there will be no overhead or administrative costs to the project, and no bureaucratic red tape to cut through to get produce to those who need it most.

"We envision three types of assistance from the agricultural community: non-perishable commodities such as apples, dry beans and potatoes; accumulated perishable commodities such as eggs, meat, poultry and dairy products; and financial support from individual farmers and organizations," Byrum said.

Financial donations will be used to buy Michigan agricultural products for distribution to the needy and, according to Byrum, this will help agriculture as well as those suffering from hunger because it will move some of the state's surplus farm products into the marketplace.

"Even though the agricultural economy is also very depressed at this time, we feel that the traditional beliefs of those involved in the industry of supporting those less fortunate than themselves are still present and can be harnessed in an organized, well-directed effort," Byrum said.

He stressed that Project AIM is not a program just for southeast Michigan. Shipments of food have been delivered in western and west central counties of the Upper Peninsula, Saginaw, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Pontiac. However, he adds, the project is not structured to identify needs in small rural communities. In those areas, he recommends that local farmers and businesses cooperate with schools, churches or other community based agencies which can identify those in need of assistance.

Education and Information Expand Scope of Project

Donations of food and money that target the most needy in our state's population have received substantial media attention, however, Byrum says the project is also concerned with education and information efforts that will help financially squeezed Michigan families stretch their food dollar. Much of that effort will be coordinated by the MSU Extension Service, which has offices in virtually every county across the state.

Through MSU Extension programs, like the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, families can receive information on nutritional meal planning, preserving and canning methods, mar-



Project coordinator Jim Byrum stresses that AIM is not a program only for southeast Michigan. Food shipments have gone to the U.P., Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Lansing, Flint and Pontiac.

ket basket saving tips and, where indicated, Extension personnel will refer families to public or private social agencies for assistance.

"Wherever possible we want to help low-income families to help themselves," Byrum said. "From April through mid-May, those involved in this facet of Project AIM will be encouraging garden programs. The 'Farm a Lot' program, in particular, is directed toward urban and suburban people who want to grow some of their own produce."

The education efforts will also be directed at those agencies serving food to the needy. Through the project, contacts will be made with persons who purchase bulk foods to show

them how the purchase of raw agricultural commodities can help them to feed more people and provide more protein in nutritionally balanced meals.

County FB AIM Network Developing

First line contributions of beans, potatoes, apples and other farm produce have, in many cases, come directly from Farm Bureau members who learned about Project AIM through the news media, but in January nearly a third of the county Farm Bureau boards of directors took action to participate officially in the project by naming a Project AIM coordinator for their county.

"This project came about very quickly and the response from the farm community has been tremendous," said Larry R.

Ewing, MFB coordinator for Project AIM and director of the organization's Information and Public Relations Division. "At this point, there have been very sizable contributions of food and I feel that the present need is being met. However, that need is going to continue and will grow during the months of February, March and April. During those months, I expect that our county Farm Bureau Project AIM coordinators will be very active in soliciting both commodities and financial donations to the project."

In Kent County Farm Bureau, a seven-member Project AIM committee has already met and mapped out plans and assignments for a shipment of farm products during the week of Feb. 7.

Contacts will be made with individual farmers, cooperatives and agribusiness in the county

to gather large donations of the county's diversified agricultural commodities for the project.

"Because of this diversity, we are in a position to obtain donations of beef, dairy and poultry products; apples; onions; potatoes; carrots; and even some processed products such as applesauce and juice," said Craig Schweitzer, volunteer AIM coordinator for the county Farm Bureau, "and because of our proximity to Grand Rapids, our members are aware of the need in the cities."

Schweitzer sees the project as a real opportunity for building understanding between farm and urban people.

"Our first 'drive' will be targeted for early February with commodities to be transported through Project AIM wherever it

Creative Giving Encouraged

Those attending the 35th Michigan Agricultural Conference Legislative Dinner, Jan. 12 at Michigan State University, found a creative way to be involved in Project AIM.

Gov. James Blanchard set the example of giving for those attending when he returned the traditional "Michigan Loot Bag" to the sponsors for distribution to the needy. Approximately half of the farmers, agribusiness people and state legislators attending the dinner followed the governor's lead and donated their bags to Project AIM. The result was 4½ tons of food to be distributed to Michigan food banks.



'Nobody's Into Hunger'

is needed," he says. "A second part of our planning is to offer the public an opportunity to make donations for distribution to local agencies during the Farm Fair Days, March 10-12 at the North Kent Mall."

Distribution of non-perishable items collected at the mall is expected to take place during National Agriculture Week, March 21-25.

Getting Involved in Project AIM

In counties where a county coordinator for the project has been appointed, donations of bulk commodities, financial contributions and smaller quantities of food for local distribution will be handled by the county AIM coordinator.

Where no county coordinator has yet been named, persons who wish to make contributions of commodities or money should contact MFB coordinators Larry Ewing or Robert Braden.

Checks should be made payable to Project AIM and sent to the county Farm Bureau secretary or directly to Michigan Farm Bureau, Information and Public Relations Division — Project AIM, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. The money will be turned over to the Michigan Agricultural Conference, which is the overall coordinating agency and responsible for the dispersal of funds for the purchase of Michigan products.

All contributions are tax deductible and receipt forms are available.



Sara Bucher, who organized the first food shipments from Eaton County, helped focus media attention on Project AIM statewide.

"Give us this day our daily bread" has become a fervent prayer of thousands of victims of Michigan's depressed economy. Hungry, desperate families, with no incomes or other resources, have become part of the growing ranks of the "new poor."

After Sara Bucher, an Eaton Rapids realtor, personally observed this new segment of Michigan's population in a Detroit soup kitchen, some being turned away because of lack of food, her reaction was: "Nobody's into hunger." Instead of wringing her hands and asking, "But what can one person do?" she started a chain reaction of concern that has resulted in community action to relieve that hunger.

Since Bucher's visit to the soup kitchen, just prior to Christmas, this small Eaton County community in Central Michigan has shipped five semi-truckloads of nearly 100 tons of food to Detroit and Pontiac.

It all began with one phone call to a neighboring farmer to ask the price of a ton of potatoes. When the farmer dis-

covered the reason for Bucher's request, he sold her two tons "for about the price of the bags." Through conversations with other farmer friends, the Buchers had, within three days, a semi-load of 18 tons of food, which arrived in Detroit before Christmas.

Word of this humanitarian effort spread quickly in the community and people began sending donations of money and food for the project. On Dec. 30, three semis, containing beans, potatoes, meat and produce, were sent to Detroit.

"One farmer donated about 10 tons of produce from his storage and another donated a whole semi-load of potatoes. The cooperation of area farmers and local business people has lent credibility to the project," Bucher said. Money raised through the project is used to buy food directly from the farmers, she explained, and on Jan. 11, a fifth semi-load of potatoes, beans, apples, 600 dozen eggs and miscellaneous vegetables was shipped to Pontiac.

Bucher has proven what "one little candle of concern" can do.

AFBF Leader Urges Members to Mobilize for Economic Recovery

AFBF President Robert B. Delano urged members "to mobilize all the resources of the nation's largest organization of farmers and ranchers" to resolve the economic and social problems on the farm.

In his address at the organization's 64th annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, Jan. 9-13, Delano noted the continued strong growth in membership. Last year's increase of 102,000 member families brought the total national Farm Bureau membership to in excess of 3.2 million.

Coming at a time "when many volunteer organizations are suffering heavy membership loss," Delano said Farm Bureau's gains are evidence that "our members still possess a great deal of confidence in agriculture as a business and Farm Bureau as their organization . . ."

He expressed confidence that "Farm Bureau membership stands firm in support of policy aimed at basic goals of improved farm income from the marketplace" and not from government farm programs.

And he charged that "politics rather than economics or concern for farmers has been the driving force of federal programs that have encouraged production out of proportion to available markets and have provided incentives that could have been more properly used to hold back production.

"We must never forget," he said, "that farm programs are controlled by a federal budget that is itself a disaster."

He said Farm Bureau would redouble its efforts toward reduced federal spending — including non-essential defense spending. To get our economy "back on track," he cited Farm Bureau's "freeze and fix" program. This calls for a freeze of payments from all government entitlement programs, including farm price support loans, at current levels for three years and to fix those programs to control or even eliminate projected increased costs.



AFBF PRESIDENT DELANO

All of us, farmers and government, need to spend much less time at the point where crops begin and much more creative effort at the marketing end.

"All of us, farmers and government, need to spend much less time at the point where crops begin, and much more creative effort at the marketing end," he said.

On the marketing of U.S. farm exports, he deplored discriminatory moves made against traditional U.S. markets by nations using "trade distorting export subsidies.

"We need better market access through negotiations, more competitive export credit, redress of unfair trade practices and an improved U.S. image as a reliable supplier," he said.

Delano recounted Farm Bureau foreign trade missions in 1982 to Japan, the European Community nations and to international trade negotiations, as "filling an apparent vacuum in world trade leadership for agriculture." And he pledged stepped-up efforts to move U.S. crops into export markets.

On internal Farm Bureau matters, Delano updated progress on a new telecommunications market and information program (called AgriCom in Michigan) designed to use high technology to bring vital market information to Farm Bureau members in their homes.

He praised Farm Bureau's policy development program, beginning at the grassroots of Farm Bureau rural communities and passing up through a state and national resolutions process, as a demonstration of the "ability of farmers and ranchers to speak for themselves."



Delegates Welcome Reagan's Farm Policy Message

Speaking before some 5,000 persons at the AFBF 64th annual meeting, President Ronald Reagan announced three actions he is taking to help the economic situation of the nation's farmers and ranchers.

Beginning Jan. 24, Reagan said he would initiate, within the limits of existing authority, a "crop swap" program by which farmers who take additional cropland out of production of grains, wheat and cotton, would receive diversion payments in the form of surplus commodities. Hence the term Payment-in-Kind (PIK) that has been given to the program.

Saying he wanted Farm Bureau members to be the first to know, Reagan said he had just signed legislation providing

"sanctity of contracts" on overseas sales agreements. Sanctity guarantees for export contracts have been sought by Farm Bureau.

Another action is the authorization to make available an additional \$250 million of credit to a program that offers a lower interest rate to foreign buyers of U.S. grain.

Accompanied from Washington by a large contingent of White House reporters, Reagan reminded the audience that the inflation rate for 1982 was 4.6% compared to about 14% a year earlier and that the prime interest rate has recently fallen to 11% which he called, "still too high, but going in the right direction."

In remarks especially aimed at dairy farmers, Reagan said he knew they didn't like the 50-cent assessment per hundredweight of milk sold any more than he did, but that the matter was forced upon him by Congress. Displaying his flair for a good quip, Reagan said that Secretary Block was so concerned about the surpluses of dairy commodities that "Block is aging faster than the cheese."

See Agrinomic Update on page 24 for details on the Payment-in-Kind program.

Grassroots representation at the Lansing Legislative Seminar series during February and early March is particularly significant due to the number of newly-elected legislators who will be representing Michigan residents in Lansing. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to introduce these decision-makers to the issues in Michigan that are of greatest concern to agriculture. For more information on the seminar for your region, contact your county FB secretary. The dates are:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Regions</i>
Feb. 8	Saginaw Valley
Feb. 15	Southwest
Feb. 16	South and Central
Feb. 22	Southeast
Feb. 23	West and West Central
Feb. 24	North, Northeast, Northwest and U.P.
March 8	Thumb

Costs have been set for Discovery '83, the Management/Business/Personal Skill-Building Seminar for Farm Families, scheduled for March 9-11, at the Flint Hyatt Regency. For the complete three-day seminar, including class materials, lodging for two nights and most meals, the cost is \$175, with a second member of the family only charged \$150. Costs for one and two day attendance will also be set, but the entire seminar will be the better bargain. Discovery '83 is also open to non-members for \$195 with a \$20 rebate if they join FB during the seminar.

The course schedule will include three levels of marketing courses - beginning, intermediate and advanced. There will also be classes on how to manage stress, risk, debts, personal finances and taxes; memory improvement; handling conflict constructively; retirement and planning wills, trusts, and estates. Computer day at the seminar will feature an expanded trade show.

For registration information, course descriptions and instructor listings, write: Discovery '83, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

Most county FBs have selected legislative leaders to attend the 1983 Washington Legislative Seminar. Sponsored by the MFB Women's Committee, the seminar will be held April 5-8 in the nation's capital. Activities during this year's seminar include a breakfast meeting with legislative leaders and their congressmen as well as a breakfast meeting for all participants with Michigan's two senators. A meeting is also scheduled with USDA officials and ample time is provided for participants to attend committee hearings. The reservation deadline is Feb. 15.

Financial assistance for MSU students in agriculture, health or related fields is available through application to the MFB Women's Marge Karker Scholarship Fund. The scholarship program, begun in 1966 to honor Karker, former coordinator of MFB women's activities, has designated annual scholarship awards to MSU students in families of FB members. The deadline for applications is March 10, 1983. To obtain scholarship application forms or for further information, contact the MFB Women's Department, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

The national dairy program policy adopted by AFBF delegates calls for AFBF support of legislation that "would provide the secretary of agriculture authority to set the level of dairy price supports between 60% and 90% of parity according to the amount of net dairy products purchased by the federal government.

Under the policy statement, the organization will support legislation to repeal the 50¢/cwt. assessment on dairy producers and will work with parties in current law suits contesting the Dec. 1 dairy assessment.

Lame Ducks and Economics

Commenting on the dubious record of legislative bodies, humorist Will Rogers once wrote, "No man's life or property is safe as long as the Legislature is in session." That statement would serve fittingly as the epitaph for the recent lame duck session of the now-defunct 97th Congress.

Like the plague, this was one congressional session we won't be able to forget no matter how hard we try. The damage it did will be with us for some time.

Some of the "accomplishments" of the lame duck session, such as the pay hike for congressmen, are small potatoes compared to two particular big ones — the so-called automobile "content" legislation and the nickel-a-gallon gas tax bill. More than any other measures passed, these two demonstrated how little our legislators really understand basic principles of economics.

Content legislation: In December the House of Representatives voted in favor of the bill to require all cars sold in the U.S. to contain a high percentage of American-made parts and to be assembled by American workers. Supposedly, this

would revitalize the auto industry and put people back to work.

In truth, the bill is protectionism, pure and simple — and protectionism has always been a net job-destroyer, not a net job-creator.

It makes sense to think of the effects of the bill as quite similar to the effects of a tax — a tax, in this case, levied on imported cars. Forcing foreign manufacturers to comply will raise their costs and, no doubt, their prices.

So just who would be *hurt* by the bill, aside from the Japanese? First, every person who purchases a car on which the "tax" is levied.

Next, all those domestic businesses which would sell less to Americans because Americans would be spending more than necessary for the cars they buy.

Then, those domestic businesses which would export fewer goods to foreigners because foreigners, hit by the protectionist "tax," would sell less and earn fewer dollars in America to pay for those American exports. That's not an insignificant point if one considers that one out of every

eight manufacturing jobs in this country produces for export, one out of every three acres of American farmland produces for markets abroad, more than half of our wheat, soybeans and rice is sold overseas, and almost one out of every three dollars of U.S. corporate profits comes from international activities of U.S. firms.

Right here at home, it is certain that Michigan farmers, already squeezed hard by high costs and depressed prices, would suffer even greater damage if foreign markets are lost. History tells us very painfully that trade wars easily spread until trade disintegrates. That would make today's bad situation on the farm look rosy indeed.

Such detailed argumentation would not be necessary if Congress understood what the very concept of protectionism represents. In a nutshell, protectionism pulls people apart. It raises barriers, obstructions, roadblocks and impediments to enterprise. It *creates* problems; it does not solve them. It destroys jobs.

(continued on page 33)

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 December 1982:

Dec. 6 - Robert Verellen, 65, a fruit farmer from Romeo, grows and sells apples, pears, peaches, cherries, grapes and plums. A member and past president of the Macomb County Farm Bureau, Verellen serves on the Washington Township Planning Commission and is

a member of the Michigan Horticulture Society and St. Clements Church. He is chairperson of the county FB Policy Development Committee.

Dec. 13 - Howard Behm, 60, operates a 70-acre blueberry farm near Grand Haven with the help of his wife and son. He is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, where he has served as a church officer for 34 years; North Ottawa Community Hospital Board; and Ottawa County FB. He is a volunteer fireman, served on the local board of review and has received several market-awards for his fresh fruit sales.

Dec. 20 - Rodney Horton, 39, a corn grower from Tekonsha, farms 10,000 acres with the help of several employees. He is a supporter of the 4-H Livestock Sale; member of the Tekonsha Baptist Church and Calhoun County FB; earned a national citizenship award from the 4-H; and he and his huge farming operation were featured in a national farm magazine.

Dec. 27 - Joseph Herter, 57, a cash crop and hog farmer, farms 270 acres near Eau Claire. He is a member of the United Methodist Church in Dowagiac, the Dowagiac Masonic Lodge and the Cass County FB.

FB's Most Valuable Member Service — Representation

People join Farm Bureau for many reasons. Some join for Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance, others for the Safemark program, MFB Money Market Fund, etc.

But for me, the most important reason to belong to Farm Bureau is for the job it does representing farmers in places like Lansing and Washington, D.C. I don't have the time to keep abreast of the thousands of bills and regulations that come out of these places every year, and I don't know enough to understand what they all mean anyway.

But with farmers making up less than 3% of the population, it is more important than ever that we have effective input at all levels of government. Farm Bureau is fortunate to have people like Al Almy, Bob Smith and Ron Nelson who are

constantly working on behalf of the interests of farmers. But, they can't do the job alone. It takes individual contacts with our elected representatives to really have an impact.

Many of these legislators have had very little contact with agriculture, and may not understand its problems. However, if we take the time to write or call them, we have a better chance to get our point across.

Presently, we are working on improving the telephone grid system to include more people with more commodities, and plans are to use the grid more frequently than in the past.

Coming up in February is the Lansing Legislative Seminar where a delegation from Eaton County will have the chance to meet with our

state representative and state senator, and get an idea of what to expect out of the new state Legislature.

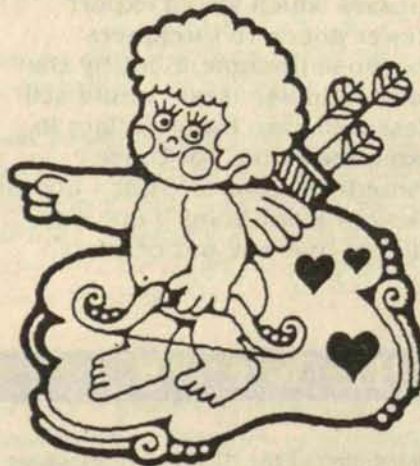
Our county board this past year budgeted to send an additional member to this year's Washington Legislative Seminar. The county will send a total of three delegates, with one being sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women. The Legislative Seminar has been restructured to put even more emphasis on making contacts and discussing issues with our congressmen and senators.

So while the various member services Farm Bureau offers may be important to you, just remember - its most valuable service may be the job it does representing you.

Duane Tirrell
President, Eaton County

Mystery of the Red Satin Heart

To discover the kind of center inside a piece of boxed chocolate candy, check the shape of the confection, as well as the swirly script which is stroked on top of each piece. For example, a "V" usually signifies a vanilla cream center. A flat-topped chocolate with an open "C" often indicates a chocolate butter cream center, while dome-shaped chocolates inscribed with a closed "C" reveal a cherry cordial is concealed inside. Square-shaped chocolates with a "V" indicate a vanilla caramel center. An "O" stands for orange cream; "P" for pineapple cream; and an "R" for raspberry cream.



The shapes of chocolate confections are also indicators of the contents. Creams are usually round; caramels are square or oblong; and nougats are oblong.

From Muskegon County Newsletter
Joyce Thompson, Editor

Thumb Counties Erase FB's "All Work - No Play" Image

Like most things we encounter in our day-to-day lives, Farm Bureau runs the risk of becoming, at times, too serious.

Yet fun and pure entertainment will be the only agenda items Feb. 5, as FB organizations representing Sanilac, Huron and Tuscola counties host a Tri-County Farm Bureau Dinner-Dance at the Colony House, Cass City.

The ticket price of \$10 per person covers a full evening of enjoyment, beginning with dinner at 7 p.m. Food will be served until 8. But get your tickets by Feb. 2 — they will be \$12.50 per person at the door.

Dancing to "The Representatives" is set to start at 9, lasting four full hours until 1 a.m.

Organizers say the dinner-dance is designed as strictly a social event for FB members.

From Sanilac County FB Newsletter
T.R. Reid, Editor

Support Project AIM

"From the Country with Care"
See Special Feature in this Issue

February is Community Action Group Month

February has been designated Community Action Group Month by MFB.

•Would you like to spend one evening a month with friends and neighbors who have the same interests you have?

•Would you like to be part of the decision making process of Farm Bureau?

•Would you like to take part in discussions of problems facing farmers today?

•You can do all these things when you are a member of a Community Action Group! If you want to be "in the know" and in on the fun, call your county office and find out how to get started right now!

Huron County CG Salute

Members of the Riverside Community Action Group of Sebawaing recently celebrated their 30th anniversary with a dinner at Annabelle's Restaurant in Sebawaing.

The group organized in November 1952, with 27 members. Paul Bolzman acted as the first president. Hilda Simmet was the first secretary; she is the only original officer who is still a member today.

Seven have been with the group for all 30 years - Mr. & Mrs. Art Nitz, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Simmet, Mr. & Mrs. Roland Brenner and Elmer Volz. The newest members are Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sy.

Mrs. Ray Sting, historian for the group, recalls many of their activities. These include participation in parades, square dances, picnics, Christmas potluck dinners and many more.

"Thinking back over the topics we had for discussion, we find that in 30 years things haven't really changed much," she said. "We still discuss taxes, how to get better prices for the commodities we produce, better roads and bridges, and things of concern to farmers."

From Huron County Newsletter
Mildred Oeschger, Editor

Sharpen Those Skills — Attend Discovery '83

Sharpen your management, business and personal skills by attending Discovery '83, a blue-ribbon learning experience for farm families, March 9-11 at Flint's Hyatt Regency.

You can enroll in classes on three levels of marketing - beginning, intermediate and advanced - and learn how to manage stress, risk, debts, personal finances and taxes. Memory improvement, handling conflict constructively, retirement and planning wills, trusts and estates will also be on the course schedule. Highly-qualified experts in these fields will serve as instructors for Discovery '83 participants.

The use of computers on the farm, along with an expanded trade show, will also be on the agenda.

Cost of the three-day seminar, lodging and most meals is \$175 for Farm Bureau members (\$150 for second member of the family attend-

ing) and \$195 for non-members with a \$20 rebate if they join during the seminar. If you can't be away from your farm for the full three days, you can also attend for just one or two days.

To receive a complete course schedule, information on instructors and cost details, write Discovery '83, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

Hardware Items Offered

Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, both affiliates of Michigan Farm Bureau, are now offering over 35,000 Sentry hardware items with a 10% discount to all members. Due to inventory costs, all products will not be stocked items, however, will be readily available within one week following placement of the order.

MACMA Member-to-Member Sale Deadline Feb. 15

The deadline for ordering products in MACMA's Mid-Winter Member-to-Member Sale is Tuesday, Feb. 15. Delivery is scheduled for the week of March 14.

Contact your county secretary to see if your county is participating in the sale.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Other Phone _____

No.	Product	Price	Amount
_____	Florida Valencia Oranges, 4/5 bushel carton	\$ 9.60	_____
_____	Pink Seedless Grapefruit, 4/5 bushel carton	\$ 8.75	_____
_____	Skinless Peanuts, 20 oz. can	\$ 2.60	_____
_____	Orange Juice Concentrate, 24/12 oz. cans	\$33.80	_____
_____	Lemonade Concentrate, 24/12 oz. cans	\$14.20	_____
_____	Red Tart Cherries, 30 lbs., IQF*	\$17.50	_____
_____	Peach Slices, 32 lbs., 5+1*	\$20.90	_____
_____	Blueberries, 30 lbs., straight pack*	\$28.50	_____
_____	Black Raspberries, 28 lbs., straight pack*	\$29.80	_____
_____	Sliced Strawberries, 30 lbs., 4+1*	\$25.60	_____
_____	Asparagus, 12/2 1/2 lb. boxes	\$38.70	_____
_____	Cauliflower, 12/2 lb. boxes	\$21.20	_____
_____	Broccoli, 12/2 lb. boxes	\$21.20	_____
_____	Sliced Mushrooms, 2/5 lb. bags, IQF*	\$15.70	_____
_____	MACMA Hams, 4/4 lb. average	\$264 lb.	_____
_____	Thick Cut Bacon, 10/1 1/2 lb. pkgs.	\$29.45	_____
_____	Hickory Stick, 4 lb. average	\$10.60	_____
_____	Apple Cider Concentrate, 24/12 oz. cans	\$28.00	_____
_____	Grape Juice Conc., frozen, 24/12 oz. cans	\$28.00	_____
_____	Wisconsin Sharp Cheddar, 4/1 lb. pkgs.	\$11.65	_____
_____	Wisconsin Medium Cheddar, 4/1 lb. pkgs.	\$11.65	_____
_____	Wisconsin Colby Cheese, 4/1 lb. pkgs.	\$10.95	_____
_____	Wisconsin Monterey Jack, 4/1 lb. pkgs.	\$10.95	_____
_____	Navy Beans, 15 lb. reusable pail	\$ 5.95	_____
_____	Total Units	\$ Total	_____

*IQF - Individually Quick Frozen before packaging. No sugar.

Straight Pack - Frozen in the container. No sugar.

5+1 - 5 parts fruit to 1 part sugar. 4+1 - 4 parts fruit to 1 part sugar.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

LIVESTOCK

FREE - Five free chicks with each order. Raise chickens (also Bantams and Ducks) for meat and eggs. We ship parcel post all 50 states. Send for big, free picture catalog. Shows over 35 rare, exotic and standard breeds. 25 chicks as low as \$6.95; 50 for \$8.95; 100 for \$13.95; fob. Clinton Hatchery, Inc., Box 548-B1, Clinton, Missouri 64735, phone 816-885-8500. (2-3t-61p-ts)

Milking Shorthorns: Young bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, Route 2, 3248 Powell Hwy., Ionia, Mich. 48846. (10-6t-12p)

Top quality poultry at reasonable prices. Chicks for eggs, meat or novelty. Also Guineas, Goslings, Ducks, Turkeys. Picture brochure 50¢. Country Hatchery, Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884. (1-6t-24p-ts)

LIVESTOCK

Free catalog, wholesale prices, Reds, Cornish Cross, Barred Rocks, White Rocks, Sexlinks, Leghorns, Turkeys, Ducks, Reich Poultry Farms, RD1, Marietta, Pennsylvania 17547. (1-6t-21p-ts)

Bantams - 14 breeds, Black Silkies, White Silkies, Golden Sebrights, Silver Sebrights, Cochins, Cornish, Araucanas and others. Also standard and rare breed chickens. Free catalog. Grain Belt Hatchery, Box 125-6, Windsor, Missouri 65360. (1-6t-32p-ts)

Dieterie Corriedales "give shear pleasure." Four bred ewes, choice of flock. 313-429-7874. (1-2t-12p)

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

Wanted: Steel wheels for SC Case or RC Case tractor. Phone 517-224-3064. (2-3t-13p)

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

Farrowing Stalls - All steel \$154.32. Includes feeder-waterer, top rail, rump rail. Weighs 196 lbs. Free literature. Starr National, 219 Main, Colchester, IL 62526. 309-776-3446. (2-24p-ts)

FOR HOMEMAKERS

SAVE! Make Your Own Frozen hash-browns, tater tots, french fries! Complete, easy, instructions, \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (2-20p-ts)

Sausage makers, great German recipes, no nitrates! Frankfurters, summer, bologna, headcheese, venison and pork sausage! \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (2-20p-ts)

Prize Winning Recipe! Caramel corn, easy, fun, economical. \$1.00. SASE, Drawer 180, 3645-28th St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508. (2-3t-20p)

MISCELLANEOUS

Heat your home forever with four acres of hybrid poplar. As little as 15' each. Cold Stream Farm, 2030T Free Soil Road, Free Soil, Mich. 49411-9752. (2-3t-26p-ts)

Knapp Shoes - the original cushion shoes. Sizes A - EEEE. John V. Soye, Your Shoe Counselor, 415 N. Main St., Capac, Mich. 48014. Phone 313-395-7661. (2-4t-23p)

Profitable Home Income... Forwarding mail! No experience! Details, rush self-addressed, stamped envelope. Disa tributors, Box 1296-MFB, Makawao, Hawaii 96768. (2-20b-ts)

Wire Weeder! New garden hoe. Simple cheese cutter design increases speed and is less tiring. Be ready for spring. \$14.95 plus \$2.50 shipping. Free literature on request. Piper Creek Products, 4425C W. Buchanan, Shelby, MI 49455. (2-36p-ts)

LEE Jeans. Factory outlet work clothes, shoes. Bargains on new shirts (low as \$4.95), Lee jackets, boots, gloves, coveralls. Send \$1.00 for catalog. SARA GLOVE CO., 16 Cherry Ave., Dept. C-95, Waterbury, CT 06704. (2-5t-34p-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-27p-m)

REAL ESTATE

Selling A Farm? Wanted: Dairy - Beef - Hog - Cash Crop - Horse - Poultry - Orchards and Berry farms in Tuscola, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, Lapeer. From \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, can be stocked and equipped. See, write, call United Farm Agency - National Brokers, 1764 M-24, Caro, Mich. 48723. Phone 517-673-6888. (10-5t-45p-ts)

Three bedroom modular manufactured in 1979 by Active Homes, used as summer residence. Excellent condition. Must be sold and moved to settle estate. Price \$21,300 includes set up on your foundation. For particulars: Penta, 2395 Williams Road, Petoskey, Mich. 49770. (11-6t-58p)

For Sale - Investment and Income property! 30 acres - blueberry farm in excellent producing condition. Home-packing shed - irrigation equipment and pond - farm machinery. Phone 616-924-0229. Maxson's Blueberry Farm 6540 W. 92nd St., Fremont, Mich. 49412. (1-2t-21p)

214-acre farm: 150 acres tillable, 75 acres irrigated, balance hardwood timber. Livestock/fishpond, year round running water. Excellent for dairy/cow/calf, horses or hogs. All fenced, cross-fenced. Set-up for cattle feeding, 60'x120' pole barn, 60'x100' bank barn, 48'x76' modern shop, plenty of machine storage, silo with unloader and 120' conveyor, 10,000-bushel grain storage, in-bin drying. Four-bedroom remodeled home. Scenic setting. Secluded but on blacktop road. Convenient to schools, shopping, ag markets. Owners retiring. Union, Mich. Call 616-641-7558 evenings. (2-85b)

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 _____

Address _____

Farm Bureau member. Non-member

Run the following ad in the _____ issue(s):

Words _____ Insertions _____ Total Due _____

MISCELLANEOUS

Why Die Without a Will? Two legal "will forms" and easy instructions. Only \$4... Order Today! Guaranteed! TY-Company, Box 752-MF, Pryor, OK 74361. (1-6t-22p-ts)

"Conquer Harmful Anger 100 Ways." Win love, health, power, security. Vernon Howard Booklet, \$2. NEWLIFE, Box 684-AG, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. (9-6t-20p-ts)

"Ju-AI" soft, knit Ostomy Pouch Cover - made by an Ostomate for your comfort and peace of mind. Economical and easy to care for. "Ju-AI" Appliance Covers. Route 1, Box 150, Springtown, Texas 76082. (11-4t-33p-ts)

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. (12-6t-65p-ts)

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, Akron, Ohio 44309. (2-2t-28p-ts)

Pure maple syrup and syrup maker's supplies. Dodd's Sugar Shack, Niles. 616-683-3283 evenings. (1-2t-13p-ts)



Texas Taste Test Promotes Michigan Products

When the DeGeus family of Saginaw County agreed to help promote Michigan navy beans at the AFBF annual meeting in Dallas, they went prepared with a Texas-sized recipe for Michigan navy bean soup and a 200-gallon stainless steel, propane cooker, supplied by the Michigan Bean Commission.

Now that the recipe has been taste-tested by over 3,000 satisfied Farm Bureau members from around the country, it's yours for the asking. But before you clip out their recipe, you might want to check the cookbook for one that serves up family size portions.

The DeGeus' recipe for 80 gallons of soup, which will feed about 1,000 persons, starts with 65 gallons of water and 150 lbs. of Michigan navy beans. Toss in 8 lbs. of bacon, 5 lbs. of carrots, 4 lbs. of onions and 5 oz. of garlic salt. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cook until beans are soft, stirring occasionally.

Or, do it the easy way and get the beans, in a 15 lb. reusable container and Michigan bean recipe book through the MACMA member-to-member program.

That's what organizers of the Texas taste test — the Michigan Elevator Exchange, Michigan Bean Commission and the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association — are hoping Farm Bureau members around the country will do when the Michigan product is offered through the direct marketing programs to their state Farm Bureaus.

MACMA representatives offered AFBF delegates samples of fresh frozen strawberries, sweet cherries, peaches and apple juice during the three days of the product show.



Carl DeGeus and his wife, Charlotte, of Saginaw County cooked up 240 gallons of Michigan bean soup for delegates and visitors at the AFBF convention in Dallas. During the three days of the product show, the DeGeus' ladled out servings to 3,000 persons.



Soliciting taste tests was no problem for MACMA direct marketing representatives Sharon Moon and Bob Eppelheimer (far right). The member-to-member promotion featured fresh frozen Michigan fruit and apple cider concentrate.

Laurie Isley

MFB 1982 Discussion Meet Winner

Catch Her Enthusiasm

By Donna Wilber

Laurie Isley's trip to Dallas, Texas, to compete in the American Farm Bureau Federation Discussion Meet, really began more than two years ago when a friend suggested she might want to "come and watch" a Young Farmer District Discussion Meet.

She ended up winning instead of watching and went on to capture first runner-up honors in statewide competition at the 1981 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting.



"I was gung-ho to try it again," said the Lenawee County young farmer and teacher, and try again she did. The results of her efforts were the title of 1982 Discussion Meet winner and the use of a new Chevy S-10 pick-up truck for one year, courtesy of the Chevrolet Division of General Motors.

It took more than Isley's sharp communications skills to put her in that winner's circle. Months of research and study on the four discussion topics

preceded her participation in the state contest. Those topics were: (1) Water is a limited and depletable resource. What should be the determining factors in its future allocation? (2) What can be done to increase participation in the total Farm Bureau program? (3) Yield times price minus cost equals net income. We have worked to minimize cost and maximize production. What can we do to increase price? (4) What can we do to stimulate foreign demand for products and who should be responsible?

"I'm an avid reader, very interested in new trends in agriculture," said Isley. "I did consistent research trying to gain new information and also talked with people in some government agencies. I kept four separate folders, one for each topic, and whenever I came across something pertinent, I'd file it. I read through the material, highlighted parts of it, and then rewrote the portions I thought were important."

Talking her way through the state semi-finals, Isley had the opportunity to use her "homework" on three of the four topics. It may have been her enthusiasm about the state final's topic, "How can we increase participation in the total Farm Bureau program," as well as her talent and preparation work, that made her a winner.

"This was a real good brainstorming topic and hopefully, some of the members who were there got new ideas from the

discussion and perhaps will implement some of them. I think the whole idea of a discussion meet is not only to surface leadership, but also to share new ideas," she said.

"I think the overall message that came out of this discussion was that if we're positive about Farm Bureau, other people will catch that enthusiasm and become more active themselves in the Farm Bureau program."

Isley said participation in the Discussion Meet was a personal growth experience and a character-builder.



Laurie Isley competed with the winning contestant, Mark Knaupp of Oregon, during AFBF Discussion Meet quarter finals at Dallas.

Isley's students at Blissfield Community Schools were proud of their teacher and shared in the joy of her victory. She had given one of her classes an opportunity, "because they were all good, pertinent agricultural topics," to brainstorm on the four questions prior to the state meet.

"When I went back to school,

they all wanted to drive my pick-up since they figured they had helped me win the contest," she said.

Isley was raised on a farm just outside of Ann Arbor where her parents specialize in cash crops and purebred Yorkshires and Chester Whites. During her eight years in 4-H, she decided that agriculture was her future. She attended Michigan State University where she majored in agricultural education and natural resources with a minor in family relations.

It was at MSU that she met a young farmer from Palmyra, Jim Isley, who was also an agricultural major. They married in 1979 and moved to a farm near his parents in Palmyra where they raise corn, soybeans, wheat and canning tomatoes for Campbells. In addition to her teaching job, Isley also helps on the farm.

The Michigan Farm Bureau members who viewed the national Discussion Meet in Dallas were proud of their contestant's performance. Although the winner was from Oregon instead of Michigan, Isley was by no means a "loser."

She invested the same kind of determination and hard work in the national meet as she did in the state contest. "I gave it the very best I could, and feel that I succeeded," she said. "I feel honored that the contestants who won my quarter-final meet made it all the way to the finals."

Her positive attitude, plus her enthusiasm for the agricultural industry and the Farm Bureau organization, make her a real winner to her family, friends, students and a great number of new "fans" within the membership ranks of the Michigan Farm Bureau.



The Discussion Meet topics, dealing with environmental, social and economic issues in agriculture were subjects of a brainstorming session for Isley's students at Blissfield Community Schools prior to the state competition.

"I learned so much just preparing for it. Then just the joy of competing (and the competition was stiff!) and the feeling of really accomplishing something made it a great experience."



Isley kept notebooks and talked with resource people on each of the four topics. Prior to the national meet, she reviewed the topics with MFB Senior Legislative Counsel Robert E. Smith.

1983 Crop Swap Program Offers Farmers New Alternatives

Producers may sign up to divert 10% to 30% of their crop acreage base under the Payment-in-Kind program in addition to existing acreage reduction programs, or they may bid to divert the whole crop acreage base. Under the bid system, a farmer would offer to reduce the planted acreage of the particular crop to zero and to devote an acreage equal to the acreage base to approved conservation uses.

According to USDA, a farmer cannot do both the bidding to divert his whole crop acreage base and sign up to divert from 10% to 30% of his crop under PIK. Total area diverted from crops under 1983 acreage reduction programs and the Payment-in-Kind program may not exceed 50% of the total base acreage for any one crop in a county, USDA said.

A producer may participate in the PIK program for only one crop and may participate for only one farm if he has several farms.

Bids will be accepted by USDA from Jan. 24 through March 11 for the PIK program, and the sign-up period for the earlier announced acreage reduction and land diversion programs will end March 11 instead of the previous March 31 deadline.

Wheat farmers will receive 95% of their 1983 yield per acre as payment under the PIK program and corn and sorghum producers will receive 80%.

For those farmers wishing to bid to divert their whole crop acreage base, bids will be accepted by USDA through March 11 and opened on March 18. For each county authorized to

Producers will receive as Payment-in-Kind the commodity for which the acreage was diverted, except that the CCC may substitute, on a bushel-for-bushel basis, corn for sorghum.

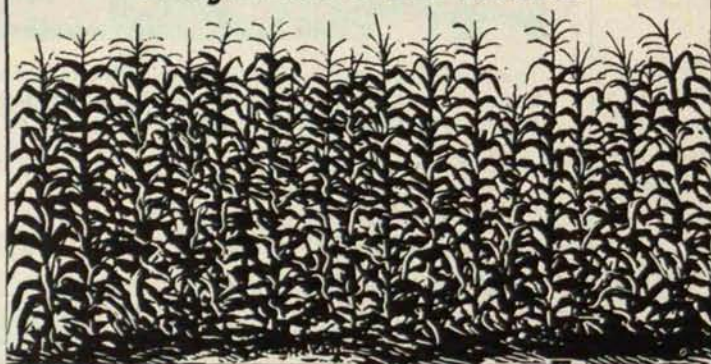
A participating producer with a CCC price support loan must make the loan collateral available to CCC if the loan remains outstanding on March 11, USDA said. However, that does not apply if the outstanding loan was obtained from another county or application to transfer the grain to the farmer-owned

reserve is made after Jan. 11. The CCC will fully compensate producers for interest or handling charges assessed on the quantity the producer must make available to CCC. CCC may then use the loan collateral to make the payment in kind.

Producers will continue to earn farmer-owned reserve storage payments until the reserve loan is liquidated or for a maximum of five months. A producer with a farm-stored farmer-owned reserve loan will receive an additional seven months in storage payments, less any unearned storage beginning with the Payment-in-Kind availability date. Only grain in the farmer-owned reserve or with farmer-owned reserve application on file by Jan. 11 will be eligible for Payment-in-Kind use.

The producer is not guaranteed availability of CCC com-

Payment-in-Kind



accept bids, the bid with the lowest payback percentage will be accepted first, with ties settled according to the bids received first. The number of whole base bids accepted will depend on the level of sign-up in the 10% to 30% Payment-in-Kind program, the supply-demand situation for each commodity and other factors.

Producers must practice soil conservation on the land taken out of production. That land may be grazed except during the six main growing months. Winter wheat producers who participate in the PIK program, but who have already planted their 1983 crop, may graze the acreage or cut it for hay. The acreage must be substantially destroyed by the deadline established for the county. Also, if approved by the state ASCS committee, the stubble may be eligible cover.

modities under Payment-in-Kind at the warehouse of his choice. However, if the CCC cannot provide a warehouse in the producer's county, it will try an adjoining county.

USDA projects 1983-84 wheat production at 2.38 billion bushels under the Payment-in-Kind program, with ending stocks of 1.77 billion. The reserve would be reduced 545 million bushels to a total of 765 million bushels.

The 1983-84 corn crop is expected to be 6.88 billion bushels, with ending stocks of 2.88 billion and farmer-owned reserve stocks of 1.94 billion. Without the Payment-in-Kind program, USDA had expected corn production of 7.66 billion bushels, ending stocks of 3.65 billion and farmer-owned reserve stocks of 2.52 billion.

For sorghum, 1983-84 production is put at 685 million bushels, ending stocks at 476 million and farmer-owned reserve 355 million. Without Payment-in-Kind, sorghum production was expected at 750 million bushels with ending stocks of 526 million and the reserve at 450 million bushels.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corp. will increase yield guarantees of insured producers participating in the PIK program.

The FCIC yield guarantee for producers diverting at least 10% but less than 20% of their acreage under Payment-in-Kind will be increased by 5¢. For producers diverting 20% to less than 30%, the guarantee increase will be 8¢ and for producers participating at the maximum 30% diversion of crop acreage base, the yield increase will be 10¢.

The FCIC is offering the higher guarantees without a corresponding rise in premium rates, because the risk of loss is reduced, USDA said. The increases in guarantees recognize the probability of increased per acre yields on the remaining acreage of program participants. The FCIC will accept until March 11 revised acreage reports on insured winter wheat destroyed to comply with the PIK program.

USDA officials said that they are confident the Payment-in-Kind program can be implemented without new legislation. Secretary of Agriculture John Block and other officials said USDA has overcome initial legal roadblocks limiting the amount a farmer could receive to no more than \$50,000 annually from government farm pro-

(continued on page 30)

Analysis of Proposed 1983 Government Programs on Corn

	Option 1 No Compliance	Option 2 Existing RAP & Diversion (10% + 10%)	Option 3 Existing RAP & Diversion Plus 30% PIK	Option 4 Existing Diversion Plus Full PIK at 80% Bid
Base Acres	100	100	100	100
Planted Acres	100	80	50	0
RAP Acres	0	10	6.25	0
Diverted A. (PLD)	0	10	10	10
PIK Acres	0	0	30	90
Yield (actual)	130	130	130	130
ASCS Yield	100	100	100	100
Estimated Market Price	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40
Diversion Payment/Bu.	.00	1.50	1.50	1.50
Deficiency Payment/Bu.	.00	.21	.21	.21
Variable Cost/Acre	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Conservation Acres Cost	0	5	5	5
PIK Payment in Bushels	0	0	2400	7200
PIK Payment Value in \$	0	0	5760	17280
Income	31200.00	28140.00	23910.00	18780.00
Expenses	1500.00	12100.00	7731.25	500.00
Total Acres Used	100	100	96.25	100
Net From Alternate Crop	.00	.00	243.75	.00
Net Return	16200.00	16040.00	16422.50	18280.00

Note: Requirement for RAP acres is defined 12.5% of planted acres. Therefore, option 3 has a small acreage that can be planted to a non-program crop. This analysis assumes planting that acreage to soybeans at \$65.00/acre net. However, this option to plant the "free" acreage of soybeans as a non-program crop may be eliminated.

Social Security Program Benefits

It was a program begun in the depression of the 1930s, designed to help the elderly through their retirement years. From that modest start, Social Security has swollen into something quite different.

In the course of change, it has grown into a giant, which, unless restrained, threatens to run out of control. Benefits have skyrocketed. Taxes to pay for the many SSA (Social Security Administration) benefits have soared and the end is nowhere in sight. The way Social Security now operates, benefits — and the taxes to finance them — automatically rise with inflation and rising wages. The catch is that benefits have increased faster than taxes on wages to foot the bill.

To compound the problem, the shrinking birthrate is upsetting the balance between the number of people who will be paying taxes and those collecting benefits. With the increase in unemployment, more and more senior citizens are depending on fewer and fewer workers for retirement income and other benefits.

Social Security was created by law in 1935, and a special tax on payrolls was levied. Collections began in 1937. The first pensions were delayed until 1940, permitting a reserve to be built up.

The starting tax was 2% — 1% each on employer and worker — on the first \$3,000 of

Too Much to Too Many

income. The tax now has climbed to 12.6% — 6.3% each on employer and worker — on \$35,700 of annual income.

Pressures of all kinds — social, economic, political — have escalated benefits to levels which were undreamed of in 1940, when 222,000 monthly checks went out from Washington.

The original idea of Social Security was to provide a very modest benefit, only for retirement, as a supplement to other resources. For many, Social Security is still not the sole source of income for retirement. Yet, millions do depend on Social Security alone as their main source of retirement income. The idea has developed along the way that Social Security alone should provide for modest retirement, if not for retirement in comfort.

Not only that, the focus of Social Security has been expanded. Benefits have been voted for dependents and survivors, not just for workers themselves. The retirement age has been lowered to 62, with reduced benefits.

Now, workers who are totally and permanently disabled also collect pensions. A massive program of medical insurance — Medicare — has been added.

This year everyone 70 or over will be able to receive full Social Security payments, even if he or she has not retired. The change will cost the struggling retirement system an estimated \$600 billion this year and this extra money all goes to people who may, in some cases, be earning substantial amounts of money. For this favored group, Social Security is no longer a pension system, it is a health and longevity bonus. Social Security will be paid them in full, right on top of their present earnings.

In one way or another, Social Security touches the life of nearly every living American. Yet, misunderstanding persists. Myths have grown up.

One of these myths concerns the very nature of Social Security — the system was sold as a kind of "social" insurance.

The issuance of an account number (Social Security number) to each person has led many to believe that Social Security is much like an insurance policy: A worker pays his "premiums" and finally, either he or his family reaps the benefits. His benefits, he believes, are related directly to the "premiums" he pays.

The fact is quite different. The Social Security system is little more than a transfer plan under which younger workers, through their taxes and the taxes of

(continued on page 34)

Legislative Review

(continued from page 7)

Summer Tax Deferrals — A second bill was also passed (H.B. 5405 — Rep. Lincoln) supported by Farm Bureau to allow farmers and owners of property classified as agricultural real property to request deferment of any summer tax until Feb. 15 without penalty or interest, provided their gross farm receipts of the previous year or the average of the previous three years exceed their household income.

This provision is similar to that used to determine eligibility for the Homestead Tax Refund. The Treasury Department will provide the forms for requesting deferment to the treasurer of the local tax collecting unit.

- Senior citizens (age 65) and various other disabled people can also request deferment if their household income is \$10,000 or less.

Both bills apply to K-12 school districts and intermediate districts and both contain the provision allowing farmers to request deferment of their taxes until February.

It remains to be seen whether many districts will request summer tax collections.

The purpose is to provide revenue for opening school in the fall without having to borrow funds and avoid interest payments. It is not unusual for such interest costs to be \$100,000, and in some cases \$1 million or more.

However, summer tax collections will not provide any more revenue for the full year and, in most cases, may not be worth the trouble. How about your school?

Beginning Farmer Loan Program — Good progress is being made on this program officially known as the Michigan Family Farm Development Act. The seven-member authority held a hearing on the official rules on Dec. 29, 1982. Rules take effect 15 days after filing with the Secretary of State. The Administrative Rules Committee of the Legislature also approves them.

Generally speaking, the 10 pages of rules repeat the requirements in the law. There are some additions which were determined by the authority.

A brief summary of the requirements of the law and the rules follows:

- The law and rules contain several definitions including agricultural land, improvements, beginning farmer, depreciable property, farm and farming, net worth, mortgage, lender, secured loan, bonds, etc.

- Loans will be made through "participating lenders" which would be local banks or other mortgage lenders; however, they must sign an agreement with the authority.

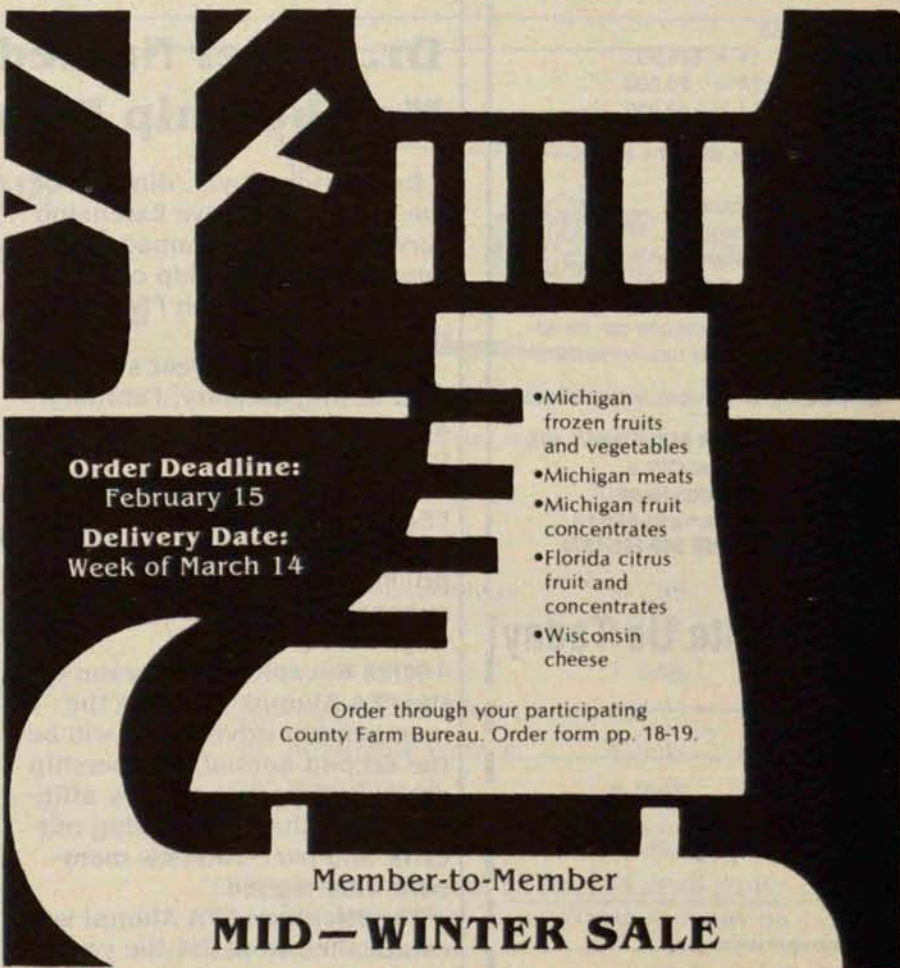
- While loans can also be made by the authority, it is not the intent to do so at this time. Every effort will be made to have loans made through "participating lenders."

- Tax exempt bonds will provide the funds. This allows loans to beginning farmers at lower interest rates. The law allows bonds up to \$100 million.

- The law is self-financing with no obligation or debt to the state.

- A beginning farmer loan, secured or unsecured, could not exceed \$400,000 for farmland and improvements, including a

(continued on page 31)



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MFB Directors Announce New Club for Membership Workers

Regular farmer member growth is a vital component of a dynamic and effective county Farm Bureau organization. The constant need for new leadership within the organization requires county Farm Bureau membership workers to identify farmers who are not members and invite them to join Farm Bureau.

In order to place additional emphasis on farmer member growth, the Michigan Farm Bureau district directors have introduced the Directors' Key Club. Key Club membership is open to volunteer membership workers, FBIG insurance agents, county secretaries and other affiliate company personnel.

In order to qualify for Key Club membership, participants must write five or more new regular members during the 1983 membership year. Those who qualify will receive a custom designed Key Club lapel pin in recognition of their membership achievements. In addition, they will receive a special invitation to attend the annual Presidents' and Campaign Managers' Banquet at the 1983 state annual meeting.

District directors will present the Key Club pins to membership workers who qualify at the appropriate county annual meeting. Be sure your county qualifies several workers for club membership!

Dr. Guyer Named FFA Alumni Membership Drive Chairperson

Dr. Gordon Guyer, director of the MSU Cooperative Extension Service, has been named 1983 honorary membership chairperson for the Michigan FFA Alumni.

The goal of this year's drive, held during January, February and March, is a 25% increase in total membership.

"Vocational agriculture and FFA are important to Michigan agriculture," Guyer said. "It is a privilege for me to be able to support the organization in this way."

Mike Kovacic, chairperson of the FFA Alumni, outlined the membership drive. "This will be the second annual membership drive. Last year three new affiliates were chartered during our drive and over 100 new members were signed."

The Michigan FFA Alumni was established to assist the youth

program of the Michigan Association of FFA. Local affiliates of the alumni organization assist vocational agriculture departments in schools. As a state organization, the FFA Alumni provides assistance to the local affiliates and works with the state FFA to provide leadership opportunities to FFA members across the state.

Any former active, collegiate or honorary FFA and NFA members, and both present and former professional vocational agriculture educators, parents of FFA members, or persons interested in supporting the FFA, are eligible to join.

For more information contact a local vocational agriculture/ FFA department at a high school in your area or write Michigan FFA Alumni, 100 Wills House, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. 48824.

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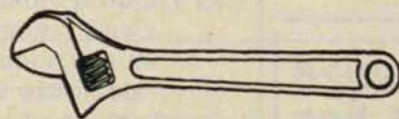
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(Some items may not be stocked at all participating dealers, but are available and may be ordered.)

Agrinomic Update

(continued from page 25)

grams and preventing government-owned grain from being sold at less than 110% of market prices. USDA has overcome the problems by making the program what Block called a "pure payment-in-kind." This means USDA will offer only commodities, not money, as payment. For example, USDA

will use No. 2 yellow corn as its standard payment grade, but if only a lower grade is available in a local area, farmers will be paid an extra amount of the lower grade to equal the value of No. 2 corn.

Now that USDA has officially announced the program, Block said he suspects Congress may develop its own enabling legislation for the program in an effort to help USDA.

Adventures in World Understanding

Fifteen of the 42 participants in the 29th Adventures in World Understanding program spent Dec. 21 visiting Farm Bureau Center in Lansing and the Marvin Lott dairy farm in Mason.

Organized in 1952, Adventures in World Understanding is a unique program providing a socializing experience over the Christmas holidays for foreign students who would otherwise have been alone.

The program has grown to serve three major purposes: assist foreign students from many countries to become acquainted with other cultures, provide an opportunity for mid-Michigan citizens to meet and learn about people from other cultures and acquaint foreign students with life in a mid-Michigan community.

To accomplish these goals, students visit community agencies and organizations, stay with urban and rural families, attend seminars and social events and enjoy leisure time activities.

The program is jointly sponsored by the Agency of International Development, various offices of Michigan State University, the community volunteers for international programs, and local clubs, individuals and organizations such as the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

Thirty of the participants accepted invitations of families — including Farm Bureau members — to visit their homes from the afternoon of Dec. 24 through Christmas Day and return on the 26th. Students returned the hospitality at a dinner on Dec. 26 where they presented a program depicting various customs and dances in their respective countries.

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Legislative Review

(continued from page 27)

house. A loan for "depreciable" property (certain livestock, machinery, etc.) cannot exceed \$125,000.

- Repayment periods are up to 20 years.

- Net worth of an applicant cannot be more than \$250,000 — including spouse's and children's income.

- Property must be bought in this state.

- Land and improvements can only be used by immediate family.

- Land must be enrolled in P.A. 116.

While more than 3,000 inquiries about the program have been received, loans will be processed on the basis of receipt of the formal applications.

- Beginning farmer must be a resident of the state and have sufficient education, training and/or experience in farming.

- On farm experience will be given priority.

- Net worth of the beginning farmer must exceed 10% of the amount of the loan requested.

- The loan cannot be used for refinancing previous debts or the purchase of feed, seed, fertilizer, fuel, feeder cattle, feeder pigs, feeder lambs or other items considered as operating expense.

- The minimum loan is \$25,000.

- Land must be "managed in accordance with generally accepted practices."

- Conservation practices, as "recommended by the appropriate Soil Conservation District, shall be incorporated into land management plans to assure adequate erosion control

and productivity are maintained."

- Application forms for loans are expected to be available sometime in February.

- Generally speaking, the "beginning farmer" and the "participating lender" will work out the loan details such as interest rates, length of loan, down payment, service fees, repayment schedule, etc.

- The authority will consider and review all loans for approval.

- The authority has the right to audit the records and inspect the premises of the beginning farmer relating to the authority's loan and bond.

- Application fees may not exceed \$250. The authority may also "charge a service fee not exceeding 2% of the amount of the loan per annum during the life of the loan. . . ." Insurance may also be required.

- Provisions are made for appeals and hearings.

- The authority cannot own land or depreciable property except on a temporary basis. Foreclosure property must be offered for sale within six months and sold only for farming or other agricultural purposes.

- The authority has other responsibilities to include a report each year to the governor and Legislature, to set interest rates, engage in research, accept gifts, grants, loans or other aid from federal, state and local government or other sources, etc.

While more than 3,000 inquiries about the program have been received loans will be processed on the basis of receipt of the formal applications. It is expected that application forms will be available sometime in February.

The authority is composed of seven members, three farmers,

a banker representative, and the directors of the state departments of agriculture, treasury and commerce.

The appointed members are William M. White, Jones (Cass County), a pork producer and chairperson of the authority; Richard Trepanier, Iron Mountain (Dickinson County), a potato farmer; Harold Thome, Comstock Park (Kent County), a fruit grower; and Elmer "Pete" Simon, Frankenmuth (Saginaw County), the banker representative and vice chairperson.

The authority has met three times and is established within the Department of Agriculture and will have an executive director and other staff.

Anyone may have a copy of the complete rules or other information by writing the Michigan Family Farm Development Authority, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, Mich. 48909; or to the Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

Request for MFB and AFBF 1983 Policy Books

Michigan Farm Bureau's complete 1983 policies are available in booklet form. Copies of the AFBF policy book will also be available in a few weeks.

Please send me the following:

1983 MFB Policy Book

1983 AFBF Policy Book

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Supply Imbalance Threatens Future Profits for Nation's Dairy Farmers

Dairy farmers from across the nation confronted serious problems of their industry and examined the impact of new products and export developments on dairy product markets at the dairy conference held during the AFBF annual meeting.

"The U.S. dairy industry faces the largest imbalance in its history, between what is produced and what is sold commercially," said Hollis Hatfield, director of the AFBF dairy department. "This imbalance has put the dairy program under stress — its future is in jeopardy."

He warned that failure to recognize the magnitude of that imbalance is one of the roadblocks to finding a workable solution to the problem.

"Cow numbers must be reduced if dairymen are to benefit from strengthened producer prices," Hatfield said. "The 1983 market can be adequately supplied by 10 million cows, about one million fewer than are currently being milked."

Hatfield told dairy farmers that they must not only be concerned with cutting production, but with improved marketing techniques to increase future consumption.

Dairymen, Inc., an 8,000-member dairy cooperative in the south and southeast, is doing just that according to Senior Vice President Harold "Pete" Gay, who described the innovative new dairy products being marketed in that area.

"Ultra High Temperature (UHT) milk is a new product for a new generation of people on the go and a new marketing avenue for a new generation of dairy farmers," Gay said.

UHT milk is processed at a higher temperature than regular milk and hermetically sealed in special containers to keep the milk fresh for three months.

UHT whole milk is directed toward adults and small family markets. "Sip Ups," individual servings of UHT milk produced in five flavors, is targeted at children and mothers as an alternative for soft drinks and other less nutritional beverages.

In taste tests consumers have rated these new products as good as conventional milk and sales have been better than predicted.

UHT milk, introduced at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, was the feature of the popular booth that led all commercial exhibits in attendance. The product has since been the subject of an aggressive advertising campaign that includes several television commercials.

Alternatives being considered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reduce the stockpiles of dairy products owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation were discussed by Glenn Tussey, assistant director of the AFBF National Affairs Division.

Tussey said many USDA officials believe it will be cheaper to dispose of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk purchased by CCC than to store it. He listed several options being considered:

- Sell dairy products to the highest bidder and let them export the commodities to whoever will purchase them.
- Sell butter to Eastern Europe or the Middle East.
- Sell butter to the Soviet Union.
- Give or sell at a reduced price "bonus butter" to coun-

tries that purchase other exported commodities.

- Barter dairy products for other commodities, such as oil from Mexico.

- Donate dairy products to developing countries.



Sanilac County dairy farmer and county FB president Wayne Wood delivers a dairy policy position statement during the AFBF general resolution session at Dallas.

Tussey said the USDA is studying export subsidies worldwide and will probably not decide what to do with the dairy stockpile until after the study is completed in March.

Letters to Rural Living

(continued from page 17)

Moreover, content legislation only plays havoc with the symptoms, and does not deal with the causes, of the auto industry's plight. It cannot address the problem of wages out of line with productivity gains.

The bill was a bad one and our congressmen should have known better.

Gas Tax Bill: Officially, this measure, which had the support of the White House and the leadership on Capitol Hill, is supposed to "create" 320,000 new jobs building and repairing the nation's highways, bridges and transit systems.

The irony is that, by draining an additional \$5.5 billion a year out of a depressed economy in new taxes, the law will likely destroy more jobs than it creates. Many congressmen thought it was a "jobs" bill even though evidence indicated that the people employed to fix the roads would probably not be drawn from the ranks of the presently unemployed.

Now what makes lawmakers think that higher taxes stimulate employment? Is it possible that we have so much unemployment today because the government doesn't tax or spend enough?

Surely America's transportation infrastructure is in desperate need of restoration. But rather than raising taxes in a depression, why couldn't Congress get its priorities straight and raise the money by reducing some other expenditures — subsidies to big business, welfare fraud and duplication, food stamps, Davis-Bacon subsidies to labor unions, foreign

aid, wasteful military spending and the federal payroll, to name just a few good candidates for the axe.

Instead of sound, statesman-like judgments, what we got out of the recent lame duck session was political junk. If a passing grade in an economics course was required of every legislator, things might have been different. There's one possible consolation, though — maybe the pay raise congressmen voted themselves last month will make better legislators in 1983. Wanna bet?

Lawrence W. Reed

(Editor's Note: Professor Reed is chairperson of the Department of Economics at Northwood Institute in Midland.)

Volunteers Bring Fresh Approach

"Volunteer Communicators" was a very appropriate title for your January 1983 article about WNEM's "Farm & Garden Show." From the very first meeting of the county personnel through our first shooting in the pumpkin patch in Beaverton, the Farm Bureau volunteers have brought their enthusiasm and excitement to this new project. This excitement is visible in the program, and it will undoubtedly continue.

There are times when the complacency of people in the television business can show through, but I doubt that this will happen in this case. Taping of the segments for "Farm & Garden" is a unique change of pace for the in-field reporters, and that's the fresh approach we were looking for.

John F. Haupricht
Production Manager,
WNEM, Saginaw

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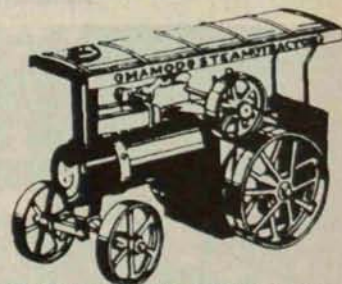
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Discussion Topic: Social Security

(continued from page 26)

their employers, pay for the benefits of retired or disabled persons, or their survivors and dependents.

In a true insurance system, reserves are built up somewhere near the level of commitments. No such thing has occurred under Social Security. Look what has happened to Social Security reserves.

In 1947, reserves on hand were enough to pay annual benefits at that time for 17 years and six months. By 1963, assets on hand were only enough to finance benefits for one year and two months. This was the

last year that the value of assets exceeded annual payments. Since 1974, the retirement trust fund has been losing money every year. In fact, in 1982, the retirement trust fund lost \$30,000 a minute, i.e., the SSA spent \$30,000 a minute more each day than they took in — every hour of every day in 1982.

In view of the deficits and the prospects of a shrinking work force, some people are beginning to wonder about the security of their Social Security pension. Most experts agree that no Congress, now or in the future, will dare to abolish Social Security or even reduce current benefits. However, authorities are

convinced that the need to act decisively will be forced on a future Congress to avoid the collapse of the Social Security system,

Questions

- Should projected increases in Social Security benefits be scaled down to more closely correspond with SSA trust fund revenues?
- Should there be a ceiling on monthly benefits?
- Should there be an increase in Social Security taxes over and above those already scheduled?

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