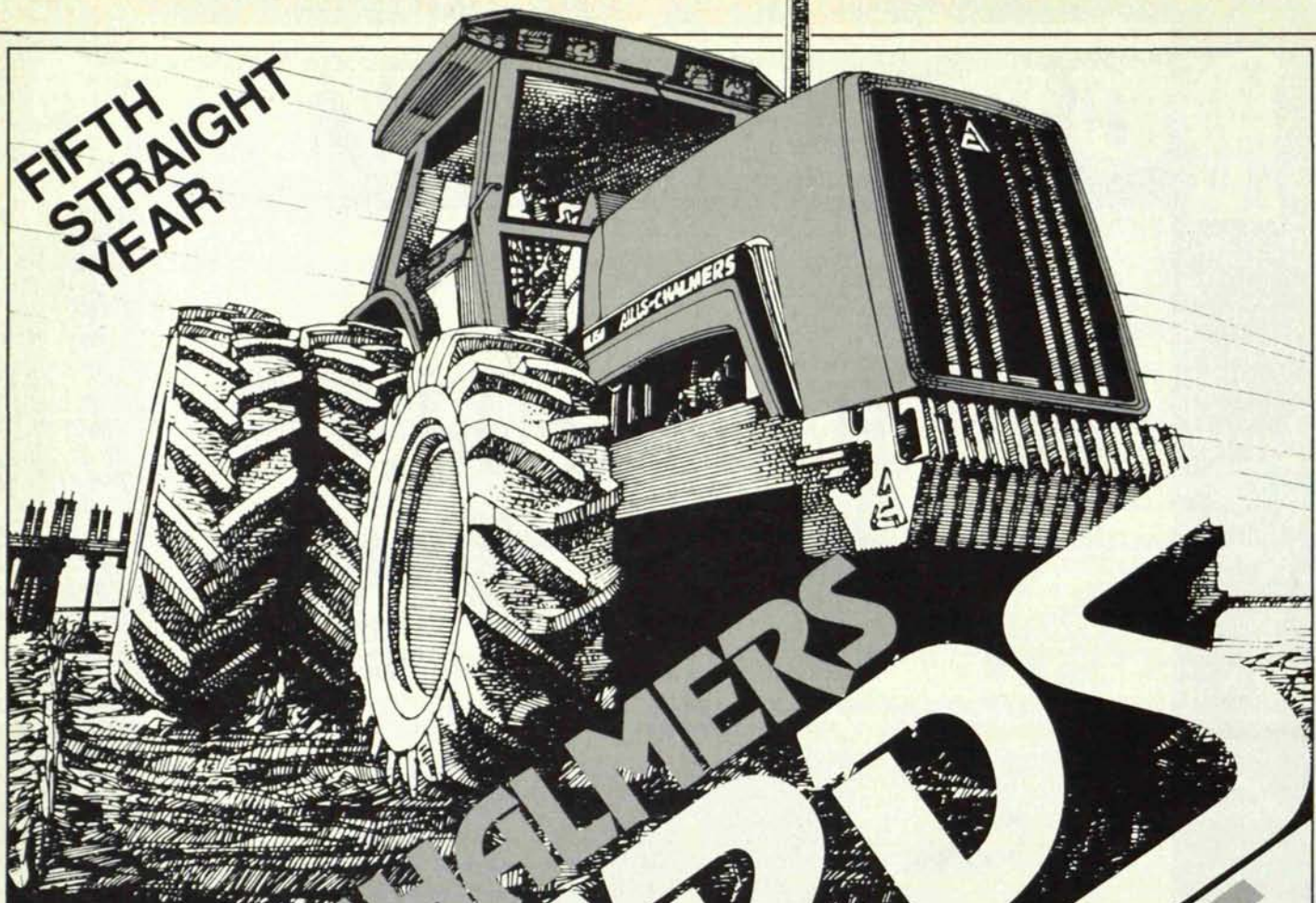


RURAL LIVING



K-12 Education Quality and Financing in Michigan Schools

**FIFTH
STRAIGHT
YEAR**



ALLIS-CHALMERS AWARDS FOUR TRACTORS

**The American
Farm Bureau
winners will receive
the use of a high-horse-
power Allis-Chalmers
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for one year**

For the fifth straight year, the use of an Allis-Chalmers high-horsepower two-wheel-drive tractor (over 100 PTO HP) will be provided free, for one year, to the three national winners of the American Farm Bureau Federation's "Young Farmer and Rancher Award," as well as to the Discussion Meet national winner! **BUILT WITH THE WINNER'S CHOICE OF OPTIONS!** And to top it off, the award presentations will be made in Orlando, Florida at the AFBF annual meeting in January.

Any Farm Bureau member family actively farming, the husband and wife being no more than 30 years of age as of December 31, 1983, is eligible. Now's your chance to win. So get into the competition! and get ready to move up to a Big Orange tractor!

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau Federation office.

RURAL LIVING

FARM NEWS

A publication
of the
Michigan
Farm Bureau



SEPTEMBER 1983
VOL. 62 NO. 9

THE COVER

Appleton School, a one-room schoolhouse in Clinton County, was in operation until the mid-1940s when it was destroyed by fire.

Original artwork by Carol Kirvan

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Member Commitment Maximizes Farm Bureau Effectiveness



The talk is serious when FB's policy development process is underway.

Over 80,000 families, for a variety of reasons ranging from legislative clout to economic services, joined the Michigan Farm Bureau this year, bringing our organization to an all-time membership high. With that great achievement comes the temptation to sit back, relax and proclaim, "All is well."

I'm going to resist that temptation because I'm concerned that all is not well — on the farm, with our general economy, or in the organization.

It's a mystery to me that so many farmers do not make optimum use of the most effective, indispensable tool in their business operations — Farm Bureau.

Farmers display their ingenuity by using a piece of equipment or a new building at maximum efficiency. They get top production out of a cow or other animal; they know how to feed it and care for it to get top production and make maximum use of that particular asset.

But some of the issues we've been involved in lately — important, major issues that impact on their future economic well-being — prove that when it comes to their organization, they've made very inefficient use of this farm tool. Because they have not been willing to discipline themselves to support adopted policy, to speak out for that policy without hesitation regardless of short-term personal economic sacrifices, the organization is not as efficient as it can be.

Farmers wouldn't tolerate that sort of inefficiency in their farm operation. Once they make

a financial investment in a tractor, for example, they don't let anyone else be responsible for its oil changes and maintenance. They wouldn't let schedule conflicts interfere with those maintenance chores.

The same should be true of their organization, through individual involvement in the "oil changes" and "grease jobs" and other maintenance responsibilities of Farm Bureau.

As human beings, we're never satisfied with the status quo. In fact, being dissatisfied and voicing that dissatisfaction is the only way to make progress. We want to improve that which surrounds us, the environment in which we live, whether it be social, economic, political or educational, and speaking out on those issues helps to bring about the change we are seeking.

The purpose of an organization like Farm Bureau is to make gains that you could not make any other way. To do that, it takes members being involved in presenting their ideas for solutions to problems and then developing — maybe not perfect — but the best possible policies. Then, it takes effort on the part of members to achieve those policies. That calls for discipline to recognize that what the organization is fighting for, or against, may not be perfect in every aspect, but it's far better than if they had no united voice at all.

There's room for dissent in our organization. But the time for dissent is now while we're in the process of developing policies. It ought to come at county and state annual meetings where there's discussion, a

melding of ideas and a recognition of other people's points of view.

Now is the time to speak out on what ought to be. The time to act on the policies we develop is in the year ahead. That's the time for commitment to the policies members said they wanted.

When members don't follow through on this commitment, it erodes the effectiveness of our organization. It affects our credibility, our legislative and political power, just as surely as neglect and lack of maintenance erodes your other farm tools. We have a tremendous record of successes to our credit, all of them because of organizational discipline. Let's not make the mistake of becoming complacent and resting on those laurels.

I urge you to share the responsibility for gaining broad member involvement in the policy development process. A notice of your county annual received in the mail or an announcement in your county newsletter may not be enough. Take the time to personally contact every farmer-member you know to tell them how important their presence at the county annual meeting will be.

Tell them an unshared idea is a terrible waste.

Elton R. Smith
President

Counting Our Blessings

By Donna Wilber

At the recent 1983 American Farm Bureau Federation Information Conference, Michigan picked up four awards in the category of over 40,000 members: best publication in the nation, best brochure, best radio commentary and best television public service announcement. That makes us the top state in the federation in information activities.

When I picked up the award for Connie Turbin, editor of *Rural Living*, I couldn't help thinking: "I tried for years to win this award and failed. She's editor for one year and walks away with top honors." That says one thing for me — I'm one heck of a good manager for making that astute personnel change!

Whenever we attend these national conferences, we always come home not only with the realization that Michigan is a very highly respected state in the federation, but also a challenge to keep striving for perfection. And we come home counting our blessings that we have the kind of leadership and staff who support our activities rather than throwing up roadblocks against them.

As part of the conference program, I was on a panel to discuss Farm Bureau news services. Our conclusion was that the reason for Michigan's success in delivering news and information about agriculture and Farm Bureau to the news media was largely due — not to my

work — but to the accessibility of our president, leadership and staff to the public press. I knew that going in, so I was happy with that conclusion, and I weep for those information people who don't have that kind of support.

One of the reasons, I believe, that *Rural Living* was judged the best in the nation is our sensitivity to, and fearlessness in, addressing current issues. As President Smith says in his column this month, there is the temptation to say "All is well" when we know it's not. So, then comes the decision — because *Rural Living* has an audience of not just members, but news media and legislators, decision-makers and opinion molders — do we air such internal concerns as the lack of member involvement in the policy development/policy execution process?

Certainly, we run a risk in publicly acknowledging that "all is not well" in this grassroots process, but the greater risk would be to the strength of this farmer organization if *Rural Living* and the leaders of the Michigan Farm Bureau did not speak out to warn against the dangers of member apathy.

As part of my research for the county annual meeting feature (page 10), I re-read Clark Brody's autobiography, *In Service of the Farmer*. For almost 40 years, Brody was the Michigan Farm Bureau and his story

traces the history of the organization. Recorded in that document, which should be read by every Farm Bureau member, are incidents that prove we need not fear airing our concerns and convictions.

Brody relates that the governor of Michigan, who used every trick in the book to discredit the radical upstart of a farm organization back in the 1920s, became one of its most ardent supporters because its farm leaders were fearless in confronting the issues.

In his efforts to save a floundering organization, Brody sought the counsel of the editors of the *Michigan Farmer* magazine regarding the innovative, courageous solutions he proposed. They advised him to "go for it." Several other media were credited by Brody in helping to win the fight for survival.

And so we are allowed to be daring by leadership and staff who firmly believe in the organization and its philosophies, policies and methods of operation.

Thank God for them! It's the only way we can continue the tradition outlined by Brody: "The (*Farm Bureau*) *News* was a primary influence in helping us to put over our programs with members. Indeed, the *News* has been integral in the development of the Bureau. It is doubtful whether the young Bureau could have survived the early twenties without the *Farm Bureau News*."

May it ever be so.

WASHINGTON

Farm Program Legislation

— Before the House and Senate adjourned Aug. 4, the Senate passed S.J. 149, which postpones the second 50-cent dairy assessment from Sept. 1 until Oct. 1. The resolution was subsequently passed by the House of Representatives and is expected to be signed by the president.

During House consideration of the measure, Congressman de la Garza, chairperson of the House Committee on Agriculture, agreed that when Congress returns in September, he will attempt to have the compromise dairy package (H.R. 1875) considered by the full House under an open rule. This would allow amendments to be offered, including the Farm Bureau-supported Conable amendment.

Despite the two week effort in the Senate to consider target price and dairy/tobacco bills, no action occurred on either of these measures prior to adjournment. Legislation to freeze target prices is now thought to be a dead issue for this session.

Congress will reconvene on Sept. 12.

Weather Causing Problems in PIK Administration

— Requests from throughout the drought-stricken Midwest urging Agriculture Secretary Block to free idled land after Sept. 1 is getting some consideration.

Weather damaged pastures have made it necessary for livestock producers to feed scarce hay while idled PIK acres with usable forage are going to waste. Indications are that some relief of the grazing restrictions will be granted in the form of waivers, with producers required to make their requests through their local ASCS offices to the USDA. Approval and eligibility will be based on the number of requests, the seriousness of the situation and the average rainfall compared to the average temperature and soil moisture for May, June, July and August.

Everett Rank, ASCS administrator, said that producers will not be allowed to take hay from the idled acres, even if it is for use by the owner. Grazing, where allowed, will be only for cattle owned as of Aug. 1, he said.

More PIK Developments

— The USDA has established a transportation assistance program for some feed grain producers who wish to take physical delivery of feed grain PIK entitlements. Affected will be producers whose entitlements are positioned outside their county or adjacent counties and who request that the grain be moved closer to home before they take possession of it. Requests are to be made through the local ASCS office.

CCC will reimburse load-out charges, transportation costs and load-in charges only where necessary to move the grain closer to the entitled farmer in order for it to be reasonably accessible.

Forward-Looking Grains Policy Needed

— Speaking at the AFBF Grains Conference in Chicago, federation vice president Elton Smith identified overproduction as a symptom not the cause of farm surpluses. Price supports, he said, are the real issue and the continuing drift away from a market-oriented agriculture is the biggest single issue of all.

He warned that the cost of government supply management programs will draw increasing criticism and result in a political backlash. "I assure you that without substantial change in the level of price supports and in the reserve build up, federal farm programs are set to self destruct," Smith said.

The answer for U.S. agriculture is to place more emphasis on marketing and market development and Smith said that money invested in building grain markets is returned manifold. Citing the studies of Chase Econometrics, an independent research firm, Smith reported that a 10% expansion above current projected levels of feed grain exports over a six year period would increase net farm income by 20%.

Smith challenged the conferees to consider the kind of farming future we are building for future generations — an aggressive market-oriented agriculture, or an agricultural industry dominated by government restrictions and decrees.

Food Safety Laws — When Congress reconvenes in September, Indiana Sen. Dan Quayle intends to introduce legislation to modify U.S. food safety laws which now describe a "safe" food as one with "zero risk."

One provision of these laws — known as the Delaney Amendment — is an anti-cancer clause which states that an additive may not be allowed on the market if it is found to cause cancer in humans or animals. Quayle's bill continues this prohibition, but without an automatic ban on any additive "merely because test results in animals show that cancer is produced."

The bill allows some leeway in this decision and gives the secretary of the Health and Human Services Department some discretion in decision-making. Farm groups strongly back this modification.

LANSING

The Legislature remains in recess until Sept. 5, however, some committees are meeting from time to time on several issues.

Sales Tax Prepayment — The House Taxation Committee has met to further consider H.B. 4587 which would require "prepayment" of sales taxes on gasoline. As reported in *Rural Living's* July issue, the proposal would cost gasoline wholesalers, jobbers, etc., large amounts of money just to change computer programs, and add to annual interest costs for operating capital.

The effect on Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., for example, would amount to

\$10,000 plus another \$25,000 a year for the added cost of money. Such added costs to the gasoline companies would, of course, be passed on to the consumer. Farmers and others who are exempt from sales taxes on gasoline for non-highway use would create other administrative problems.

The intent of this type of legislation is questionable. If "prepayment of taxes" is applied to gasoline, would it just be a matter of time before "prepayment" is applied to sales taxes on all taxable items?

Tax Credits and Exemptions — A House taxation subcommittee met in mid-August to discuss state revenue increases that would result from legislation that would eliminate many tax credits and exemptions, including agricultural exemptions, such as sales tax, farm personal property, Single Business Tax, growing farm crops, rights of way, P.A. 116, and homestead property tax relief.

The report presented to the committee stated that all exemptions and credits totaled \$6.9 billion — \$4.4 billion at the state level and \$2.5 billion at the local level. Agricultural exemptions total \$77.4 million. Exemptions in the state income tax add up to nearly \$2 billion.

The bills, H.B. 4758 and H.B. 5760 on sales tax, H.B. 4761 on the Single Business Tax, and H.B. 4757 on income tax, were discussed in last month's Legislative Review.

Tax "Front Loading" — The Local Government Finances Subcommittee of the House Taxation Committee has been considering two bills, H.B. 4497 and H.B. 4498, to "front load" the tax credits resulting from the homestead "circuit

breaker" program which provides a refund of property taxes exceeding 3½% of household income.

The purpose of the bills is to provide taxpayers their expected refund in time to help pay their taxes. Presently the refund is made through the income tax process. While Farm Bureau policy has supported the concept, no good method has been worked out so far.

These bills would put an extra burden on local government. For example, they would require "advanced property tax reduction forms" to be mailed to agricultural and residential property owners whose credit would exceed \$50. The completed forms would be returned to the local treasurers. Local government would receive \$1 for each eligible form for its costs. For that amount, the treasurer would have to prorate credits between summer and winter taxes, make reports to the state, explain the system to taxpayers, try to determine fraud, etc.

It was thought that front loading would be especially helpful to senior citizens, but local officials can presently defer property taxes until they receive their refund from the state.

Education — Educational issues will probably come to the forefront during the 1983 fall and 1984 sessions due to the recent release of a critical national study on education and results of a recent state survey.

The National Commission on Excellence in Education in its report, "A Nation at Risk," has found a serious decline of educational standards in this country. The United States is

(continued on page 33)



EDUCATION

QUALITY AND FINANCING

*An interview with Phillip Runkel,
Michigan Superintendent of Schools*

By Connie Turbin

Phillip Runkel, Michigan superintendent of schools, said our schools can look forward to better financial times in 1983-84, but he cautioned those attending the MFB Policy Development Conference, Aug. 17 in Lansing, that "there are still plenty of needs out there."

Runkel, who conducted a workshop on education quality and

financing, summarized the challenges facing Michigan's education system in this interview for the *Michigan Farm News Rural Living* magazine.

The financial picture for Michigan schools in recent years has been very discouraging. How will K-12 education in Michigan fare in this coming school year?

We are going to fare better than we have. With the tax increase voted by the Michigan Legislature, schools have received the largest increase ever in state funding. That will help. However, this increase only puts school funding back to the 1978 level, so there are still

needs out in the schools that are going to be pretty big.

The increase means relief from the difficult times schools have had in the past two or three years. In that budget crisis, there were a series of executive orders to cut spending. Schools really had to plan in a vacuum. Many times they didn't know if they were going to get their state aid check. In fact, we spent a considerable amount of time just assuring that people would get paid.

The real penalty of budget cuts is in programs. Will the increased funding automatically mean the restoration of these programs in schools?

There were a lot of program cuts; and you will find restoration of programs this year, but it will be appropriate to consider, too, a series of education studies that have been conducted recently. Among those are "The Nation at Risk" by the National Commission on Excellence, and the study of the Michigan Education Commission, "Action of Excellence." Schools and the quality of education are going to be on the front page and will be a major political issue.

In Michigan, we had started to address these problems in schools long before "The Nation at Risk" report was released. We have established a Michigan High School Commission, comprised of people from all walks of life, including legislators and business people. Basically, the commission is charged with looking at Michigan high schools and making recommendations for the future. For example, we have a group working on technology and computer instruction, and a group working on science and math.

The Department of Education is working with 60 school districts in a pilot program on standards of quality. In addi-

tion, we have suggested that every school establish a School Improvement Committee to review and make recommendations to improve the schools.

It is important to remember that Michigan schools have been among the best in the country. Historically, Michigan students have scored well on national tests, i.e., above the national average in almost every category. Scores from the state assessment tests have gone up over a 10-year base and, in the last two years, scores have improved in every category even though the financing hasn't been there.

This background is encouraging, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be rolling up our sleeves because we are preparing students today to live in a different kind of world. We need to look at how best to prepare these young people for that world.

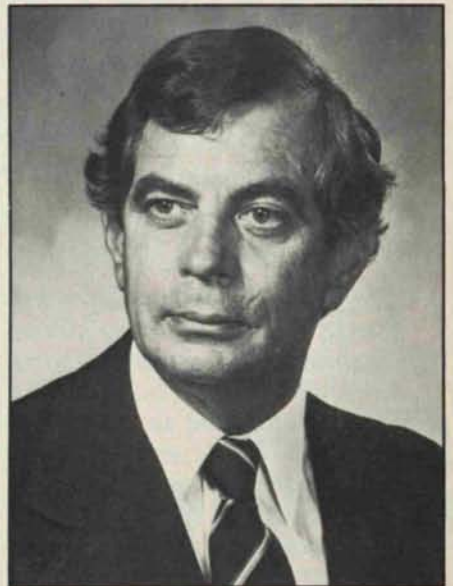
From the studies conducted nationally and in our own state, are you able to identify characteristics of a successful school district?

Yes, in fact, we have identified five successful high schools and five middle and junior high schools in Michigan for study and evaluation. Four of the high schools were selected for national recognition. Two of them are in rural areas of Michigan — Sturgis and Roscommon. Two are in suburban areas — Grosse Pointe and Bloomfield Hills. The fifth school selected is West Ottawa Middle School.

There are measurements to use when evaluating a school district: management of the school district, program delivery, educational outcomes, use of resources, and ability to communicate with the constituents they serve.

What would you say are the greatest challenges in the next five years for the state's K-12 system?

First of all, we have a changing society that will require changes or alterations in our educational goals. Second, the number of homes in our society with school age children has been decreasing and is now down to about 27% of the population. This means that schools are going to have to do a better job of communicating what their mission is and how they hope to work with the community, not just parents. The community will need to understand that schools are important for everyone: senior citizens, farmers and businessmen.



PHILLIP RUNKEL

We will need to continually look at programs and how we are preparing people for the future. Students need a good general education so they can read and compute. But students are going to need a broader outlook and familiarity with the new tools of the workplace, such as the computer.

(continued on page 30)

A Look Back Gives Important Lessons for Today's Farm Bureau



By Donna Wilber

The Michigan Legislature was having acute indigestion over economic ills; Congress was busy "fixing" the farm program; some farmers were on the verge of bankruptcy, others were cutting back on production in an effort to curb declining farm prices.

Farm Bureau fought to save the Agricultural Marketing Act, provided its plan to Congress for solving the problem of low farm incomes, and took a strong position on state tax issues.

There was a migration of the population from cities to rural areas and 926 persons out of every 1,000 suffered from the common cold at least once a year.

1983? No, 50 years ago — 1933, as recorded in the *Michigan Farm News*, the official publication of the then-struggling Michigan State Farm Bureau.

Other than a filler item that pointed out that the United States had one bathtub for every 6.3 persons and one automobile for every 4.5 persons, advice to farmers to store four tons of ice to cool milk for a cow that gives 8,500 lbs. of milk and 2½ tons for a cow that gives 5,000 lbs. of milk, and an article that told of farmers paying \$25.50 sales tax on a \$850 tractor — the dateline could have been 1983. The problems of farmers and the activities of Farm Bureau to protect the interests of farmers in 1933 closely parallel those of half a century later.

The publication also records one other major difference between 1933 and 1983 and, in the opinion of current Farm Bureau national and state leadership and the staffs of the organization, it's a difference that is cause for concern.

"500 Attend Calhoun County Annual" (today, county FB leadership struggles for a small percentage of their membership at county annuals). "Ionia Bureau Goes After Hides of 3 County Officers — Ask Grand Jury Probe" (today, the lack of "gutsy" county resolutions frustrates leadership). "34,749 Attend Farm Mutual's Picture Shows" (today, farmers are "too busy" to attend organizational meetings). "Skiis Three Miles to Attend Meeting" (today, weather is as good an excuse as being too busy).

Headlines such as those are scarce in 1983. Farmers' integration into society's mainstream has required Farm Bureau members to make priority decisions. Should I attend my county annual or bowl on my league team? Should I attend the policy development meeting or watch my kid in the Little League finals? Should I attend my Community Action Group meeting or relax and watch TV? Tough choices — understandable decisions.

The organization's unique grassroots policy development/policy execution process has been impacted by those priority decisions and for awhile it seemed that the majority of members were satisfied to have the policies of the largest farm organization determined by the "faithful few" who were willing to invest time and effort following the tradition of Farm Bureau's founders and builders. Those who opted for other priorities had no grounds for complaint because the opportunities for farmer member input remained open and unaltered in spite of societal and organizational changes.

Leaders at all levels — county, state and national — were concerned but more or less accepted the situation as part of the price of changing times. The lack of member involvement in Farm Bureau, they rationalized, was no different than the problems faced by churches, schools, unions, local government and every other organization.

Lack of Organizational Discipline Recognized as Threat to Effectiveness

The present leadership of the American Farm Bureau Federation, President Robert Delano and Vice President Elton R. Smith, are a unique team. Delano is a cash crop farmer from Virginia; Smith is a dairy farmer from Michigan. There are few similarities in their statures or their deliveries. But their one common characteristic is a firm conviction that if Farm Bureau is to maintain its power and influence as the voice of agriculture, broad member involvement in the organization's policy development/policy execution process is imperative.

Others before them have shared this belief and concern, but this team has illustrated a fearlessness, an almost evangelistic commitment to try to

"I'm not saying dissension is wrong — obviously, we have provisions for it. I am saying that dissent is weakening and that it can be dangerous. When dissent continues to grow, it is a sign of serious problems within Farm Bureau."

shake the apathy out of the grassroots membership, that few of their predecessors have shown.

Delano, in a recent message to the council of state presidents, courageously laid the problem on the line when he said: "It has been disappointing that this year 12 states chose to dissent from established policy — all of them on crucial farm program issues. . . . Confusion within the farming community, along with our own Farm Bureau hesitation, has allowed national sentiment to build for government 'supply management' to curb runaway farm program costs.

"I am not saying dissension is wrong — obviously, we have provisions for it. I am saying that dissent is weakening and that it can be dangerous. When dissent continues to grow, it is a sign of serious problems within Farm Bureau," Delano said.

"We need to examine what is happening. What is the message

that dissent from Farm Bureau policy sends us? What does it say about our policy development process? What does it say about state Farm Bureau leadership? What is the state of policy development in most counties?

"When policy is developed in the counties, debated and shaped by the states at the American annual meeting, it becomes a united policy that requires and deserves full, united support. . . . Only by united action can Farm Bureau remain a powerful force in American agriculture."

Smith, whether he's talking to a single farm family at their kitchen table or speaking before several hundred farmers during his numerous public appearances, spreads the same gospel.

Adding fuel to their fires of concern has been the current dairy price support issue. It was an issue that received more attention and discussion during the PD process than any other single topic. The end result was a policy that, by its adoption, would receive the full support of leaders and membership, if, indeed, Farm Bureau displayed the organizational discipline that is vital to any effective organization.

The PD process worked — but something happened to the PX process. Members, even leaders, were hesitant to "speak up and be counted" for the adopted policy whether it was during a one-on-one interaction at the local coffee shop or in contacts with members of Congress.

Delano and Smith are dedicated to the concept which has been the foundation of the organization since its birth in 1919: farmer-developed and adopted policies are the policies of the organization until they are changed by delegate action and deserve unflinching, unwavering support regardless of

State PD Meeting Offers Forum for Discussion



WATER RIGHTS: Al Almy, Director, MFB Public Affairs



EDC FUNDING: Wayne Workman, Allen Consultants, Inc.



EDUCATION: Phillip Runkel, Michigan Superintendent of Schools

Nearly 200 state and local Farm Bureau leaders gathered at Long's Convention Center in Lansing, Aug. 17, for the annual kick-off meeting of the MFB policy development process. During the day-long session, the participants had the opportunity to hear and question resource persons knowledgeable in probable issues facing agriculture.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Lynn Harvey, Extension Agricultural Agent for Public Policy



DAIRY PROGRAM: Mike Kovacic, MFB Commodity Specialist

short-term personal financial sacrifices. The answer, they believe, is not to waver from policy, but to develop a broader base of member involvement in setting that policy.

Lack of Member Support Devastating to Lobbying Efforts

Subsequently, Farm Bureau's paid professional staff and its volunteer leadership are impacted by the direction, concerns and priorities of its top leadership. If that leadership doesn't set a high priority on broad member involvement, neither will its staff or volunteers.

The fearless approach of DeLano and Smith to recognize and address the potential threat to the organization has been welcomed by both of these support systems. While there is no doubt that Farm Bureau is recognized as the voice of agriculture in public, political and legislative arenas, the concern to broaden the base of member involvement to assure that the organization's policies truly reflect the thinking of grassroots membership is sufficient to make it a top priority.

Al Almy, director of Michigan Farm Bureau's Public Affairs Division, who annually labors to gain member participation in county, district and state policy development/policy execution activities, says that members should look at these opportunities as a way to protect their investments.

"All organizations that develop policies have ways to gain input from their members, but our organization goes further than any other to provide opportunities for this input. We spend a lot of money to gain that input to develop policy and then if members don't support it, it's not a good investment on their part," he said.

"It makes us look awkward, in the eyes of politicians, when we have a policy that's adopted by our members and the time comes to implement that policy. The staff persons or elected leadership go to a legislator and say, 'this is our policy which we support,' and at the very same time, that legislator is hearing from members saying, 'that's not what we want.'"

"It's a devastating situation, not only to the organization, but to the morale of the leaders and staff because it causes questions regarding our credibility. That legislator is likely to ask, 'is this really the way my farmer constituents back home feel, or not?'"

The uncertainty of whether Farm Bureau's policies do reflect the thinking of the majority of farmers not only casts questions on the credibility of the organization, Almy believes, it also makes responsiveness on the part of legislators to a united voice of agriculture more difficult.

Counties Set Priority on Increased Attendance at Annual Meetings

The concern of top leadership for increased member involvement is shared by the organization's field staff, who have the most frequent contact with county leaders. The 12-member staff recently tagged increased attendance at county annuals as a top priority and brainstormed on ideas to gain that vital involvement in the PD process.

One county that recognized its responsibility in assuring that policies of the nation's largest farm organization truly reflect the thinking of its grassroots members is Gratiot. By the time this publication is in the mail, county leadership

will know whether their efforts to attract attendance with a new time and format were effective.



**DOUG KOSTAL, PRESIDENT
GRATIOT COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

On Saturday, Aug. 27, at the fairgrounds in Alma, the Gratiot County Farm Bureau annual meeting started off with a 6 p.m. hog roast, followed by the business meeting, and then an outdoor (if weather cooperated) dance. Moving the date up before harvest, according to President Doug Kostal, "eliminates one more excuse for people not to attend."

Kostal believes that it's not so much a matter of farmers not realizing the importance of attending their county annual as the fact that they've simply gotten out of the habit.

"We've become so involved in so many things and it seems that other things have taken a higher priority over the county annual. They know it's important, so we're working to get them back into the habit of attending. We changed our time and our format so it's not going to be just 'another meeting,'" he said.

Adding to the competition created by a change in farm
(continued on page 27)

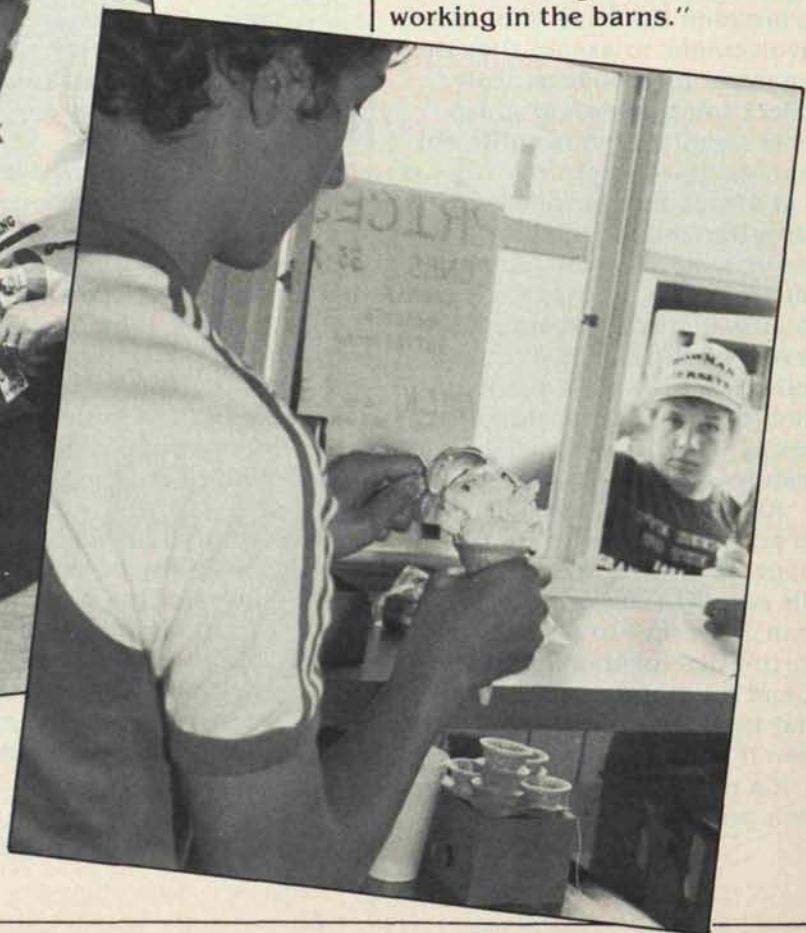


'Real' Bargains Boost Jackson County Fair Dairy Promotion

By Cathy J. Kirvan

Fairgoers were offered a "real" bargain at a new booth at the Jackson County Fair, held Aug. 7-13 in Jackson. For just 35 cents, they could purchase a 16-ounce glass of milk

and two cookies, or an ice cream cone, from the Jackson County Real Dairy Promotion Association.

"Some of the people were surprised at the price. They thought it was a good value compared to what restaurants charge," said a dairy farmer who worked in the booth. "Many customers said they were pleased to see milk for sale at the fair, instead of more junk food. We sold a lot of milk in the morning to the kids working in the barns."



The "Magic Cow," a Real Seal ride promotion and a cold, plentiful supply of fresh milk and ice cream attracted many Jackson County fairgoers to the dairy parlor exhibits.

Adjacent to the dairy booth, fairgoers could watch as exhibitors' cows were milked in a Surge parlor. Local farmers explained that the milk was picked up by a nearby dairy every other day and returned to the booth in the form of the "Real" ice cream many who gathered were enjoying.

"The milking parlor shows consumers how clean the process of milking is," said Bill Bivens, Jackson County Extension agent. "They see the pipelines and realize that milk is never touched by human hands. They get a good impression of how their milk is produced."

The association also sponsored a buffalo chip throwing contest between local politicians and media, and offered two-for-one midway ride tickets to people who brought a "Real" seal from a dairy product. Free cheese samples and literature were given away, and the group sold dairy cookbooks and t-shirts proclaiming: "Milk is like kissing — it's real good."

Extension Agent Bivens was a guiding force behind the formation of the new dairy association. "The idea for the 'Real' Dairy Promotion Association surfaced a couple years ago," he said, "but it didn't get off the ground until last spring when the county fair board indicated an interest in having a milking demonstration parlor on the fairgrounds — if area dairy farmers were interested."

Four families attended the first meeting and agreed to support the concept. After that, attendance just about doubled at every meeting, Bivens said.

"One of the things that has been extremely pleasing from my perspective is the way that we've been able to cross over between the different milk groups. We've got Independent Milk Producers, Michigan Milk Producers and the producers who ship to Ohio involved in the association," he said.



An operating milking parlor in the fairgrounds' dairy building gave visitors the opportunity to see how modern milking procedures help assure the consumer of safe and wholesome dairy products.

"Farmers from all over the county have rallied behind it and we had about 140 families work in the booth during the fair."

The association's main project has been building the dairy produce concession stand and milking demonstration parlor. The county fair board paid for the majority of the construction costs, and companies that offered materials or services at a discount received special recognition during the fair. The association also sought contributions to a one-time "start up" fund.

"We went to the basic dairy groups and asked for support," Bivens said. "They all gave us donations, as did many other ag related associations and businesses, including the Jackson County Farm Bureau.

"Without the support of the fair board and the ag associations, it would have been at least a five year job to raise construction funds," he said. "By that time, it may never have gotten off the ground because of people losing interest."

As a spin-off of the Real Dairy Promotion Association, a tax exempt Dairy Commemorative Fund was established to help finance this and future projects.

The first donation to the fund came from Neal Sanford, his wife Janis and his mother, as a tribute to his father, an active dairy farmer who died earlier this year. Sanford is president of the Jackson County Farm Bureau and has been involved in the formation of the Real Dairy Association nearly from the beginning.

"I believe that we, as dairy farmers, have got to promote our product to the consumer and educate them about the product. To do that, we're going to have to get involved at the local level," Sanford said. "There is no better way of selling a product than one-on-one, and at the fair we're able to do that."

Sanford speaks from experience. Last March over 10,000 ice cream cones were sold during Jackson County Farm Bureau's Rural Urban Days at the Westwood Mall in Jackson. That event promotes all commodities produced in the area.

Gasohol outlets from Acme to Zilwaukee are now listed in a free booklet available from the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The town by town guide tells where you can purchase the "fuel from farms." To receive the booklet, write the MDA Marketing Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, Mich. 48909, or call 517-373-1054.

AFBF President Robert Delano recently sent a telegram to producers of the ABC Nightline program to protest the "outrageously one-sided" presentation of the migrant farm labor problem on Ted Koppel's Nightline of Aug. 4. Delano requested the opportunity for rebuttal to what he termed "loose and inflammatory references to 'slavery' and the absence of any sense of program balance." He also objected that no acknowledgement was made of the fact that Florida farm workers, the focus of the Nightline segment, average well above the national minimum hourly wage, are covered by workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, stringent child labor restrictions, and state and federal farm labor contractor regulations.

Testing of gasoline for lead and alcohol content is underway throughout Michigan in a cooperative effort of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Attorney General's Office and Treasury Department. The project was launched after complaints that some service stations were substituting leaded gasoline for the higher-priced unleaded gas and others were distributing gasoline with illegal quantities of alcohol. Consumers who suspect they have received leaded gas when they paid for unleaded gasoline, or gasoline containing illegal quantities of alcohol, are asked to contact a regional office of the MDA in Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Traverse City, Benton Harbor or Escanaba.

The right to water and the right to farm are major agricultural issues that are receiving attention throughout the Midwest Farm Bureau organizations, says MFB Senior Legislative Counsel Robert Smith. Smith, who recently attended the annual Farm Bureau Midwest Legislative Conference, said soil conservation, taxation, transportation and school finance were also discussed. He observed that Michigan's diverse agriculture requires Michigan farmers and their organization to deal with many more agricultural issues than farmers in other states.

Several county Young Farmer committees have held county Discussion Meet contests, and the district meets began in late August. The top three contenders from each district contest will compete for the state title during the MFB annual meeting. The state winner will represent Michigan in the national contest to be held at the AFBF annual meeting in Orlando in January.

Topics for this year's series of contests from the county to the national level are:

- Subsidies — Ammunition for a trade war?
- How does the supply of credit affect the farming community and what will be the source of this credit in the future?
- How can Farm Bureau, as a general farm organization, ensure farmer input into farmer programs without creating division along commodity lines?
- Political action committees have proven beneficial to many special interest groups — are farm PACs a threat to our effectiveness as a bipartisan voice for agriculture?

Following are the dates and locations for some district meets. Check with Young Farmer leaders in your area for details.

District 1 — Sept. 21, 7 p.m., DiJandos', Hartford

District 2 — Sept. 8, 7 p.m., True Grist, Homer

District 3 — Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m., Marriott (Plymouth Road and U.S. 23)

District 4 — Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m., Middle Villa Restaurant, Middleville

District 5 — Sept. 13 (tentative)

District 6 — Aug. 31, 7 p.m., Colony House, Cass City

District 7 — Oct. 12, Captain's Table, Shelby

District 8 — Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m., Heritage House, Chesaning

District 9 — Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m., Jaxon Creek Inn, Kingsley

District 10 — Sept. 27, 7 p.m., Big Boy, Gaylord

District 11 — None scheduled

Blessings From Above

Your story on Lynde Smith (June 1983) was great! And to be honest, it helps to have a great subject. God was certainly looking out for the Michigan Farm Bureau family when he gave us Elton and Lynde!

Dan Reed
Paradise

(Editor's Note: Dan Reed, who has made his retirement home in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, was associated with the Michigan Farm Bureau from 1942 to 1972, serving eighteen of those years as legislative counsel and six years as administrative secretary.)

Long Distance Rural Living

I enjoyed so much the "Taste O' Michigan" feature in last month's *Rural Living*, which had the picture of our foreign exchange student, Marcia Camargo of Brazil, in it. I will be mailing a copy of the magazine to her shortly as she was leaving the week the picture was taken.

I know she will enjoy showing

her family and friends something like this which shows what rural living is all about in the United States. Being from Brazil, in the heart of the "big city," she enjoyed "farm living," and the things that we accept as commonplace.

Gloria Dudley
Howell

An Agricultural Fair

Thanks to dedicated volunteers and staff, the Michigan State Fair is an annual success, drawing nearly 400,000 visitors to the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit.

As a four-year member of the State Fair Advisory Council, I have had the opportunity to participate in this challenging and rewarding effort. I can say confidently that our state fair, the oldest in the nation, still retains its character as an agricultural fair.

Exhibits and activities such as the Amazing Acre, the Livestock Auction and the Michigan State Fair Blue Ribbon competitions continue to draw farm

families from throughout the state.

The Michigan State Fair is also a major attraction for the state's many, many non-farm residents and visitors. For many of these fairgoers, the agricultural exhibitions are their only direct contact with Michigan producers and agricultural interests. It is, therefore, a tremendous public relations effort for Michigan agriculture.

I thank you for your support and promotion of the Michigan State Fair in the *Michigan Farm News Rural Living* magazine, and know that we can look forward to your continued support in the coming years.

Polly Diehl
Dansville

If you have a question or opinion that you would like to share with Michigan Farm Bureau members in Rural Living magazine, send it to: Letters to Rural Living, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. We retain the right to edit letters for length.

FARMERS OF THE WEEK

The Farmer of the Week program, co-sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group and the Michigan Farm Radio Network, honors Michigan farmers for their contributions to the community and the agriculture industry. Four farmers were honored in July 1983:

July 4 — Daniel Parrott, 32, a dairy and cash crop farmer from Battle Creek, farms 700 acres in a partnership. He is Calhoun County DHIA president; a member and past officer of the Calhoun County FB; a member of the Michigan Holstein Association; a past member of the MSU livestock judging team; and he and his wife were named Outstanding Young Dairy Couple by the MMPA.

July 11 — Alvin Gaertner, 72, operates a 155-acre grain (and formerly livestock) farm near Dundee. He served as an officer and held many leadership positions in the East Ida Lutheran Church; is active in the Monroe County FB and served nine years on the county FB board; is manager of the county FB membership campaign; and has been a member of the Barber Shop Chorus for the past 12 years.

July 18 — Joyce Barr, 51, the mother of six, farms 500 acres and milks 85 cows with her husband, George, near Cheboygan. She is township clerk; chairperson of the Cheboygan County FB Women's Com-

mittee; a member of the hospital auxiliary; a past president of her church's women's committee; a past president of the school PTA; and also served as a 4-H leader and Cub Scout leader.

July 25 — Arthur Schindler, 61, is a dairy farmer from Gladwin, where he farms 320 acres and milks 60 cows with his sons. He is an ASCS committeeman and recently received a 20-year award for his ASCS service; a Gladwin County FB board member and past county FB membership campaign manager; a member and past director of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative; and a member of the Round Lake Baptist Church.



Contest Recognizes Land's Natural Beauty

By Faye Postma, Editor
Chippewa County Farm Bureau

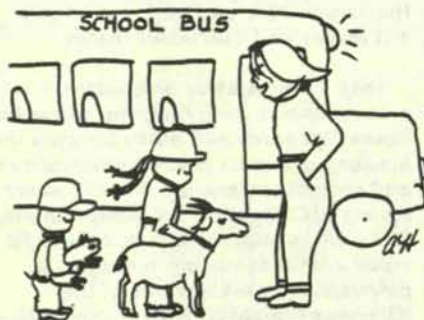
The Chippewa County Farm Bureau was a key promoter of the first "Prettiest Place in the Country" contest, held this summer.

This new project was recently planned and announced in local newspapers so that the winner could be announced at the annual 4-H & FFA Fair in Kinross on Labor Day.

Awards included a special pass to events at the fair for the winning family, a framed, color photograph of the winning farmstead and a cash award and goods donated by Farm Bureau and area agribusinesses.

FARMETTE

By Andrea Hofmeister
Tuscola County Farm Bureau



"But they might not have show 'n tell the first day of school, and besides...."

The Busy Summer May be Over — But There's Still a Busy Fall Ahead

By Tom Guthrie, President
Barry County Farm Bureau

As I write this, my kids just reminded me that school starts again in about a month. "What?" I said, "it seems you have only been out for a couple of weeks." Look at all the hay and straw we have put away, they said, and the week at the fair, and the barns we have cleaned, and all the other stuff you have had us do.

Remembering these things makes me realize that another summer is flying by fast.

These things also remind me of how busy we make ourselves during the summer and how many things we may neglect in order to accomplish another field of haying. I am thinking of the commodity markets and how wild they were in late July and early August. If you feel that Farm Bureau's AgriCom computer program could help you in many areas during your busy times, I encourage you to look into it.

Busy times also bring on more farm accidents. Hopefully, working with our county Extension personnel, we will be able to plan an Ag Accident Rescue Seminar in the near future in order to increase emergency personnels' effectiveness in handling the hazards and unique rescue situations of farm accidents.

We have just completed the Safemark tillage and sickle bar parts order for July. This program offers substantial savings on many products to Farm Bureau members.

Just another reminder to contact your county secretary or Safemark dealer regarding any of your Safemark tire and battery needs.

I would also like to mention the policy development process taking place from now through county annual meetings. Get in touch with your county Policy Development Committee or your county secretary — let them know your concerns.

I've just mentioned a few of the ways that Farm Bureau may be of help to you, but in order to make it even better, let your county leaders

know your ideas and concerns. hope many of you visited Ag Expo this year and the Farm Bureau booth to see the many programs Farm Bureau has.

Here's hoping all of you had a very happy and safe summer even during the dry and tiring times.

You Know You're a Good Gardner When:



- You take pictures of your vegetables and send them to seed catalog companies.

- You mow around your garden so everyone can see what's growing in it.

- Your 15-year-old doesn't know what a tomato worm looks like.

- You haven't eaten all of 1981's green beans when you start canning 1983's.

- If it doesn't rain you'll spend \$20 to pump water so you get \$15 worth of more produce.

- At the county fair you note the blue ribbon produce would be put to shame by yours but you were too busy digging, picking, sorting, pickling, canning and freezing it to enter anything!

— By Myra Hand, Editor
Cheboygan County FB Newsletter

National Farm Safety Week
September 18-24, 1983

Westview Orchards Celebrates 170 Years

From the Macomb FB Newsletter

Westview Orchards, located on Van Dyke at 30 Mile Road, celebrated 170 years in business and completion of its new controlled atmosphere (CA) storage unit during an open house on Sunday, July 31. Over 750 metro area people enjoyed the sunshine and the fun. It was a double celebration — first, recognition as Michigan's oldest centennial farm, and second, introduction of the new CA storage facility.

The CA storage was an idea and dream of the late Armand Bowerman, fifth generation of the Bowerman family at Westview Orchards. Controlled atmosphere is a process where apples are "put to sleep" for several months after harvest. When the fruit is "awakened" it retains that fresh picked flavor and crispness.

The festivities were hosted by Katherine Bowerman Roy, fifth generation, and her daughters, Abbey Roy, who is farm manager, and

Katrina Roy, sixth generation of the Michael Bowerman family.

Activities included a walking tour of the centennial family memorabilia including family photos, a wood burning stove, 19th century blouses and kerosene lamps, as well as old farm equipment. During hayrides through the orchards people learned about the heritage of the Bowerman (which means orchardist in German) family. The tour featured an apple picking demonstration and a walking tour through grading and storage facilities, including the CA storage.

Apple refreshments, including cider, caramel apples, applesauce cakes and apple streudel ice cream were served. Souvenir balloons, key rings and pens were also distributed.

It is clear that the Michael Bowerman heritage will continue and their motto, "Everything we sell, we grow," will be remembered by those who enjoyed the Bowerman's hospitality.

Manistee FB Members

Enjoy Country Jamboree

*By Frances Shreve, Editor
Manistee County FB Newsletter*

Did you go to the Country Jamboree at the John Urka farm on July 30? If you missed it that is just too bad!

Over 150 people didn't miss it and were they glad!

The warehouse was beautifully decorated with bales of hay and pallet boxes. Some of the pallet boxes were used as shadow boxes and contained planters of wild flowers. There was also a "lemonade stand" built of pallet boxes and manned by the Bob Schimke grandchildren.

Here and there were antique corn planters and other farm tools that were mingled with the wild flower planters. A pair of old work shoes filled with wild flowers were unique planters.



And there was food, food, food — all served from a chuck wagon covered with red and white checkered table cloths. Bill Brown had done his "thing" and that pig was roasted to perfection. Among the dessert items were a couple of watermelon boats.

People helped themselves and were seated at picnic tables covered with red and white table cloths.

After everyone could eat no more, there was square dancing. The Virginia Reel was requested by John Sedelmaier and was performed beautifully. Music was by Tim Joseph, Chris Ferrar and Claire Peterson. Wanda Joseph was the caller.

Guests were present from Kalkaska and Livingston counties as well as exchange students from Finland and France with their host families.

Thank God We Are Country Folks!

*By Eunice Dancer, Editor
Jackson County FB Newsletter*

Today as I look through my kitchen window, I am recalling a visitor we had on our farm in early May. A friend of our daughter's from Cleveland, Ohio, spent a weekend with us before he returned to his home for the summer, after his exams at Adrian College.

The closest he'd ever been to a farm was from a highway. To say the least — he was thrilled to ride on the tractor for a few rounds as Dwain planted corn.

He was awed by the fact that Anita had earned money for her first year at Adrian College by fitting and showing steers at the county fair. He thought they were very big and he was a little afraid of them, and really didn't appreciate the manure.

After dinner they walked down our gravel road and saw a few deer out in our field — a sight he had never seen. All in all, it was an exciting weekend for him. These were all brand new experiences for a

20-year-old.

After he left we were discussing his reactions and unfamiliarity with the farm. We realized there are millions more just like him, not knowing what it is like to walk down a gravel road, enjoy nature, etc.

A person needs a personal invitation to visit a farm, ride a tractor, etc. But, we on the farm can visit the city, drive down its streets, shop in its stores, attend the theater, etc., any time without a personal invitation, if we have the desire, time and money (a slight qualification) to do so. All we have to do is hop in the car, train, bus or airplane and go to the city, stay in a hotel, and enjoy.

How lucky we are! We can experience both worlds. When we get tired of the hustle, bustle, noise (especially the sirens) and exhaust fumes of the city, we can come home to the farm, with its occasional noise from a tractor or bawling cow, and breathe the clean, fresh air and thank God we are country folks.

LIVESTOCK

Sheep, C & S Curtis. Reg. Suffolks and Reg. Southdowns. Helping small flock owners and 4-H'ers our special interest. 204 N. Williams, Stockbridge, Mich. 517-851-7043 - 517-851-8017. (7-12-22p)

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

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

Suffolk sheep, 60 registered ewes. All or will divide. Allegan, 616-673-2573 or 616-673-6873. (8-21-13p)

Registered Suffolk rams - 2-year-old by Mainliner and Queen's daughter. 2 sons from 13 Carat and Queen's Diamond daughters. 517-655-3588. (9-21-21p)

Group of good, strong Holstein heifers. 15 grades and 2 reg. due Aug.-Oct. Out of AI breeding, bred to son of Elevation from Wayne dam with 21,000M 4.0% test. Some records up to 25,036M on dams. George Robb, Fowlerville, phone 517-223-9462. (9-39p)

Milking Shorthorns: Young bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Inglefield Farm, Route 2, 3248 Powell Hwy., Ionia, Mich. 48846. (4-6-12p)

LIVESTOCK

For Sale: fresh and springing Holstein heifers. Also service age Hampshire boars. Charlotte, 517-543-3415. (9-12p)

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

One Myers irrigation pump. 6x6, good condition. 20 pc. 30' - 4" pipe, 30 pc. 30' - 3" pipe. One New Idea cornpicker No. 10, phone 313-327-6316. (9-21-24p)

New Steel Special Sale: 15¢ per lb., new air compressor, ¾ hp oil-less with tank, plastic & steel 55 gallon barrels. Ida, Mich. 313-269-2868. Closed Saturday. (9-31-23p)

Spring Special - New Alumax hard hose irrigation traveler. 1,200 ft. of 3¼" ID hose - \$14,500. Allis Chalmers diesel pumping unit, complete. 500 GPM @ 140' - \$8,000. Manure pumps, agitators, pipe and irrigation travelers to pump manure directly from lagoon or pit to field. We also custom pump. We are Badger Northland Dealers. Plummer Supply, Bradley, MI. 1-800-632-7731. (9-56b-ts)

FARM EQUIPMENT

Antique tractors, some restored, JDs, McDeering, Fordson, A. Magsig, 8833 U.S. 27, DeWitt, Mich. 48820. (9-12p)

For Sale: Fox narrow three row corn-head. Charlotte, 517-543-3415. (9-11p)

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Quilt Show - Over 100 quilts, quilts and dolls for sale. Shepardsville Church - Oct. 14 and 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$1.50 admission. For more information phone 517-834-2895. (9-21-22p)

\$200 - \$400 weekly working at home. No experience. National company supplies all materials and paychecks. Fully guaranteed. For details and application, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Tobec, Route 1, Box 514, Carpenter, Miss. 39050. (7-31-35p-ts)

Probate Assistance. Probate by Mail. The attorneys at Michigan Probate Services, P.C., specialize in handling independent probate estates of all sizes through the mail. Computer assistance helps us help personal representatives. Probate Court supervision can be avoided and you, as personal representative, can remain in control. Call toll-free for rates if you have an estate to be probated. 800-521-8724. (7-61-48p-ts)

LEE Jeans, Factory outlet work clothes, shoes. Bargains on new shirts (low as \$5.95), jackets, boots, gloves, coveralls. Send \$1 for catalog. SARA GLOVE CO., 16 Cherry Ave., Dept. C-95, Waterbury, CT 06704. (8-51-33b-ts)

For Sale: Royal International, 35 ft. travel trailer with attached 10'x24' cabana, two utility buildings. Located north of Palmetto, Fla. Hwy. 41. Call 313-665-2777, Ann Arbor, Michigan. (8-21-25p)

For Rent: Modern cabins, canoes (river trips, boat rental). Mlawatha Forest, 15 miles south of Wetmore on H-13. Lols Murdock, owner, Star Route, Wetmore, Mich. 49895, 906-573-2301. (8-21-25p-ts)

Are you concerned about the quality of your drinking water? You should be. For free information send a self addressed stamped envelope to: Water Information, P.O. Box 75, Clio, Mich. 48420. We are not promoting a water softener unit. (9-21-37p)

Why Die Without a Will? Two legal "will forms" and easy instructions. Only \$4... Order Today! Guaranteed! TY-Company, Box 752-MF, Pryor, OK 74362. (8-61-22p-ts)

Wholesale Panty Hose, all sizes and colors. Fantastic savings - send self addressed stamped envelope and \$1.00 for catalog to: P. H. Wholesale, P.O. Box 75, Clio, Mich. 48420. (9-21-26p)

Satellite antenna dealers needed - no experience required - dealer cost for complete unit as low as \$747.00 - retail \$1,395.00 - call today! 303-636-0640. (9-21b-ts)

"See Through People 50 Ways" Stop deceivers! 50 protections! \$1. Newlife, Box 684-SQ, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. (9-61-16p-ts)

Christmas Trees. Wholesalers, 2,000 well sheared Norway Pine, 5' to 15' tall, ready to cut. Alba, Mich. 313-429-2392. (9-18p)

MISCELLANEOUS

Save \$400: Cookware, extra heavy 19 piece stainless steel sold through in-home demonstration at \$595. Now available direct only \$189.95. Only 100 sets from bankruptcy. Order now to avoid disappointment. 100% refund if returned within 10 days unused in original condition. Send check, money order, Visa or Mastercard number and expiration date. Yankee Trader, 4600 Stein Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105, \$1 for brochure. (7-61-65p-ts)

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

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. 56075. (9-20p-ts)

Now! Frozen Tomato Slices! Enjoy garden fresh flavor year round! Complete, easy instructions, \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56075. (9-20p-ts)

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

Free! Hawaiian toast recipe when you order delicious country french toast recipe. Send \$1.00 to Better Days, 135 San Jose Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110. (9-21-25p-ts)

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

Fantastic 3 week coleslaw! It's delicious, easy and lasts 3 weeks. Send \$1.00 to Better Days, 135 San Jose Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110. (9-21-24p-ts)

REAL ESTATE

Three bedroom modular manufactured in 1969 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. (7-31-39p)

Smoky Mountain riverside home for rent. Townsend, Tennessee, near Gatlinburg and Cades Cove. Pictures sent on request. \$50.00 night. Carl Morgan, 409 Lambert Lane, Maryville, Tenn. 37801. (6-41-27p-ts)

For Sale - 12x60 well kept mobile home on own tree shaded lot, 100x235, lake frontage in central Florida. Variety of citrus. For information write H. A. Bradshaw, 5833 Bradshaw Road, Ludington, Mich. 49431. (9-21-32p)

200 acre farm, large set of buildings - barn, granary, large heated shop, and a 13 room house. A creek runs through the pasture, and a very nice pond, good soil, woods. Phone Sand Lake, 616-636-4116. (9-21-35p)

Gulf Shores, Alabama "The Cove" condominium. One bedroom units, \$39,900. Two bedroom, \$57,800. Lagoon access, boat ramp, pier, pool, 90% financing! Baldwin Real Estate, 205-968-7582. (8-21-25p-ts)

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 _____

Buckham Family Honored as State Fair Exhibitors

"Seems to me, it's got to be the most fascinating thing on earth," says Fred Buckham, 54-year-old sheep farmer from Kalamazoo. "And anyone who's ever shown an animal or two knows what I'm talking about."

What he's talking about is the ability to look at a group of animals with a judge's eye, comparing faults and assets, to rank the animals according to their productive capabilities, picking out the cream of the crop, and listening to the judge's reasons for the actual placings. Fred began showing sheep through 4-H at the age of 10. He still does today and is often asked to judge at county fairs.

"Sheep are my life," Fred admits, even though his family's 800 acres of crops are probably the more lucrative end of the farming operation. Besides a herd of 600 sheep, they manage 400 head of feeder cattle, and an extra 700 acres for their neighbors.

Luckily, they have the manpower in the family to meet the demands of their business. Fred's twin brother, George, and his wife, Thelma, have a daughter, Gail, 31; and sons, George Jr., 26; Jeff, 23; and Brian, 15. George Jr. and his wife, Marsha, live on the main farm just outside of Kalamazoo on M-43. Jeff and his wife, Kathy, built a new home on the Buckhams' beef



Farm Bureau members Barbara & Fred Buckham and their daughter Marilyn make their home on an 800 acre farm in Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo County. The family raises 600 head of Suffolk and Shropshire sheep, and manage 400 head of feeder cattle.

operation near Schoolcraft. Fred, his wife, Barbara, and daughter, Marilyn, 15, occupy the original Schoolcraft farmhouse, a convenient arrangement for Barb and Marilyn, who take care of the steers.

The Buckhams have been farming in Oshtemo Township since 1871, when the twins' grandfather came over from Scotland. With \$700 and the experience of managing a large sheep estate behind him, he started the family business raising Shropshire. Today the Buckhams raise both Shropshire and Suffolk.

While Shropshire was the breed of the 1920s, 30s and 40s, it currently ranks as the fifth most popular sheep breed. Suffolk is the most popular breed today.

Fred compares his Shropshires to the Hereford breed in the beef circuit. Out West, a hardy animal was needed to survive the harsh winters. Today, however, the exotic cross-breeds have been found to be the most practical east of the Mississippi, for their daily gain and size. Likewise, Shropshire sheep can get fat on grass, but the Suffolk is the more prized meat animal.

Fred, George, George Jr. and Jeff make up the main work force. Besides seasonal planting, filling silo, haying and combining, their sheep add the extra chores of lambing and shearing.

The lambing season runs from January to late spring, a time to keep close track of their 300 ewes. The sheep often need assistance with their multiple births — it's easy for the lambs to get tangled up.

Another concern is the lamb/ewe ratio. "If you have more than two lambs to a ewe," Fred explains, "you always end up with one that doesn't do quite as well." So, the proper adjustments are made. One of the triplet lambs is taken from the ewe and given to a ewe with only one.

"Shearing sheep is a pain, but necessary," Fred says. "Wool is almost worthless now days. The cost of shearing a sheep nearly matches what you'll get for its wool." Fred says the shearing season lasts from December to April. It's generally done before lambing.

The Buckhams shear professionally for a five-county area. "However," Fred admits, "I didn't pick up the clippers this year." A recent bout with cancer kept him out of action. He still has to take things a little easy, but considers himself pretty lucky.

The Buckhams have shown at Michigan's State Fair since 1949. Their Shropshires have won them the Michigan Premier Breeder banner 28 times in the last 30 years. The Buckhams practice line breeding and haven't bought a Shropshire ram since 1969.

Until this year's State Fair Sheep Show, all the sheep were housed and shown upstairs in the coliseum (capacity for 1,000 sheep). This has been the arrangement for at least the last 70 years. However, this year the animals are being brought back to ground level in the new exhibit barn.

The Buckhams enter several other major shows, including the Illinois Spectacular and the Midwest Consignment Sales in Missouri. They also put on their

own sale on the last Saturday in April, in the hay barn. Fred says it takes them a week to get ready.

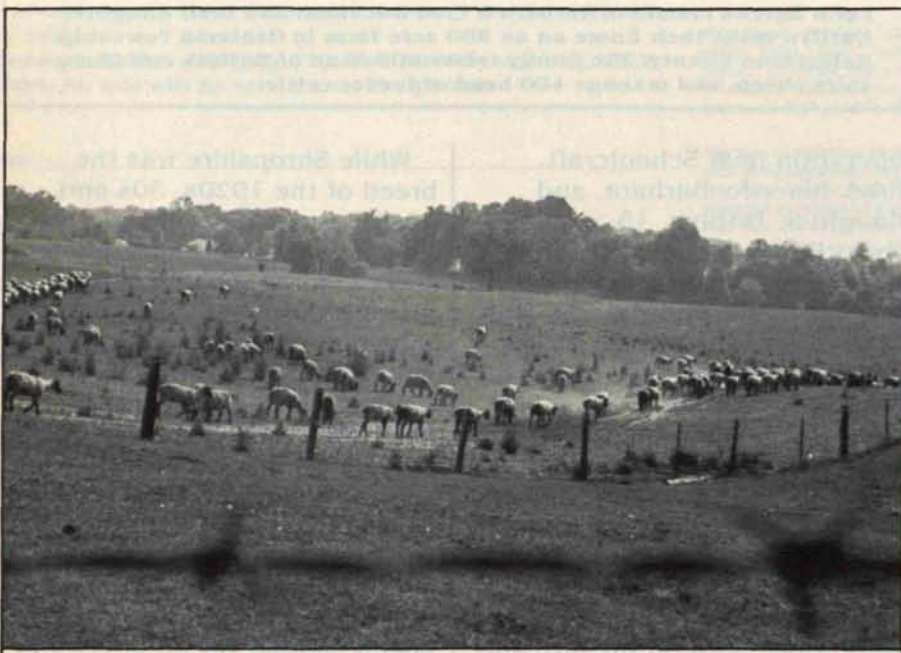
His wife clerks, his niece Gail checks the money, and the women's Extension group runs the food wagon. A little podium is built out of straw bales, and the rest of the family helps get the sheep ready. Everybody prays for bad weather. The Buckhams usually look for 180 buyers. This last spring it rained the two days before the sale and they had 345.

"More people eat lamb in this world than beef," Fred says. "We often have foreign students from the college (Western Michigan University) come over to purchase and butcher sheep right here on the farm. I guess the stomach of sheep is a delicacy that can't be bought at our supermarkets," he says with a grin.

Fred graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor of science degree in animal husbandry. He's a strong advocate of getting a college education. "The piece of paper has made some doors open for me, even when the schooling really didn't matter. People are impressed by a farmer who has a college degree."

One of those "doors" is the position of county road commissioner. "It is a great opportunity and I enjoy it. And you know, those years on the judging team at MSU, giving reasons, really helps me out today when I'm trying to argue a point."

Fred and his family were honored this year at the Michigan State Fair as long standing exhibitors of quality stock. Jeff and George Jr. constitute the fourth generation of sheep farmers. But maybe Fred says it best. He's been raising sheep "forever."



The Buckhams' Shropshire sheep have won them the Michigan Premier Breeder Banner 28 times in 30 years. Because the Buckhams line breed their herd, they haven't bought a Shropshire ram since 1969.

Safety of Farm Kids Stressed Sept. 18-24

By Luke Schafer

He was the joy of the farm. Only seven years old, he followed his dad around the barn and fields, asking questions, helping when he could, never far from his father's side.

Dad answered all the boy's questions, but there was one thing he forgot to tell him, and it cost the youngster an arm: don't go near the farm machinery when it's moving.

"Stressing safety rules on the farm can be of life-saving importance to young children and youth," says Ron Converse, a 12-year member and past president of the Michigan Rural Safety Council. "A farm child runs out the back door and is in a world of huge farm machinery, silos and bins, animals, chemicals, stock watering tanks, electrical equipment, and potential hazards of all kinds."

Because of concern for the safety of rural children, this year's National Farm Safety Week has the theme "Safeguard the Future — Protect, Educate Children." The Sept. 18-24 observance is co-sponsored by the National Safety Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with organizations like Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, and the Michigan Rural Safety Council supporting the observance in Michigan.



"Farm machinery is especially dangerous for children," says Converse, who serves as loss control manager for FBIG. "Nearly 80% of all farm accidents that happen to children

involve tractors overturning or passengers falling off. Teach your kids early that no extra riders are allowed."

In 1982, farm work accidents in the U.S. resulted in about 1,800 deaths and 180,000 serious or disabling injuries, according to the National Safety Council.

In Michigan, farm accidents kill about 100 people a year and result in disabling injuries for about 1,000 others, says Michigan State University's Howard Doss, Extension specialist in mechanization training and safety.

Children and young people on the farm account for about one out of every four agricultural accident victims.

"The Michigan Rural Safety Council has long stressed safety programs for Michigan farm youth," Converse says. "When young people learn safety habits early, they tend to follow them the rest of their lives. What can be more vital than protecting our children?"

Schools throughout rural Michigan participate in farm safety programs sponsored by the Michigan Rural Safety Council. These programs, conducted through vocational agricultural departments and Future Farmers of America chapters, cover
(continued on page 31)



Ground breaking ceremonies for new facilities at the Kellogg Biological Station at Gull Lake took place in late July. Bob Kramer, representative of the Kellogg Foundation, which is funding the expansion, joined MSU Trustee Barbara Sawyer, MSU President Cecil Mackey, Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean James Anderson and Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith to mark the occasion.

Kellogg Foundation and MSU Carry on Tradition of Cooperation

By Marcia Ditchie

Over a half century of cooperative effort between the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Michigan State University took another giant leap forward in late July with ground breaking ceremonies for two new facilities at the Kellogg Biological Station near Battle Creek.

The buildings, an academic facility and dairy management center, along with dormitories already under construction, are being funded by a \$10 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation. The ground breaking ceremonies for the new facilities,

held July 29, included officials from the MSU Board of Trustees, MSU President Cecil Mackey, W. K. Kellogg Foundation President Russell Mawby and agricultural and university representatives.

"This facility is part of the type of education, teaching, research and training that allows us to understand and deal with modern society," said Mackey. "It recognizes the fundamental nature of agriculture and the biological sciences.

"For more than 50 years, the Kellogg Foundation and MSU have been national and international leaders in developing

biological understanding at this site," Mackey said. "The symbolism of the ground breaking for these new facilities is much the same as the symbolism of our cooperative effort with the foundation. What exists here could not have taken place without MSU, the foresight of W. K. Kellogg and the participation and involvement of the directors, officers and staff of the Kellogg Foundation."

The Kellogg Foundation has been a long-time supporter of MSU in pioneering and developing many projects which have

benefited agriculture and Michigan.

"We need the results of efforts like this, just as we needed the results of other projects the Kellogg Foundation has supported with MSU," said Mackey. These projects have included development of the College of Human Medicine, promotion of the use of computers to get information to the agricultural community, and development of quality leadership among young farmers for the state's agriculture.

"All of those are similar to the pioneering efforts in biological research that this station represents. To be at the cutting edge of biological research at this time is vital to Michigan and its economic development," Mackey said.

Kellogg Foundation Established in 1930

In the mid 1920s, W. K. Kellogg built a summer home at the present site of the biological station at Gull Lake. A few years later he made the decision to dedicate all but 2½% of his 60% ownership of the Kellogg Company to public benefit by establishing the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in 1930.

Shortly after he moved into his summer home in 1926, Kellogg purchased an additional 1,000 acres in the vicinity of Gull Lake, which were eventually to be used for three agricultural-related projects in cooperation with MSU. Kellogg believed that much of the nation's welfare hinged upon the success of the farmer, and from this belief he spent about \$500,000 on the construction of the Kellogg Experimental Farm, which he later gave to MSU.

Included in the acreage he purchased was almost a square

mile section of exhausted farmland which he also turned over to MSU with the request that the university attempt to return it to useful land. From this reforestation project, the Kellogg Forest was developed as a monument to the fact that badly eroded land can once again be made productive.



W. K. KELLOGG

In addition, 180 acres of the land he purchased was used to establish the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary for waterfowl, and a center for wildlife research.

When Kellogg died in 1951, the trustees of the foundation donated his home and lakefront estate on Gull Lake to the Biological Station.

According to Russell Mawby, president of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Kellogg often commented that education offers the greatest opportunity for improving one generation over another and that he appreciated the natural resources and conservation. In 1953, two years after Kellogg's death, the foundation created a new agriculture division to study and assist in the improvement of agriculture.

"He was concerned with agriculture, and the foundation still regards agriculture as the basic human enterprise," Mawby said. "In this Kellogg Biological Station, all of these interests — of the donor, of the foundation and of these resources — come together.

"We feel at the foundation, as do those at the university and those who are providing particular leadership in this endeavor, that in the biological sciences, we are at the threshold of exciting developments in the next decade and the decades to immediately follow. Our trustees made this a major factor in their commitment for the largest grant ever made by the Kellogg Foundation. They felt that this station could be a very important factor in keeping MSU and Michigan in the forefront in the biological sciences as we move into the future," Mawby said.

Research Will Look at Whole Agricultural System

Research at the facilities will focus on the integration of managed ecosystems in agriculture and the environment. The academic building will contain laboratories, offices, seminar rooms, a library and lecture theater. The dairy management center will house a Holstein milking herd. Seminar rooms and public viewing areas will be used to demonstrate the principles of dairy herd management.

According to James Anderson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, research at these new facilities will take a different direction than in the past.

"We have to be increasingly concerned about the future, the
(continued on page 32)

Weather Forecasts: Necessary Management Tool

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series on agricultural weather.)

An agricultural weather advisory should provide farmers with interpreted weather information that can enable them to make better on-farm weather related decisions and thereby increase profits by reducing losses and/or increasing yields. It should be viewed as a viable farm management tool.

Michigan farmers are fortunate because, through the agricultural weather advisories provided jointly by Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Agriculture, they are provided with information about the meaning of each forecast parameter, the degree of accuracy of each parameter and how they relate to the actual on-farm conditions. An interdisciplinary group of meteorologists and agriculturists is required and has been provided through the National Weather Service.

Examples of the day-to-day weather parameters included in these agricultural weather forecasts and advisories include expected heat/cold stress severity for livestock and poultry; frost/freezing warnings for crops; soil temperatures for seed germination and planting date decisions; precipitation probabilities for pesticide and fertilizer applications and irrigation scheduling; wind speed and direction for spray operations; and temperatures and humidities for disease management.

These topics will emanate from the agricultural weather forecast and from a knowledge of currently on-going field operations and crop status, as gained from agricultural experts for specific crops and livestock.

The agency (either private or public) providing the advisory must simultaneously provide an educational component to help growers understand how to best use the advisory information. The educational component is particularly critical in dealing with farmers and dealing with these weather forecasts and agricultural advisories.

The structure of the Cooperative Extension Service is well suited to carry out this aspect and certainly their educational mission can easily incorporate such a project. In addition, new communication systems reaching farmers are being developed and the incorporation of agricultural weather education material is important.

There are several ways that farmers may receive weather information. The alternatives range from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio broadcast network to an on-demand retrieval system where subscribers to Michigan Farm Bureau's AgriCom program, using their own on-farm computers, access the weather forecasts and the agricultural advisory as a menu item. Between these two extremes exist such methods as audio taped products accessed by phone, cable television systems, mail, news-

papers and weekly, biweekly and even monthly publications.

Summary

Based on the total agricultural weather advisory system, a general plan is being developed to better serve farmers and others in the agricultural industry.

As recommended in last month's Agrinomic Update, Congress should mandate a commitment of resources by USDA, the U.S. Department of Commerce (which oversees the National Weather Service) and state Cooperative Extension Services. That is essential to accomplish the enhancement and expansion of an agricultural weather advisory system as a national priority.

The completion of this network and the continued funding of the agricultural weather services in federal and state budgets is important for maintaining weather stations and restoring agricultural services. It is also vital for maintaining a fruit frost program and agricultural weather advisories to provide our industry with a weather service that will not only benefit growers, but also consumers.



Lessons From Past

(continued from page 13)

family lifestyles, Kostal believes, is today's availability of information.

"There was a time when attending Farm Bureau meetings was one of the few ways members could keep up-to-date on legislation and political activities. Now we have TV, newsletters and newspapers to keep us informed. That's one of the reasons our community groups have had such a struggle," he said.

"We feel that every farmer member should take part in the policy development process and in electing the board. If they are not involved in the policy process, the policies which are adopted will not give a true representation of the membership's views. And if they don't support those policies, policy execution just won't take place."

The success of Gratiot's Young Farmer Committee annual winter dance for the past six years gave impetus to the idea of having a dance at this year's annual meeting.

"It's one way we think we can attract the young farmers. If they enjoy themselves while finding out what the organization is all about, then we can get them involved. The policies that are adopted will impact on them and they should be involved in the process. They're the ones we'll be looking to in the future," Kostal said.

Whether the all-out effort to increase member participation in the policy development process is successful remains to be seen. Leaders are hoping that more members will realize that Farm Bureau is needed today more than ever before — philosophically and economically, but it has no power except what members, as individuals, put into it.

1983 County Annual Meetings

County	Date	Time	Place
Alcona	Oct. 17	7 p.m.	Mikado Twp. Hall
Allegan	Oct. 27	8 p.m.	Griswold Auditorium, Allegan
Alpena	Oct. 13		
Antrim	Oct. 12		Ellsworth Town Hall
Arenac	Oct. 10		
Barry	Oct. 6	7 p.m.	Moose Lodge, Hastings
Bay	Sept. 20	6:30 p.m.	Merritt Twp. Hall
Benzie	Oct. 10	6:30 p.m.	Blaine Christian Church
Berrien	Oct. 26	7 p.m.	Youth Memorial Bldg.
Branch	Sept. 19	7 p.m.	Career Center, Coldwater
Calhoun	Oct. 4	7 p.m.	B. E. Henry Bldg., Marshall
Cass	Oct. 11	6:30 p.m.	Cassopolis High School
Charlevoix	Oct. 5		Whiting Park, Boyne City
Cheboygan	Oct. 18		Wesleyan Twp. Hall, Cheboygan
Chippewa	Oct. 3	7 p.m.	Pickford Twp. Hall
Clare	Oct. 14	7 p.m.	Clare Elementary School
Clinton	Oct. 11	7 p.m.	St. Johns High School Cafeteria
Copper Country	Oct. 15	8 p.m.	Ottawa Sportsman's Club, Pelkie
Eaton	Oct. 29	7:30 p.m.	Kirk Center, Olivet College
Emmet	Oct. 6		4-H Center, Petoskey
Genesee	Oct. 18	7 p.m.	Mundy Twp. Hall, Rankin
Gladwin	Oct. 4		
Gratiot	Aug. 27	5:30 p.m.	Alma Fairgrounds
Hiawathaland	Oct. 25		Congregational Church, Rapid River
Hillsdale	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	4-H Building, Hillsdale
Huron	Sept. 29	6:45 p.m.	FB Center, Bad Axe
Ingham	Oct. 19	7 p.m.	PS Room, Mason Lanes, Mason
Ionia	Oct. 3	7 p.m.	A. A. Rather School, Ionia
Iosco	Oct. 20	7 p.m.	Hale Lutheran Church
Iron Range	Oct. 22	7 p.m.	Mansfield Town Hall, Sagola
Isabella	Oct. 15		
Jackson	Oct. 13	6:30 p.m.	Pete's Dining, Jackson
Kalamazoo	Oct. 18	7 p.m.	County Center Building
Kalkaska	Oct. 14		Carol's Hall
Kent	Oct. 10	6:30 p.m.	Meijer's, 4411 Plainfield, Grand Rapids
Lapeer	Oct. 6	6:45 p.m.	American Legion Hall, Lapeer
Lenawee	Sept. 27		Adrian College
Livingston	Oct. 27	7:30 p.m.	First United Methodist Church, Howell
Mac-Luce	Oct. 11	7:30 p.m.	Garfield Twp. Hall, Engadine
Macomb	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	St. Mary's Catholic Church, Armada
Manistee	Oct. 17		Farr Center, Onekama
Mason	Oct. 4	8 p.m.	Scottville Bank
Mecosta	Oct. 10	7:30 p.m.	Morley-Stanwood High School
Menominee	Oct. 13	7:30 CST.	Pullman House, Menominee
Midland	Oct. 18		Homer Twp. Hall, Midland
Missaukee			
Monroe	Sept. 13		4-H Building, County Fairgrounds
Montcalm	Oct. 26	8 p.m.	Central Montcalm Middle School
Montmorency	Oct. 27	7 p.m.	(tentative)
Muskegon	Oct. 11	7 p.m.	
Newaygo	Oct. 13	7:30 p.m.	Grant Wesleyan Church (tentative)
NW Mich.	Oct. 5	8 p.m.	Twin Lakes 4-H Camp
Oakland	Oct. 6		
Oceana	Oct. 17	7:30 p.m.	
Ogemaw	Oct. 21	7:30 p.m.	Horton Twp. Hall
Osceola	Oct. 18	8 p.m.	Marion Bank
Otsego	Oct. 25	6:45 p.m.	
Ottawa	Oct. 13	7 p.m.	Allendale Christian School
Presque Isle	Oct. 4	8 p.m.	Belknap Twp. Hall
Saginaw	Oct. 6	6 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall, Saginaw
St. Clair	Sept. 27	7 p.m.	Goodells Community Bldg.
St. Joseph	Oct. 10	7 p.m.	Centreville High School
Sanilac	Oct. 5	7:15 p.m.	Deckerville High School
Shiawassee	Oct. 10	7 p.m.	Dog & Gun Club, Corunna
Tuscola	Sept. 22	6:30 p.m.	Caro High School Cafeteria
Van Buren	Oct. 27	6:30 p.m.	Van Buren FB Office
Washtenaw	Sept. 29		Farm Council Grounds
Wayne	Oct. 11		
Wexford	Oct. 11		

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

Health Care Cost: Real Money, Real Problems, Real Solutions

The late Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois was famous for a wit that often cut to the heart of an issue. One Dirksen story involves a discussion of federal expenditures during which some of the senator's colleagues were casually tossing around figures in the million and billion dollar range. Dirksen listened for a while, and finally interrupted. "A billion dollars here, a billion dollars there," he said. "Pretty soon, you're talking about *real* money!"

Of course, the topic of the discussion was *real* money — a lot of it. Dirksen was pointing out that the other senators had apparently lost their perspective.

Americans sometimes do lose perspective. How many of us reacted in horror to news that the national debt had topped the trillion dollar mark? How many even bat an eye when informed a single army tank cost \$2.4 million? How many are troubled that America spends about 10% of its gross national product for health care?

It is not that Americans are totally unconcerned. Polls show that most of us believe health care costs too much. But, we attempt to shrug off statistics such as those that tell us we spent \$300 billion on health care in 1981 alone, and that health expenditures will top \$820 billion a year by 1990, a figure not too far from today's total national debt.

There are those who want to blame the doctors and hospitals and third party payers like Blue Cross Blue Shield for these tremendous costs. These people want an answer that they can fit on a bumper sticker. Unfortunately, the problem is too complex for slogans and scapegoats.

Recognition of Problems

What then are the real reasons for the escalating costs in health care? Inflation is one cause, of course. But health costs are also on the rise in the United States because of a lack of price awareness. Health insurance is a godsend, but it

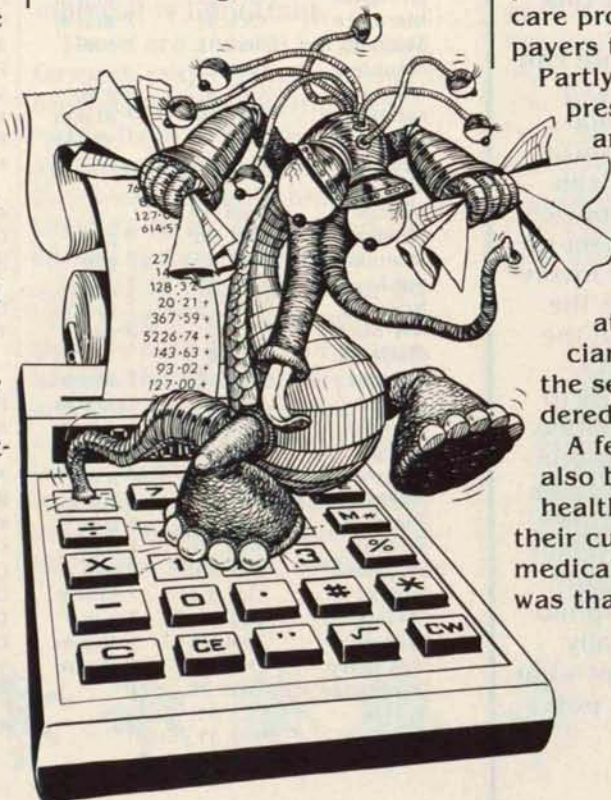
does remove some of the incentive that we, as consumers, might otherwise have to avoid unnecessary visits to the doctor.

Likewise, doctors are thinking more about helping their patients than about the cost of this or that procedure and that's exactly what we want them to do when *we* are the patients.

Cost has become a matter of such deep concern among large and small purchasers of health care insurance that some organizations, such as Farm Bureau, are taking action through specially appointed committees and local coalitions to put pressure on both the health care providers and third party payers to bring costs down.

Partly in response to such pressure, some hospitals are now showing staff doctors and patients itemized bills for the services they offer. The purpose of this is to bring to the attention of the physician and patient the cost of the services routinely ordered.

A few medical schools are also beginning to discuss health care costs as part of their curriculum. Until recently, medical schools' only concern was that they provide the most



technologically new and sound remedies for their patients.

There is no doubt that our health care system should have some incentives to encourage doctors to deliver care at the lowest cost consistent with quality. Just because a physician orders a massive amount of tests, using the newest and latest equipment available, is not proof that he is delivering quality health care.

Local hospitals can share some of the blame for high medical costs. The Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeast Michigan estimates that closing an unnecessary specialty unit of 20 beds or more saves a minimum of \$7,000 per bed or \$140,000 per year. State and local health planning agencies have identified 2,000 excess beds in the seven county metro Detroit area and 3,000 excessive beds statewide.

These are long range problems that must be addressed. In the meantime, we must take whatever immediate steps are possible to attack the cost problems.

You Can Help Keep Health Care Costs Down

Farm Bureau's 1983 policy concerning health care identifies nine things that we, as a group and individuals, can do to help hold down health care costs. They include:

- Insist Blue Cross Blue Shield require and pay for second opinions for major surgical procedures.

- Insist Blue Cross Blue Shield require hospitals and physicians to send subscribers of all groups and non-group members an itemized copy of all charges of the services they received.

- Oppose state Insurance Commission efforts to require Blue Cross Blue Shield group subscribers to subsidize non-group losses.

- Insist the state Insurance Commission enforce the state regulation requiring all companies who sell health insurance in Michigan to provide coverage to Medicare subscribers.

- Farm Bureau members are urged to become active on local hospital boards and committees. It is here where the decisions are made that can have a real impact on cost.

- Insist hospitals cooperate with each other to a much greater degree than they do today to avoid duplication of services. Duplication is extremely costly and a waste of resources.

- Insist that physicians cooperate with Blue Cross Blue Shield 100%, or not at all, to eliminate per case selection.

- Insist that physicians tell Blue Cross Blue Shield subscribers whether or not they are participating before services are rendered, and if they do not participate, what the additional charges for their services will be over and above what Blue Cross Blue Shield will pay.

- Insist that Blue Cross Blue Shield prosecute fraudulent cases and false filings. Last year alone, fraudulent cases added millions of dollars to the cost of health care in Michigan.

Many Ways to Fight Increasing Costs

What else is Farm Bureau doing to hold down health costs?

Farm Bureau is offering members in some counties a Health Maintenance Organization option as an alternative to the

traditional Blue Cross Blue Shield fee-for-service programs.

A well-managed HMO introduces competition into the medical market place and in doing so, may have a restraining effect on private fees. This can be especially true in communities where the HMO is a major presence.

There is no doubt that our health care system should have some incentives to encourage doctors to deliver care at the lowest cost consistent with quality. Just because a physician orders a massive amount of tests, using the newest and latest equipment available, is not proof that he is delivering quality health care.

In addition, the HMOs have proven themselves to be a very cost-effective mechanism for providing health care. The HMO has to live on a profit and loss basis. HMO income is derived from capitalization — so much per patient per year. If costs exceed income, the HMO is in trouble. So HMOs are motivated to keep their members in good health and provide care efficiently. In view of that motivation, it may not be entirely a coincidence that HMO members are hospitalized only half as much as those with traditional coverage.

Farm Bureau leaders throughout the state were recently asked to contact their congressmen urging co-sponsorship of a bill introduced in Congress that will allow self-employed persons, such as farmers, to take a
(continued on page 34)

Education Quality and Financing

(continued from page 9)

The real advantage of American education — and its challenge as well — is to really extend our creativity. I don't know of an area where we've done a better job than in agriculture, and we need to do the same kind of things in the science area.

What is the relationship of the State Board of Education to the schools? What role will it play in improving education quality?

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The State Board of Education has to provide policy initiatives to assist schools by establishing an environment that will allow needed programs to be available for students. That means requesting funds, initiating support pilot programs, conducting student evaluation and assessment programs, providing technical assistance for program improvement, community relations and finance consultation.

Through the Michigan Department of Education, we are providing many of these services. In addition, the Board of Education will be developing a plan of initiative for school improvement that will probably be adopted some time this fall.

Farm Bureau policy developed in December of last year calls for a 60% minimum state funding for K-12 education and multi-year funding. What is the current status of these Farm Bureau policy recommendations in our school system?

Farm Bureau members are to be commended for their policy position to support Michigan schools, but we are not likely to reach the 60% level of funding at this time. I believe, however, that state funding at 50% may be a more realistic goal.

About 15 years ago, a state aid plan was developed that called for an approximate 50/50 split. What has happened, though, is that there has been a decrease of state participation, and the property tax has carried far too much of the burden. On the other hand, school districts had less than assessed value increases.

Now (because of the \$200 million increase in state funding), the burden on the property tax will slow down. Right now, we have seven districts that are down to their allocated millage. A year ago there were 33, and in 1981 the Alpena Public

Schools closed their doors.

Property tax will always play a part in financing education, but I would like to see less dependence on it.

Multi-year funding is a proposal with real value. A number of school administrators have spent too much time on school finance issues and not enough on programs.

Certainly, multi-year funding would give the school administration time to plan more effectively and that will get school administrators back into educational programming because they know that they can plan on a certain level of funding for their schools. That would be a far cry from the past year when the state aid checks were held back. Last year we literally met hundreds of teacher payrolls on a contingency basis. That will not happen this year, and I'm very thankful.

What is the contribution in federal dollars to support K-12 education in Michigan?

Federal dollars account for about 7% of Michigan's K-12 education funding. Compare that to the 50% the Japanese government pays for education. Obviously the Japanese don't spend any money on defense, but they're spending it on education. You can see our 7% support is 43% away from what this competing nation pays for education.

I believe President Reagan will be making some initiative proposals to increase education funding from the federal level and there will be initiatives from both sides of the political aisle.

Safety of Farm Kids Stressed

(continued from page 23)

topics like tractor safety, safety with farm machinery, and corn harvest safety.

"Of course," Converse says, "FFA always stresses safety and leadership, so our programs are well-received. Last year, nearly 50 chapters participated in the corn harvest safety and farm machinery safety programs, while 57 were involved in the tractor safety training. That means thousands of young Michigan men and women — who will be the state's leading farmers — are learning good safety habits early."

Both Converse and Doss, however, stress the importance of parents teaching their children farm safety, starting when the kids are very young.

"It means a lot more when it comes from mom and dad," Converse says. "Parents can reinforce safety every day, teaching children that safety is part of the daily farm routine."

Here are some important safety points to protect children on the farm:

- Keep kids off of and away from farm equipment. No extra riders.

- When giving young people a new chore or job, train and supervise them carefully until you're sure they can do it safely.

- Make the shop, grain bins, animal quarters, silos and chemical storage places off limits to young children. Lock or bar entry. Remove keys from motorized equipment so kids can't start it.

- Encourage youth to take part in safety activities of local youth groups and schools. Involve them in home and farm hazard hunts and fire inspections.

- Before allowing a child to bike on public roads, make sure he or she knows the rules of the road. Don't let kids swim alone,

and keep guns securely out of the reach of young hands.

These and other farm safety practices are outlined in a Farm Safety Week brochure being distributed this month to thousands of FBIG policy-holders.

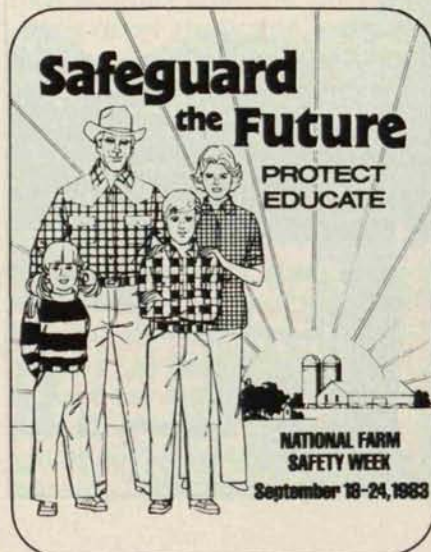
"We think this year's Farm Safety Week message is exceptionally important," Converse says. "When farm kids learn something early in life, like the value of using personal protective equipment on the farm, they accept it and follow it throughout adulthood. Every farm parent can help make today's rural youth the safety-conscious farmers of tomorrow."



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Tradition of Cooperation

(continued from page 25)

sustainability of agriculture. In the past, we have tended to look at the components of agriculture and research those in depth. Now, we're to a point where we need to look at the whole agricultural system," Anderson said.

"We have to be concerned about what agriculture is costing us in terms of the soil and water resources we're working with. We have to develop a technology that will stabilize the total system so that this generation and generations yet unborn will have this resource to live in abundance and prosperity.

"We will be able to look at the interface between the agricultural system and the ecology system. Agriculture must live in peace and harmony, with a greater ecology, and we will have the ability to look at how agriculture impacts that ecology," Anderson said.

Expressing appreciation on behalf of Michigan farmers, MFB President Elton Smith said:

"The cooperative effort of MSU and the foundation has been a great value to rural Michigan. There are challenges and changes ahead in the dairy industry and this is the kind of facility that will help Michigan farmers make those changes more smoothly.

"I want to express appreciation to the Kellogg Foundation and MSU for their foresight, leadership and commitment to Michigan's agricultural industry," he said.

Since its inception in 1930, the foundation has given grants for 13 agricultural projects and made nearly \$7.5 million in payments. In addition to the Kellogg Biological Station, current agricultural projects being

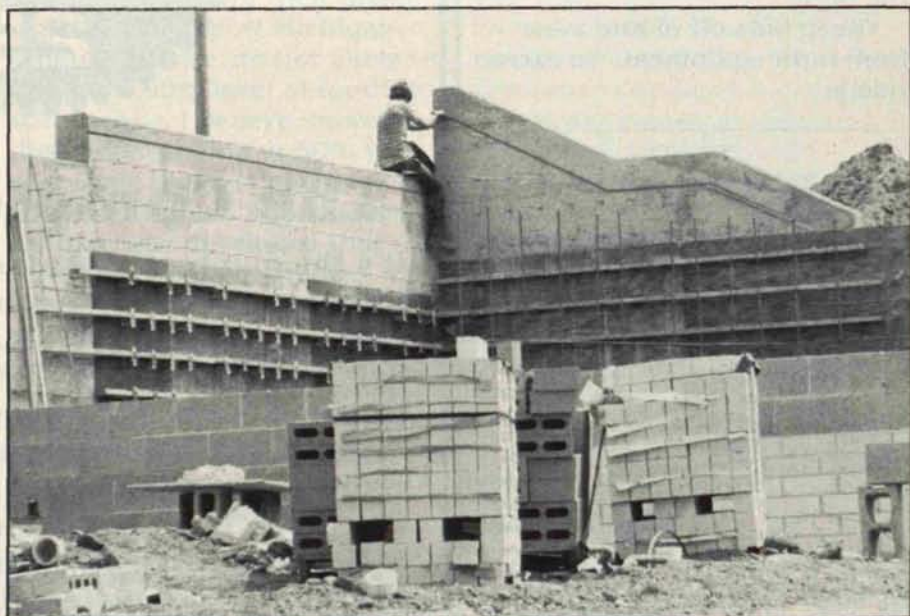
funded by the foundation include faculty development within the MSU College of Agriculture, and a project to maximize animal production by computer evaluation of cost benefits of animal health care.

One of the most well-known

projects which received financial support from the foundation was the Kellogg Farmers' Study Program, which was conducted from 1965 to 1973. Some 150 young farm leaders from throughout the state participated in the program.



The philanthropy of W. K. Kellogg through the Kellogg Foundation spans 50 years. The summer manor house pictured above was built in 1926. The home and an additional 1,000 acres were eventually turned over to Michigan State University for agricultural and biological research at the site. Below, dormitories for students and researchers currently under construction were financed through a \$10 million grant to MSU from the foundation in 1982.



Legislative Review

(continued from page 7)

now well behind many other countries. A few of the recommendations include:

- Require all high school students to be competent in the "five new basics": four years English, three years mathematics, three years science, three years social studies and one-half year of computer science. College bound students would be required to take two years of a foreign language.

- Adopt rigorous and measurable standards for academic performance and student conduct.

- Consider seven hour school days and a 200-day to 220-day school year (now 180).

- Require teachers to meet high educational standards, demonstrate an aptitude for teaching and competence in academic discipline. Judge colleges on how well their graduates meet these criteria.

- Make teacher salaries professionally competitive. Reward the superior teacher, encourage the average one and terminate the poor one.

- Parents have the first responsibility in educating the pre-school child, providing the best schools possible, encouraging good study and work habits, and discouraging the all too prevalent "let it slide" attitude. "Good enough" is not good enough.

Some legislation is already receiving some attention.

H.B. 4446 and 4447 would allow "900 hours of student instruction" instead of the present 180 day requirement. Supporters say that this would allow flexible scheduling such as a four-day school week which could cut some costs such as bussing, heating, etc.

S.B. 91 would grant school districts "charter authority" the same as some townships, cities and counties. Once a charter limitation is approved by the school voters, costly annual or biennial millage renewal campaigns would be eliminated. For example, school districts have a county "allocated" millage plus "extra voted" millage for operation. "Extra voted" millage may be split such as a "base" of 19 mills plus additional voted millage when needed. The intent of the proposal is that the school voters would set the "base" millage. It could be increased temporarily by vote as needed. It could also be reduced by a petition to put the charter millage back on the ballot. In any event, the bill in its present form will have to be rewritten. The Senate Education Committee has sent it to the attorney general because of possible constitutional problems.

Small Woodlot Tax Exemption

— Farm Bureau has received inquiries on an old 1917 law (amended in 1960 and 1977) regarding property tax exemptions on certain farm woodlots. It is called "an act to encourage private forestry." It applies to "any tract of land not exceeding 160 acres where at least one-half is improved and devoted to agricultural purposes. . . . A portion thereof not exceeding one-fourth of the total area can be selected as a private forest reservation."

There are certain requirements to qualify, such as variety, number and size of trees and prohibition of livestock grazing.

An application for exemption can be made to the county trea-

surer who must keep a record. The supervisor or assessor must also keep a record and have the owner subscribe under oath the description of the land, number of trees, etc. If the owner carries out the provisions of the law, the value of the private forest reserve "over and above \$1 shall be exempt from taxation." When the timber is cut a 5% stumpage fee on the value of the timber is levied. However, the owner can cut firewood and timber for his own domestic use.

For further information, see your county treasurer or supervisor or contact the Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

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

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Discussion Topic

(continued from page 29)

tax deduction for health insurance costs. The bill, H.R. 3487, introduced by Congressman Del Latta (R-Ohio), would allow self-employed persons to claim one-half of the amount they pay for health insurance premiums as a tax deduction on their federal income tax return. The bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

One last point should be made concerning the control of health care costs for Farm Bureau members: there is a direct correlation between utilization and rates. Decreased utilization translates into lower or moderate rate increases in health care premiums.

You, the subscriber, play a key role in holding utilization down. Don't be afraid to question your physician about the necessity of prescribed lab tests or hospitalization. Many doctors routinely prescribe hospitalization for tests and minor surgical procedures that can easily and safely be done in an outpatient facility at far less cost.

Above all else, take care of yourself. If you smoke, stop. If you are overweight, lose those excess pounds. Good health is not something to be left up to your physician, it's up to you.

Discussion Questions

•Are you satisfied with the quality of professional staff and facilities in your area?

•In your opinion, can people afford the health care they need?

•How many group members would be willing to participate in an HMO as an alternative to traditional health care delivery programs?

•How many members of your group discuss the necessity of procedures, lab tests or hospitalization with their physician? How many have requested a

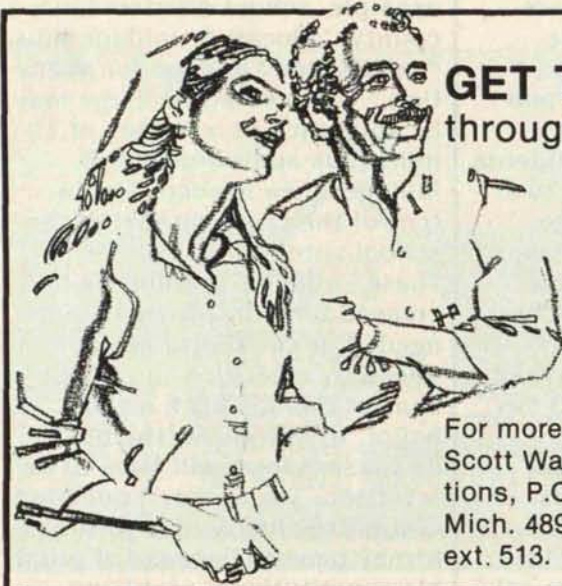
second physician's opinion before consenting to major surgery?

•How many members favor binding arbitration rather than lawsuits in malpractice cases?

•How many members of your group serve on a hospital board

or advisory committee?

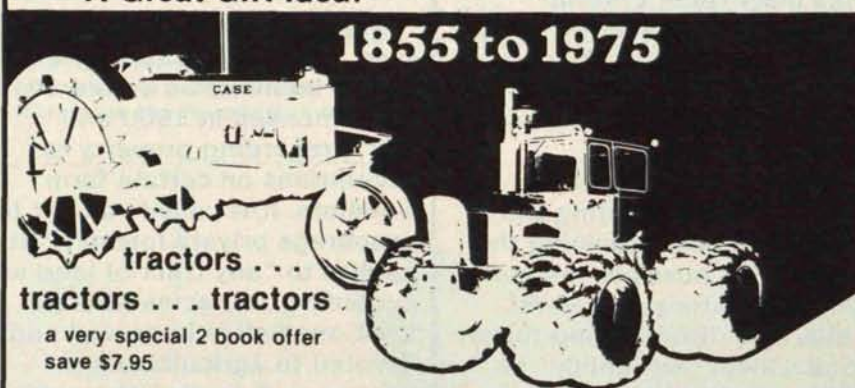
•How many members of your group have written to your congressman to support H.R. 3487? This legislative proposal would allow self-employed persons to take a tax deduction for health insurance costs.



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