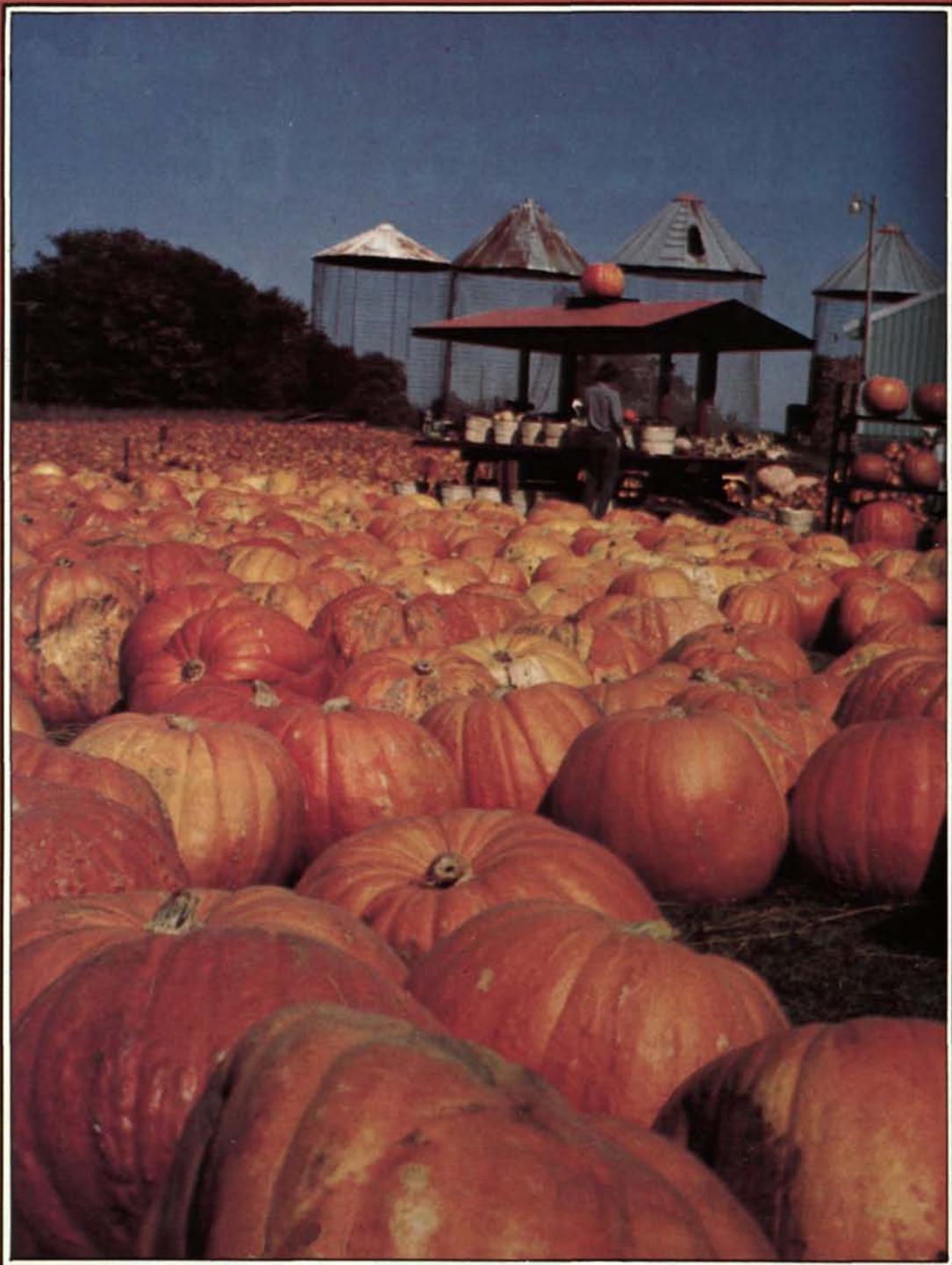


RURAL LIVING



Happy Thanksgiving

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The Federal Land Bank and Production Credit Associations, part of Farm Credit Services. We'll help you harvest the success you deserve.



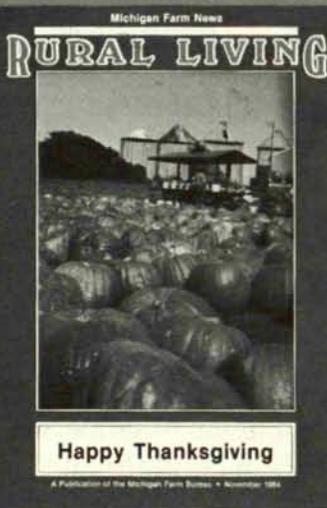
Farm Credit Services is the Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank Association and the Bank for Cooperatives.



RURAL LIVING

FARM NEWS

A publication
of the
Michigan
Farm Bureau



NOVEMBER 1984
VOL. 63 NO. 11

THE COVER
Autumn orange pumpkins surround this outdoor farm market stand in central Michigan.
Cover photo by Marcia Ditchie

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Visionary Policy Leads to Accomplishment



Young Farmers like Mark Verstraete want to be involved in setting ag policy

We are in the midst of Farm Bureau's annual harvest of ideas to solve agriculture's problems. Our next step will be to process the ideas harvested at the county annual meetings and build a proposed "platform" to present to voting delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, Nov. 27-30 in Grand Rapids, for their consideration and action.

I have the utmost confidence that those 509 delegates will make the right decision on the direction their organization should take in the year ahead. They've been making the right decisions for 65 years now, as evidenced by the proud record of achievement Farm Bureau members have written.

At last year's annual meeting, a young news reporter, after witnessing a particularly lively resolutions session for the first time, said to me: "Who do these people think they are? The state Legislature? Congress? They act as though the resolutions they pass are laws!"

I explained to her that when our delegates adopt a policy, they visualize it as being an accomplishment. Sure, they know there's a lot of work between adoption and accomplishment, but they know they can make it happen because Farm Bureau has people-power, people willing to invest their time and efforts to execute the policies they've adopted.

I shared with her what I think is one of the most outstanding illustrations of the effectiveness of Farm Bureau's policy development/policy execution process. It started at a Farm Bureau meeting after World War II where a group of farmers were discussing world conditions. One farmer mentioned the need to physically rebuild many countries to establish agriculture and transportation and to feed starving people.

"We're going to have to give those people food," he said. "We have to. We can't let them starve. Anything given free, however, never seems to be appreciated in the long run. If we could somehow sell them food and supplies, they would appreciate it more. Why don't we charge those people, allow them to pay with their money and then spend that money in their country for rebuilding purposes?"

The idea sounded good. It caught on and the idea was passed at the county FB annual meeting. The idea was forwarded to the state annual meeting where it was acted on favorably. The idea then went to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting. Delegates there polished the idea a little, but basically what they adopted was a statement calling for a program that would accomplish the idea that one farmer had for rebuilding war-torn and needy countries.

The AFBF officers and staff worked closely with Congress to execute this policy. Out of it came what is known as Public Law 480, the Food for Peace program, which did exactly what the farmer suggested. It allowed development in countries which could have been done no other way. It kept millions of people from starving. It showed millions of people that Americans are caring people. It kept millions of people out of the tentacles of communism. It opened doors to world trade, developed markets and built lasting friendships.

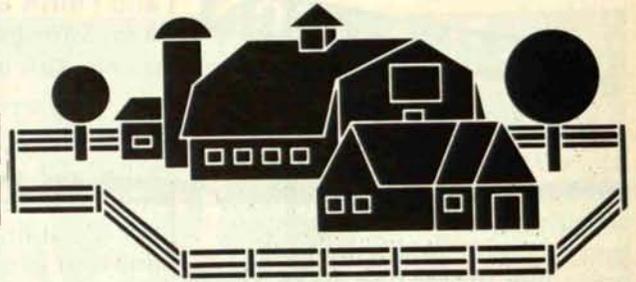
That program recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and at a commemoration at the White House, Farm Bureau was recognized for "making it happen."

An idea that started from a discussion at a Farm Bureau meeting ended up being a program of international significance. Not all policies are; some are local in nature, such as addressing the problem of replacing deteriorating county bridges. But the philosophy is the same.

I look forward to seeing you at our problem-solving session in Grand Rapids.

Elton R. Smith

Elton R. Smith, President Michigan Farm Bureau



Vote Nov. 6 for

'Friends of Agriculture'

U.S. President

Ronald Reagan (R)

U.S. Senator

Jack Lousma (R)

U.S. Representatives

2nd Carl Pursell (R)
3rd Jackie McGregor (R)
4th Mark Siljander (R)
5th Paul Henry (R)
8th Bob Traxler (D)
9th Guy Vander Jagt (R)
10th Bill Schuette (R)
11th Bob Davis (R)
12th David Bonior (D)
16th John Dingell (D)
18th William Broomfield (R)

State Representatives

2nd Burton Leland (D)
3rd Matthew McNeely (D)
5th Teola Hunter (D)
7th Nelson Saunders (D)
8th Carolyn Kilpatrick (D)
11th Stanley Stopczynski (D)
12th Curtis Hertel (D)
13th William Bryant Jr. (R)
14th Joseph Young Sr. (D)
15th Joseph Young Jr. (D)

18th Sidney Ouwinga (R)
19th Don Van Singel (R)
20th Claude Trim (R)
23rd Phil Hoffman (R)
27th Vincent Porreca (D)
28th Robert DeMars (D)
36th Gerald Law (R)
38th Justine Barnes (D)
39th Jerry Bartnik (D)
40th Timothy Walberg (R)
41st Michael Nye (R)
42nd Glenn Oxender (R)
43rd Carl Gnodtke (R)
44th Lad Stacey (R)
45th Mick Middaugh (R)
47th Paul Wartner (R)
48th Donald Gilmer (R)
49th Richard Fitzpatrick (D)
50th Mike Griffin (D)
51st Fred Dillingham (R)
54th Paul Hillegonds (R)
56th Ernie Nash (R)
58th Debbie Stabenow (D)
61st Mat Dunaskiss (R)
62nd Charlie Harrison Jr. (D)
74th John Maynard (D)
75th Ken DeBeaussaert (D)
76th James Docherty (D)
77th Dick Allen (R)
78th Keith Muxlow (R)
79th John Cherry Jr. (D)

80th Floyd Clack (D)
83rd Charles Mueller (R)
84th John Strand (R)
86th Lewis Dodak (D)
87th Phillip Thompson (R)
88th Robert Bender (R)
89th Gary Randall (R)
90th Victor Krause (R)
92nd Thomas Mathieu (D)
93rd Vernon Ehlers (R)
94th Jelt Sietsema (D)
97th Ed Geerlings (R)
98th Ed Giese (R)
99th Colleen Engler (R)
100th J. Michael Busch (R)
101st Tom Hickner (D)
102nd Mike Hayes (R)
105th Tom Alley (D)
106th John Pridnia (R)
107th Pat Gagliardi (D)
109th Tom Elegeert (D)
110th Donald Koivisto (D)

State Supreme Court

Jim Brickley
Robert Griffin
Dorothy Comstock Riley

MSU Board of Trustees

Dean Pridgeon (R)
June Kretschmer (R)

*See page 10 for interview with
U.S. Senate candidate Jack Lousma.*

WASHINGTON

1985 Farm Program Sign Up — This fall's sign up in the 1985 farm program will be a significant indicator of the extent of credit problems in the grain belt, according to an AFBF feed grain expert. The 50% advance on 1985 deficiency payments, offered in the program, will benefit average and below average operators by furnishing cash up front. The payments will go a long way toward covering out of pocket costs of preparing land for next season's crop.

September estimates of program participation for wheat and corn were 72% and 53%, respectively. Wheat prices will have to exceed \$4 per bushel and corn sell for \$3.15 before the average producer would fare better by not participating in the 1985 program, AFBF predicted.

Priority Loan Program — Farmers Home Administration chief Charles Shuman has given the farm debt restructuring plan announced by President Reagan the highest priority in the agency. Every effort is being made to implement the loan guarantee feature of the plan in time for the spring lending season.

The four points of the plan are: FmHA will defer for five years, on a case-by-case basis, 25% of interest and principal that farmers owe on farm loans; \$630 million will be made available in federal loan guarantees backing up loans to farmers; community experts will be called on to help farmers develop financing plans to restore their financial viability;

and FmHA will turn to local banks for help in handling paperwork and loan processing.

National Export Commission — A new 35-member national commission to study potential improvements in agricultural export and trade programs has been appointed. It includes 20 people chosen by the speaker of the House and the president pro tem of the Senate, 12 members of the House and Senate, and three non-voting members appointed by the president.

Under the law setting up the commission, 20 appointments were reserved for representatives of farmers and other industries affected by export trade including exporters, processors and suppliers of farm equipment and services. AFBF President Robert Delano was among those appointed. Members from Congress will be the chairpersons and ranking minority members (or their designees) of the House com-

mittees on agriculture, foreign affairs and ways and means, and the Senate committees on agriculture, nutrition and forestry, finance and foreign relations.

The law directs the panel to report preliminary findings by no later than March 31, 1985, and to make a final report by July 1, 1986.

Balanced Budget Amendment — Recent action in Montana, California and Michigan has halted this year's drive to obtain a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. The Montana Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional a ballot issue which would have allowed voters there to decide upon the question of a constitutional convention to draft a balanced budget amendment. The Montana decision follows on the heels of a California Supreme Court decision, which held the ballot unconstitutional

Commodity Representatives Meet to Discuss Farm Bill '85



Several commodity groups met at FB Center in Lansing last month to discuss Farm Bill '85 in an attempt to develop a common understanding of this issue. Pictured above are (left to right) MFB President Elton R. Smith, Michigan Pork Producers President Richard J. Wooden and MSU ag economist Jim Shaffer.

in California, and a defeat in a key committee of the Michigan House of Representatives.

However, a bill that would require the president to submit a balanced budget, beginning with fiscal year 1986, has passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a margin of 411-11. A similar bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate.

FB policy calls for a balanced federal budget accomplished by reduced spending, not increased taxes.

LANSING

The exact language of the proposed constitutional amendments that will be on the Nov. 6 ballot is printed below in *italic*, followed by Farm Bureau's position on the issue.

Proposal A — *A proposal to allow the Legislature to approve or disapprove administrative rules.*

The proposed amendment would:

Provide for the Legislature or a joint committee of the Legislature to approve or disapprove administrative rules written by state agencies to implement state law before the rules may be formally adopted by the agency as law, in a manner now or at a later date provided by law.

Should the proposed amendment be adopted? Yes No

FB Position — MFB strongly supports a YES vote. It would assure that the present Legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules could continue to monitor and approve or reject rules or regulations promulgated by the bureaucracy of the various state departments

P.A. 204 Grants Tax Exemption



Gov. Blanchard has signed P.A. 204 (formerly H.B. 4960) into law. The legislation exempts wood harvesting equipment and some commercial fishing equipment from personal property tax. It also clarifies the law on farm retail markets. Pictured at the bill signing are (left to right) Rep. Pat Gagliardi, sponsor of the bill; John Churchill, Champion Paper Corp.; Robert E. Smith and Ron Nelson, MFB legislative counsels; and Sen. Mitch Irwin.

and agencies. Before this committee was established, the bureaucrats would put into rules what they could not get into law. Rules and regulations have the full force of law.

The present control by a legislative committee has served to help farmers many, many times on unreasonable and burdensome rules put out by the departments of labor, agriculture, health and natural resources, as well as numerous other state agencies. A yes vote is necessary because this control is threatened by a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision affecting Congress and a similar case that is now in the state courts.

This was placed on the ballot by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Legislature.

Proposal B — *A proposal to establish a Natural Resources Trust Fund and a board to administer it, to provide revenues for it from natural resource*

leases, and existing funds and to specify and limit the expenditures therefrom.

The proposed amendment would:

- 1. Establish a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to be funded by certain royalties, bonuses and rentals collected by the state from the drilling of oil and gas or mining of minerals on state-owned land.*
- 2. Require that earnings for the Trust Fund be used only for:*
 - a. purchasing land or rights in land:*
 - (1) for public recreation;*
 - (2) of environmental importance; or*
 - (3) of particular scenic beauty;*
 - b. developing public recreation facilities;*
 - c. administering the Natural Resources Trust Fund.*
- 3. Require creation of a Natural Resources Trust Fund Board to recommend projects to be approved by the Legislature.*

Should the proposed amendment be adopted? Yes No

FB Position — FB does not have a position on this proposal. It also was placed on the ballot by a $\frac{2}{3}$ legislative vote. The present Kammer Land Trust Fund would become the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The purpose of the proposal is to assure that the Legislature cannot "raid" the fund during times of revenue shortage and use the money for other purposes. There would be a \$200 million limit on the principal in the fund. Interest from that could be used by the board to purchase land and facilities as outlined in the proposal.

Proposal C — A proposal to amend Article 9, Sections 1 and 2 of the constitution relating to taxes, other revenues and voter or legislative approval of same.

The proposed amendment would:

1. Prohibit changes in the base or rate of any state or local tax which would increase its revenue yield, or adoption of new taxes, unless approved by voters.
2. Make void 90 days after the adoption of amendment:
 - a. new or increased rate or base of state or local taxes since 12/31/81 unless/ until approved by voters;
 - b. new or increased license, user or permit fees since 12/31/81 unless/ until approved by voters or 4/5 vote of legislative body adopting same.
3. Limit nonresident local political subdivision income tax to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%.
4. Require tax proposals to state purpose, total anticipated amount and expiration date.

Should the amendment be adopted? Yes No

FB Position — After much study, MFB recommends a NO vote. The proposed amendment was placed on the ballot by initiative petition. This is the fifth and most radical tax proposal that has been on the ballot in the last eight years. Robert Tisch, author of some previous tax proposals, said that Proposal C is "bad and it's dishonest" and "this thing can't work."

On the other hand, Jim DeMar of Utica, a leader of the "Voter's Choice" movement, has said, "If I could paralyze state government, I would." The fact is that while the aim might be to "paralyze state government," local governments would be the major victim, including townships, school districts, counties, villages, etc.

While state revenue would drop about \$1 billion (possibly \$1.5 billion), local government would also lose about \$1 billion. Much of it could come from major cuts in state revenue sharing for townships, counties, etc. School aid would no doubt also be cut as it has been during the recession. Just this year the state has begun to increase its share of the cost of operating local schools. State school aid has been as high as 60% and it has skidded to less than 30%. The main reason that the property tax has continually increased is because it is the only other source of revenue for schools.

One of many peculiar effects of the proposal is that local property tax already approved by the voters for schools or other purposes could be rolled back, requiring the cost of another vote on millage already accepted.

The rollback of the gas and weight taxes would also seriously affect county and local roads. In addition, federal highway funds would probably be lost because they could not be matched by state and local funds.

A summary of only some of the probable effects includes:

- The voters would likely be going to the polls quite often to determine the taxes and other revenues to support state and local government.

- State tax revenues would be cut by \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion unless reinstated by statewide vote.

- Twenty or more tax laws passed since Dec. 31, 1981 would be subject to rollback and require voter approval within the 90-day period. These include the income tax increase which is already phasing out, cigarette and liquor taxes, horse betting, gas and weight taxes which are earmarked for roads, and special registration fees for certain farm vehicles.

- Some local property tax revenues would likely have to have voter approval, such as where millage had been rolled back under the 1982 "Truth in Taxation" law, and where there had been millage increases within authorized limits. For example, if the voters had authorized a maximum of 35 mills for school operation in 1981, but only 31 mills were needed and levied in 1982, the four mills between 31 and 35 would have to be reauthorized by the voters before being used. If the extra four mills had been used they would probably be rolled back.

- Borrowing and interest costs for all units of government could be expected to rise because of a greater risk for repayment.

- Taxes on businesses are more likely to be approved because business cannot vote, thereby further harming Michigan's image with the business community.

- Several pieces of legislation have passed since Dec. 31, 1981 increasing or enacting fees, licenses and permits. Local governments have thousands of such fees (e.g., animal

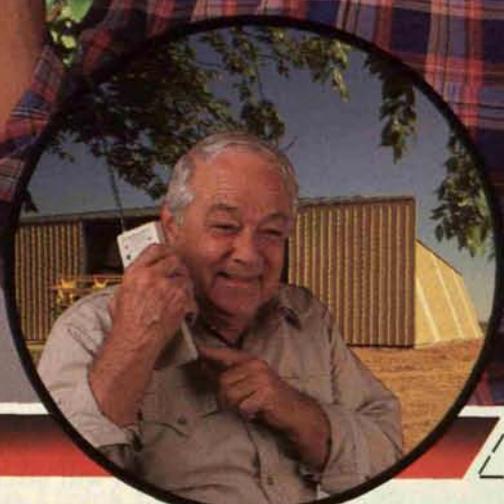
(continued on page 28)

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JACK LOUSMA

Former astronaut holds down to earth ideas about government and the economy



Following the August primary election, MFB's political action committee, AgriPac, endorsed Republican Jack Lousma for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democrat Carl Levin. A month before the Nov. 6 general election, Rural Living interviewed Lousma to clarify his position on issues affecting agriculture that will be addressed by the 99th Congress.

Following are highlights from that interview.

RL: *Why do you want to be elected to the U.S. Senate?*

Lousma: I am seeking election to the United States Senate because I want to serve Michigan and America. I don't have any ulterior motives — there is a job that needs to be done, there is a place to make a contribution. I can do it and I want to have the opportunity.

RL: *The federal deficit is receiving a lot of attention this election year. How serious do you think the deficit is to the nation's economy?*

Lousma: It is serious because it causes interest rates to be high. We want to reduce those rates so that everyone in this country, especially farmers, can operate more productively in the future and expand their businesses. We need to keep inflation down because clearly that is one of the farmer's worst enemies. I believe reducing the deficit is a prime priority.

RL: *What actions do you support to reduce the deficit?*

Lousma: I believe we should reduce the deficit over a period of a few years so we do not undo the economic recovery that we have enjoyed. I think we

need to try to do it in a balanced, measured way over a period of four years, for example. It would take us about that long to get a balanced budget amendment into effect. I support the amendment to balance the budget and I support the line item veto for the president, too.

I believe we should take measures to reduce the deficit in order to keep our economy rolling and I would do that in several ways.

One way I would not do it is by raising taxes. I made a pledge and I will stick by it that I will not vote to raise taxes during my six-year term. Professional politicians need to be more disciplined about their spending, and reducing the deficit, in my opinion, could be done in a number of ways other than raising taxes.

We need to reduce spending in all areas across the board. There is a lot of inefficiency, waste and fat in the government that needs to be taken out first.

We also need to reform the tax code. A lot of tax shelters are being abused and people who should be paying taxes are not. There are tax shelters, however, which provide incentives that make this country more productive and those should remain. We also need to get at the underground economy that costs the government \$100 billion a year.

Third, I think we should let the economic recovery roll. It has put \$20 million to \$30 billion back into our economy just this year. Those measures will substantially reduce the deficit without raising taxes.

RL: *A major agricultural issue to be considered by Congress next year is enactment of a new farm bill. What are your views on the type of Farm Bill '85 Congress should enact?*

Lousma: The 1985 farm bill should be a market-oriented bill to allow for flexibility in price supports and loans for price supports. I believe it should be one where the levels are not set by the government, but by the marketplace. I think that would be better for all farmers.

I think the key words are market oriented. That has been one of the deficiencies in the past where the government has set the level at which farmers should compete. Farmers are competitive people and they are going to do their level best to compete with whatever level is set. If we have a competitive system that is dictated by the marketplace, I think that is going to be helpful for farmers and it is going to be better for America.

RL: *Agricultural exports are important to the agricultural industry. What do you think is the major challenge to increasing agricultural exports?*

Lousma: One of my goals is to double Michigan's farm exports by the end of this decade and it has to be done by opening new foreign markets, especially for our specialty crops. Michigan has more specialty crops than most states do and they are very much desired by people in foreign countries.

RL: *How would you deal with this challenge of opening new foreign markets?*

Lousma: I believe I can be particularly helpful in that area because I have traveled all over the world as an emissary for the government on the request of the State Department, the U.S. Information Agency and for NASA. I have been to the People's Republic of China, where I met with the leaders in a variety of disciplines in Chinese life, as well as to Japan, the Middle East, Europe, Scandinavia and North Africa.

I have some of the contacts and background for helping to open some of those foreign markets and that is what we need to do.

Moreover, we need to transport those crops over the Great Lakes and through the St. Lawrence Seaway, which would be cheaper. I am going to promote expansion of the St. Lawrence Seaway and full utilization of the Great Lakes, which are one of our greatest assets and resources.

Opening foreign markets is a priority on my list for agriculture, as well as ensuring that we don't get into the embargo situations that we have in the past that don't accomplish anything but impose a greater burden on agriculture.

RL: *If elected to the U.S. Senate, how will you work with farmers to learn of issues facing agriculture and solutions to those problems?*

Lousma: I think I have already demonstrated how I would work
(continued on page 29)



During his campaign for the U.S. Senate, Jack Lousma instituted a "side-by-side" program where he spent time working with people in various professions. Last spring he spent one afternoon working on the Lott dairy farm in Ingham County under the guidance of David Lott (left). Lousma learned about some of the issues confronting the dairy industry while they shared "chores."

Voters to Elect Education Policymakers in Nov. 6 Election

In the Nov. 6 general election, Michigan voters will select two candidates to serve eight-year terms on the Michigan State Board of Education. This state-wide board is comprised of eight members who set and direct educational policy for the state's Department of Education.

Although no AgriPac endorsements were made in the board of education race, AgriPac chairperson Jack Laurie stressed the importance of these elected posts and urged all Farm Bureau members to consider their vote carefully for these candidates.

"Like the men and women who serve on the boards of trustees for our public universities, members of the Michigan State Board of Education must be committed to the highest goals of education for our young people," Laurie said. "Their decisions and the standards they establish for Michigan schools and educators affect not only educational quality, but shape the citizens who will lead our state in the future."

Republican candidates for the state board are Cherry Harris Jacobus of Grand Rapids, and Dorothy A. Beardmore of Rochester.

Cherry Harris Jacobus

Jacobus, whose educational and professional background is in nursing, has been involved in community, state and national education activities and projects for many years. She has served two consecutive terms on the East Grand Rapids Board of Education where she has held the offices of treasurer, secretary, legislative chairperson and president.

As a member of the Michigan Association of School Boards, she has served on the state legislative committee and is on the education committee. She serves as the fifth congressional delegate to the National

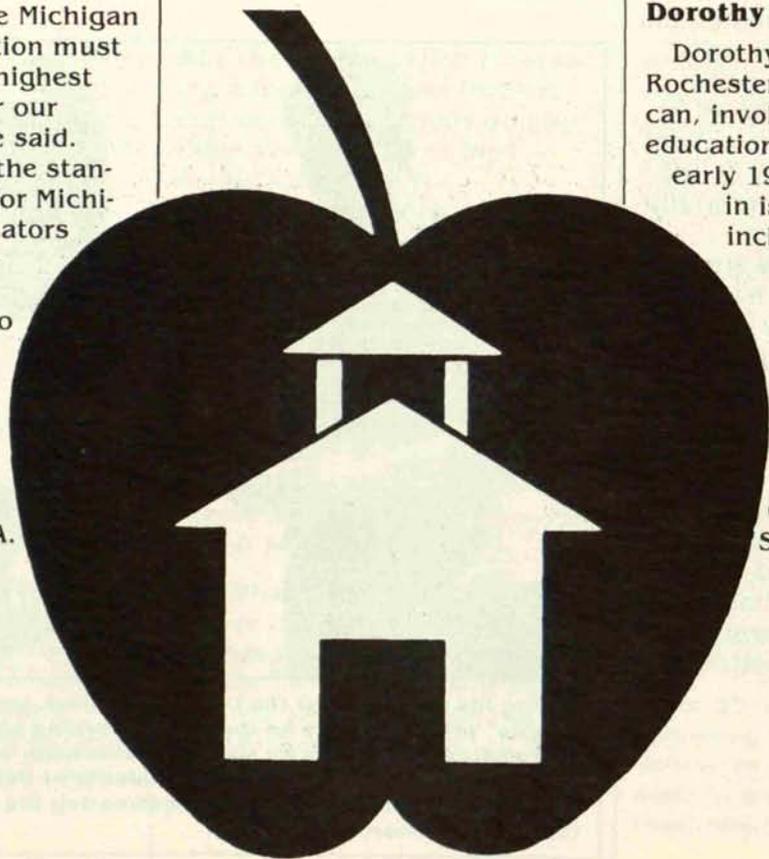
School Boards Association's federal legislative network. Since 1981, Jacobus has served on the governor's block grant advisory committee.

Jacobus describes herself as an advocate for local control. "I believe that local participation in educational policymaking must be retained to structure school programs to fit local needs, and to provide quality education for all students throughout Michigan."

She identifies financial support for education, teacher certification and quality of instruction as major policy issues to be addressed by the State Board of Education.

Dorothy A. Beardmore

Dorothy Beardmore of Rochester is a lifelong Republican, involved in community and educational activities since the early 1960s. Her involvement in issues of education has included service as a member and officer of the Rochester Community Schools' Board of Education, Oakland County School Boards Association, and the board of education for the Oakland Intermediate School District.



Beardmore has been an active member in the Michigan Association of School Boards, serving on the ethics committee, publications and public relations committee and now on the education committee.

Through the Michigan Department of Education, she has been certified as a special education hearing officer since 1978. She has also served on the department's committee on professional development, the state advisory committee on professional development and as a member of an advisory subcommittee on professional development.

Beardmore has made numerous presentations before state and national meetings of educators and school board associations. She is a contributor to the Michigan Association of School Boards Journal and, in the summer of 1983, published a response to the "A Nation At Risk" report.

Gumecindo Salas

Democratic candidates for the State Board of Education are incumbent members Gumecindo Salas and John Watenen Jr.

As a career educator and an incumbent member of the board, Salas has been involved in policymaking in K-12 issues, special education, vocational education, adult education, bilingual education, migrant education and pre-primary educational programs. He is currently director of minority programs at Michigan State University.

He serves on a national migrant education task force and as a panel member on a national task force on advocacy for children. Salas is a member of the governor's committee on higher education, Michigan Council for Family Living Education, Education Commission of the States and the National Board of Inquiry into education of disadvantaged youths and adults. He is also active in the



DOROTHY A. BEARDMORE



CHERRY HARRIS JACOBUS



JOHN WATENEN JR.



GUMECINDO SALAS

National Association of State Boards of Education.

During the past year, Salas has worked with the State Board of Education to draft the "Blueprint for Action," a guidebook for improving education in Michigan.

"I have devoted my entire working life to improving education and teaching," Salas said. "I am deeply committed to the goals of equal opportunity, non-discrimination and affirm-

ative action. . . this includes seeking a way for resources to be made available to all areas or districts where there is a unique and special need."

John Watenen Jr.

John Watenen Jr., incumbent State Board of Education member and professor of English at Northern Michigan University, is active in several professional associations including: the National Associa-

(continued on page 29)

Conferees Bid for Fun and Support MFB AgriPac 'Friends'

By Marcia Ditchie

A flying cow, a bespectacled hen, a stuffed mouse, Mother Goose and a stuffed buffalo. . . no, these aren't creatures likely to be found on a 21st century farm on a far away planet. Rather, they were among the more than 30 items sold at the AgriPac auction held in conjunction with the State Leader

candidates designated as "Friends of Agriculture" by MFB's political action committee, AgriPac, in the 1984 general election.

The auction was a highlight of the annual two-day conference sponsored by the MFB Women's Committee to help participants improve their performance in their farming businesses, their communities and

state's public school classrooms.

Closing speaker at the conference was Michael Broome, president of Tomorrow's America Enterprise, who left the participants with one simple message, "Never are we being more successful than when we are positively influencing the lives around us."

The workshops and keynote speakers were rated excellent by conference participants and the evaluations were underscored by Faye Adam, chairperson of the state Women's Committee.

"I am sure that I speak for everyone in attendance that it was a fantastic two days well spent," she said. "Those who attended not only gained information that will help them personally, but gained knowledge that will be of great value to them in their Farm Bureau leadership positions."



Participants in the State Leader Conference donated over \$1,900 to support AgriPac "Friends." MFB Women's Committee members Betty Laurie, Sharon Kokx and Carolynne Wegmeyer display an umbrella added to the donated auction items when it was left in the hallway. MFB District 10 director Margaret Kartes paid \$2,400 in bogus bucks to buy it back.

Conference in late September.

Other items auctioned for "bogus bucks" — \$100.00 for every \$1.00 — were many handmade crafts, a picnic basket, a lawn chair, apples and homemade preserves. Receiving the highest bid was a ceramic pumpkin, which sold for \$10,500 bogus bucks.

Auctioneer Ken Mitchell of Adrian brought in donations totaling over \$1,900 during the auction, which will be used to help support the campaigns of

in the political arena.

The conference included workshops on marketing, public speaking, computers, legislative education and health issues. One of the most popular sessions was on agriculture in the classroom, which included a "show and tell" segment conducted by conference participants from various parts of Michigan, who shared their ideas and techniques on how to bring agriculture into the



MFB Women's Committee chairperson Faye Adam demonstrates a flying cow, one of the many items auctioned to raise funds for "Friends of Agriculture."

The Florida Citrus Commission / Department of Citrus has notified all organizations involved in the sale of fresh or processed Florida citrus products that the plant disease citrus "canker" is absolutely no threat to human health or the health and safety of animals or plant life other than citrus. The USDA restrictions on shipments to California, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana and Hawaii are imposed only to prevent the spread of the disease to groves in these citrus producing states.

The Michigan Cherry Bowl game has been given the official sanction of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The premier Michigan bowl game will be held Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. at the Pontiac Silverdome. Many state business and agricultural groups have backed the planning and promotion for the Cherry Bowl. Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate, the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, are among the event's sponsors. MFB and MACMA have arranged to make a limited number of tickets available to FB members. For ticket ordering information, contact Harry Foster in MACMA, or Larry Ewing in the MFB Information & Public Relations Division, phone 517-323-7000.

Three MFB members were among the lucky 25 winners of free air travel to Hawaii in January for the AFBF annual meeting. Winners from Michigan are Margaret Feldkamp, Jennifer Rogers and Marian Shroyer. The names were drawn from among members nationwide who had registered for the Hawaii convention trip prior to Sept. 15, 1984.

Despite substantial support for agricultural candidates to fill the MSU trustee vacancy left by Bobby Crim, the governor selected Lansing attorney and former East Lansing mayor Larry Owen for the position. Following the announcement, MFB/AgriPac spokesperson Al Almy said the organization will continue to support agricultural candidates for the MSU Board of Trustees. AgriPac has endorsed trustee candidates Dean Pridgeon of Branch County and June Kretzschmer of Huron County.

The 1985 MFB membership campaign will begin with bi-regional Goal Getter Conferences in six locations around the state on Nov. 20. Membership campaign managers, county presidents and secretaries and MFB district directors will gather to kick off the 1985 membership year. A 10-day membership blitz is planned during February. MFB's 1985 goal is 85,553 member families.

Jim Gill, director of market analysis for Illinois Farm Bureau's AgriVisor, will be in Michigan Dec. 11-12 to discuss his agriculture economic outlook and market strategies for 1985 and beyond. He will be at the Square Inn, Jackson, on Tuesday, Dec. 11, and the Aldrich's Restaurant, Frankenmuth, on Wednesday, Dec. 12. Starting time at each location is 1:30 p.m.

The 1984 Executive Club Conference for county FB Young Farmer and Women's Committee officers will be held Dec. 13-14 in Lansing. The conference, designed to help these officers to better understand their roles and responsibilities, will feature workshops on building an effective organization, stimulating member involvement, specific duties as an officer and conducting effective meetings.

A two-day training session especially for county executive committee members and selected committee chairpersons will be held Dec. 18-19 in Lansing. The program is designed to offer "what to" and "how to" learning experiences which will strengthen county FB programs and activities.

RURAL RASCALS



These dairy cows found something besides dinner in their haystack. Enjoying the view are Joshua & Sara Jo Taratuta of Posen in Presque Isle County. Their parents, Damien & Coni Jo, farm in partnership with two other couples, Archie & Diane Kamiyszek and Dennis & Annette Taratuta. All belong to the Family Farm Bureau Community Action Group whose members are related by blood or marriage, thus its name.

From the President to a Private

Don't ever feel you are wasting time and effort when you write letters to legislators and government officials concerning problems! We have had an experience to prove letters are worthwhile.

Soon after our youngest son began basic training in the U.S. Army, he mentioned that his dining hall allowed only one glass of milk per meal. Needless to say, this didn't go over well with us dairy farmers!

After fussing amongst ourselves for a few days, we wrote letters to President Reagan, Agriculture Secretary John Block, and our U.S. congressman, Robert Davis. We stated we felt it was unfair for the government to complain about overproduction of milk and then limit its consumption by their own personnel.

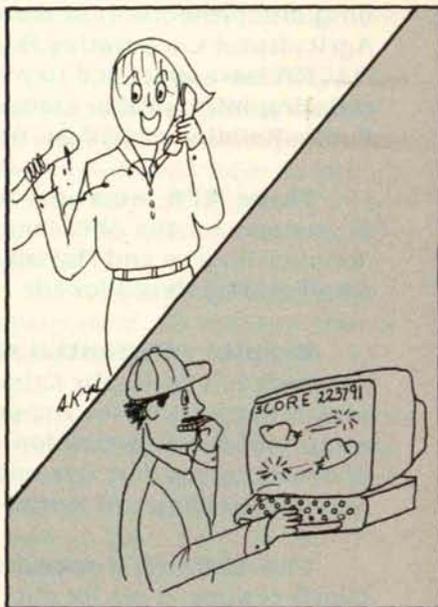
About a month later we received a letter from a brigadier general in Washington, D.C., in answer to our letter to President Reagan. He wrote that normally milk is available on an unlimited self-serve basis to all servicemen and an investigation was being made. Much to our surprise, two weeks later our son told us he had been called into his company commander's office (by this time his basic was completed) to give a statement concerning the limiting of milk in the basic training dining hall. Our letter to the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, President Reagan, had followed channels all the way

down to our son (even though we never gave his name), a brand new private in the U.S. Army!

Further investigation at the base was made and our son was told that a new dining hall crew
(continued on next page)

FARMETTE

By Andrea Hofmeister
Tuscola County



"He can't come to the phone right now, Harv... poor fellow has been working all day on the computer to bring the books up to date."

FARMERS OF THE WEEK

The Farmer of the Week program, co-sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group and the Michigan Farm Radio Network, honors farmers for their contributions to the community and the ag industry. Four farmers were honored in September 1984:

Sept. 3 — James Callendar, 38, of Marlette, operates a 500-acre dairy and cash crop farm in partnership with his parents. He is president of the Cass Valley Co-op, a milk hauling cooperative, and served as treasurer for four years. His Farm Bureau involvement includes serving as Sanilac County FB vice president and Young Farmer chair-

person, and many committee appointments. He is also Snover Co-op Elevator vice president.

Sept. 10 — John Zywicki, 70, a greenhouse operator and bedding plant grower, farms 72 acres near Belleville. He was the first president of the Metro Detroit Flower Growers Association and is still an active member. He is past president of Zywicki Greenhouses, Inc. and has been a Wayne County FB member for 30 years. His sons are also very active in the county FB, serving on the board of directors.

Sept. 17 — Andrew Breuker, 59, is a poultry farmer from Fremont who farms 200 acres and raises 75,000

chickens. He is active in the First Christian Reformed Church in Fremont and served on the church consistory. He is active in many church and community activities and is a lifelong member of the Newaygo County FB.

Sept. 24 — Larry Klein, 37, of Hamilton, raises grain, cattle and hogs on 1,100 acres. His community activities include: Allegan County FB member, local school board member, township fire department chief, 4-H leader and Allegan County Fair swine superintendent. He is a past deacon in the Bentheim Reformed Church and a past Sunday School superintendent.

had just been assigned to the hall when he began basic training and they did not understand the unlimited milk policy. Our son was told it should never have happened and the problem had been corrected. In a further letter from the Department of Army we were told, "Action has been taken by the commander of the unit to assure that the policy (of unlimited milk) is carefully explained to newly assigned personnel."

Out of all of this we received one letter from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, two letters from our U.S. congressman, three letters from the Department of the Army, one amazed son, and the satisfaction that time spent writing letters is not wasted!

*Robert and Myra Hand, Afton
Cheboygan County*

Farmer of the Week Program Ends

The Farmer of the Week program, which has been co-sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group and the Michigan Farm Radio Network since January 1975, has ended.

Over 500 Michigan farmers received the honor in the 10 years the program existed, demonstrating the goodwill it has accomplished.

Look for the final winners in next month's *Rural Living*.

**Support
Friends of
Agriculture
in the Nov. 6
General Election**

See page 5
for listing.

MACMA Member-to-Member Christmas Citrus Sale

Featuring... Fresh Florida citrus, concentrates and nuts... Wisconsin cheeses... Michigan juices, soups, meats and... delightful, delectable "Michigan's Farm Best" gift packs containing taste-tempting treats from Michigan producers.



**MICHIGAN'S
FARM BEST**

Name _____ Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Quantity	Commodity Description	Price	Amount
_____	Florida Navel Oranges, 2/5 bushel	\$10.50	_____
_____	Florida Pink Seedless Grapefruit, 4/5 bushel	\$10.70	_____
_____	Florida Tangelos, 4/5 bushel	\$13.45	_____
_____	Florida Orange Juice Concentrate (5 to 1), 24/12 oz. cans	\$37.00	_____
_____	Florida Grapefruit Juice Concentrate (5 to 1), 24/12 oz. cans	\$25.65	_____
_____	Florida Lemonade Concentrate, 24/12 oz. cans	\$16.60	_____
_____	Florida Grapefruit Sections (unsweetened), 24/16 oz. cans	\$17.50	_____
_____	Florida Jumbo Skinless Peanuts (salted), 20 oz. can	\$ 2.45	_____
_____	Florida Pecan Halves, 1 lb. bag	\$ 3.90	_____
_____	"Michigan's Farm Best" Supreme Gift Pack <small>(includes 4 1/2# MACMA vintage ham, 1# hickory stick, 1 1/4 lb. smoked turkey breast, 1/2# MSU smoked cheddar cheese, 1/2# MSU daganine cheese, 16 oz. pure maple syrup, 16 oz. wild honey, 16 oz. gourmet cherry almondine topping, 10 oz. seedless raspberry preserves, 7 oz. milk chocolate covered raspberries)</small>	\$39.70	_____
_____	"Michigan's Farm Best" Sampler Gift Pack <small>(includes 2 1/2# boneless smoked whole ham, 1# hickory stick, 10 oz. gourmet plum topping, 8 oz. MSU smoked cheddar cheese, 6.3 oz. sparkling grape juice)</small>	\$15.50	_____
_____	Michigan Red & Golden Delicious Apples, 1/2 bu. (tray pack)	\$ 8.10	_____
_____	Michigan Apple Concentrate (Hi-D, 5 to 1), 24/12 oz. cans	\$25.30	_____
_____	Michigan Grape Juice Concentrate (3 to 1), 24/12 oz. cans	\$28.75	_____
_____	Michigan Lite Cherry Fruit Filling, 12/20 oz. cans	\$17.00	_____
_____	Michigan Lite Apple Fruit Filling, 12/20 oz. cans	\$15.00	_____
_____	Michigan Lite Blueberry Fruit Filling, 12/20 oz. cans	\$12.00	_____
_____	Michigan Cream of Asparagus Soup, 6/28 oz. containers	\$15.75	_____
_____	Michigan Golden Cheddar Broccoli Soup, 6/28 oz. containers	\$17.50	_____
_____	Michigan Navy Bean With Ham Soup, 6/28 oz. containers	\$14.75	_____
_____	MACMA Vintage Ham, 4/4 lb. average weight	\$2.60 per lb.	_____
_____	MACMA Thick-Cut Bacon, 10/1 1/2 lb. packages	\$24.75	_____
_____	Michigan Hickory Stick, 4 lb.	\$9.75	_____
_____	Michigan Dried Tart Cherries, 1 lb. package	\$ 5.00	_____
_____	Indiana Gourmet Popcorn, 2 lb. bag	\$.95	_____
_____	New Mexico Pralined Pecans (vacuum sealed), 12 oz. can	\$ 3.25	_____
_____	Wisconsin Sharp Cheddar Cheese, 4/1 lb. packages	\$11.50	_____
_____	Wisconsin Medium Cheddar Cheese, 4/1 lb. packages	\$11.25	_____
_____	Wisconsin Colby Cheese, 4/1 lb. packages	\$10.75	_____
_____	Wisconsin Monterey Jack Cheese, 4/1 lb. packages	\$10.75	_____
_____	Variety Cheese Pack, 4/1 lb. (sharp, medium, colby, caraway)	\$12.50	_____
_____	Wisconsin Sharp Cheddar Cheese Spread, 6/1 lb. tubs	\$16.50	_____
_____	Wisconsin Cheddar With Wine Cheese Spread, 6/1 lb. tubs	\$16.50	_____
_____	Wisconsin Nacho Cheese Spread, 6/1 lb. tubs	\$16.50	_____
_____	Wisconsin Gift Pack <small>(includes 8 oz. super sharp cheddar, 8 oz. brick cheese, 2 oz. mild cheddar "star" in yellow wax, 4 oz. mild cheddar "Christmas tree" in red wax, 12 oz. stick sausage)</small>	\$12.75	_____
_____	TOTAL UNITS	TOTAL \$	_____

ORDER DEADLINE: Friday, November 16, 1984

DELIVERY DATES: December 5, 6, 7 & 10, 1984

Contact your county Farm Bureau secretary to see if your county is participating in MACMA's annual Christmas Citrus Sale!

MFB Annual Opens Nov. 27 at Grand Rapids

From a look at agriculture in the 21st century to words of wisdom from Abraham Lincoln — with lots of attractions in between — that's what is in store for members attending the 65th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Nov. 27-30 at the Amway Grand Plaza and Grand Center, Grand Rapids.

The four-day action-packed agenda will offer a balance between the serious business of adopting policies for the state's largest farm organization and the lighthearted fun of a western jamboree. Add a generous helping of anticipation: which county Farm Bureaus will win free trips to Hawaii? — and this year's MFB annual meeting promises to be a very special event.

Tuesday, Nov. 27

The action begins with the annual meetings of two MFB affiliates.

The Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting starts at 10 a.m. and will include operations and financial reports, the president's address and election of directors. An audio-visual story of FPC's custom diesel fuel and awards presentations are also on the agenda.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) will open with a noon luncheon for MACMA members. A business meeting featuring reports and election of directors will follow.

MACMA's Direct Marketing Division will again provide refreshments for delegates to the MFB annual meeting from 2 to 3 p.m.

The opening delegate session of the MFB annual meeting will be called to order at 3 p.m., with adjournment scheduled for 5 p.m.

Recognition of membership achievement will be the main focus of the county presidents' and campaign managers' banquet on Tuesday evening. An audio-visual presentation featuring FB members testifying "Why I Belong" will also be part of the banquet program.

All delegates and guests are invited to join the county presidents and campaign managers for the grand finale of this evening — a visual extravaganza on "Agriculture in the 21st Century" presented by Dr. Sylvan Wittwer. The former director of MSU's Agricultural Experiment Station has been a favorite speaker of FB audiences for many years. At last year's AFBF annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., he received the organization's highest honor, the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award.

Wednesday, Nov. 28

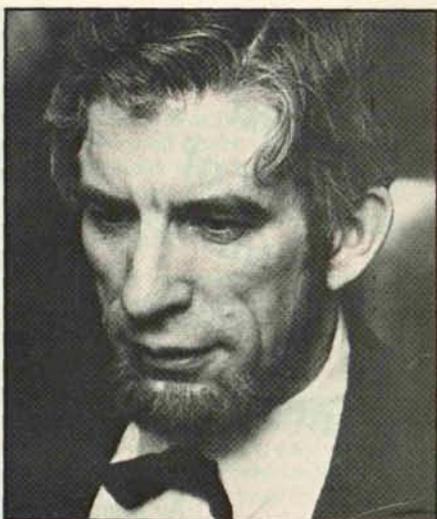
Carol Kent, founder and director of "Speak Up With Confidence" seminars, will be the keynote speaker at the 7:30 a.m. welcome breakfast sponsored by FB Women. Theme of Kent's address will be "It's Happening Because of You!" The breakfast program will also in-



SYLVAN WITWERT



CAROL KENT



BRUCE "ABE" HANKS

clude highlights of the past year's activities of FB Women.

Wednesday is Young Farmer Day at the convention, with contestants vying for the titles of Distinguished Young Farmer, Outstanding Young Farm Woman and Discussion Meet winner. Members are welcome to view the Discussion Meet semi-finals at 10:30 a.m. and the finals at 1:30 p.m., as well as the Young Farmer awards reception at 4:30 p.m.

Winner of the Distinguished Young Farmer title will receive a trip to Hawaii to participate in the national competition and the use of an Allis-Chalmers tractor for one year. The Discussion Meet winner will have the use of a Chevy S-10 pickup truck for a year, plus a trip to Hawaii to compete in the AFBF meet. The Outstanding Young Farm Woman will win a free year's subscription to AgriCom (option 1) and a free year's use of a Radio Shack videotex terminal. She will also receive an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Washington Legislative Seminar.

The truck, tractor and computer terminal will be on display throughout the convention in an area adjacent to the delegate floor. This will also be the location of the popular Koffee Klatcheteria, with refreshments, information and telephone service provided courtesy of Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Other displays and exhibits will also be in this area.

The commodity session, beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesday morning, will feature the topics, "Soil Conservation Issues With Farm Bill '85" and "Milk Promotion — California Style."

MFB President Elton R. Smith will deliver his annual address to members at the luncheon at noon.

The resolutions session will reconvene at 2:30 p.m. with adjournment scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

Time now to don your western attire and head for the delegate round-up which starts at 6 p.m., followed by a chuckwagon dinner. A western jamboree, beginning at 8:30 p.m., will feature the Petal Fall Variety Band, the presentation of county awards and drawings for free trips to Hawaii for the AFBF annual meeting in January.

During the awards program that will be held between music sets, county FB presidents will build a pyramid of achievement that will remain the focal point of recognition throughout the convention. As they accept gold stars for outstanding programs, they will be presented with a building block inscribed with the names of the county president and award-winning committee chairpersons. The pyramid will grow throughout the evening with the top county FB of the year at its pinnacle.

Eligible county FBs will participate in a drawing for a free trip to Hawaii. Five counties,

one in each membership category, will win the prize.

Thursday, Nov. 29

If Abraham Lincoln could step out of the history books and into the Amway Grand Plaza on Nov. 29, 1984, what would his message to FB members be? You can find out by attending the MFB AgriPac breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Bruce Hanks, distant relative and startling lookalike of Abe Lincoln, will deliver a patriotic message that will be long remembered by those who hear his presentation.

The event is expected to be a sellout, so advance reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$15 each, available from MFB AgriPac, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. If tickets are still available, they may also be purchased at the AgriPac exhibit at the annual meeting. Members attending the AgriPac breakfast can receive a special "I'm an AgriPAC'er" button by

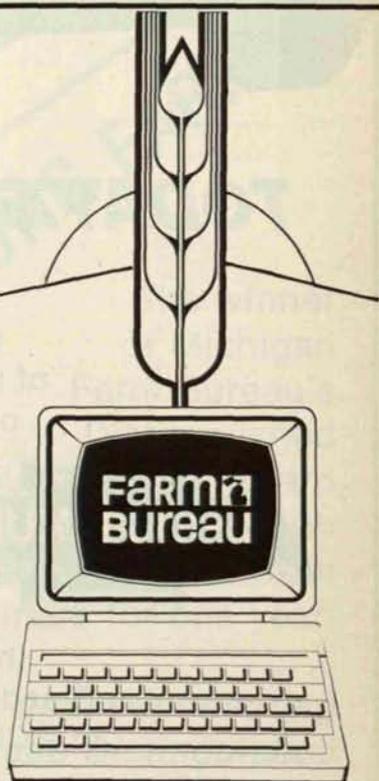
Proud Sponsors of the 1984 Michigan Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farm Woman Competition

This year's winner will receive free use of the AgriCom computerized information system for one year!

AgriComSM

Michigan Agriculture's Information Connection

AgriCom is a registered service mark of MFB.
FB ACRES is a registered service mark of AFBF.

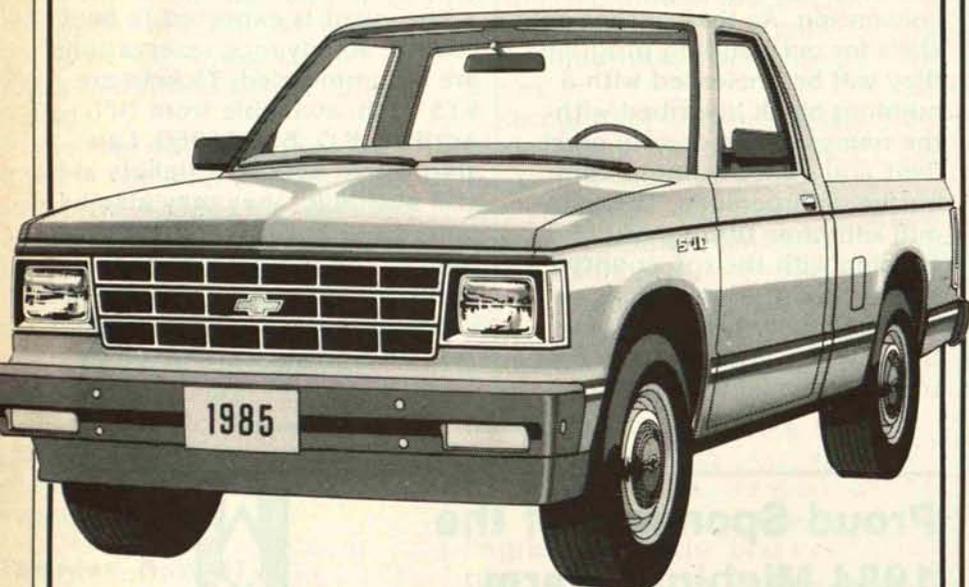


Affiliated with Farm Bureau ACRESSM
and Illinois Farm Bureau AGRIVISOR[®]

THIRD
STRAIGHT
YEAR!

ANOTHER WINNER!

CHEVY TRUCK AND
MICHIGAN YOUNG FARMERS!



TODAY'S CHEVROLET

For the third straight year
the Chevrolet Truck Division
of General Motors is a sponsor
of the Michigan Farm Bureau



Young Farmer
Discussion Meet.
The winner, to be
determined on Nov. 28
in finals competition at
the 1984 MFB annual meeting
in Grand Rapids, will receive the use
of a Chevy S-10 truck for one year.

NOTHING WORKS LIKE A CHEVY TRUCK. 

showing their tickets at the
AgriPac exhibit.

Proceeds from the breakfast
and sale of the AgriPAC'er but-
tons will be used to help elect
"Friends of Agriculture" in the
1986 elections.

The resolutions session will
reconvene at 8:30 a.m. with a
lunch break at 12:15 p.m. Gov.
James Blanchard has been in-
vited to address the delegates
during the luncheon. Resolu-
tions will resume at 1:30 p.m.
and continue until 4 p.m. Cau-
cuses for Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and
10 are scheduled from 4 to 5
p.m.

The annual banquet, begin-
ning at 6:30 p.m., will feature
Bert Hutchison, former broad-
caster, USDA information spe-
cialist and advertising agency
executive, who now spends his
time giving speeches through-
out the U.S. A firm believer in
the free enterprise system, Hut-
chison is a master communica-
tor who informs, inspires, enter-
tains and motivates his au-
diences.

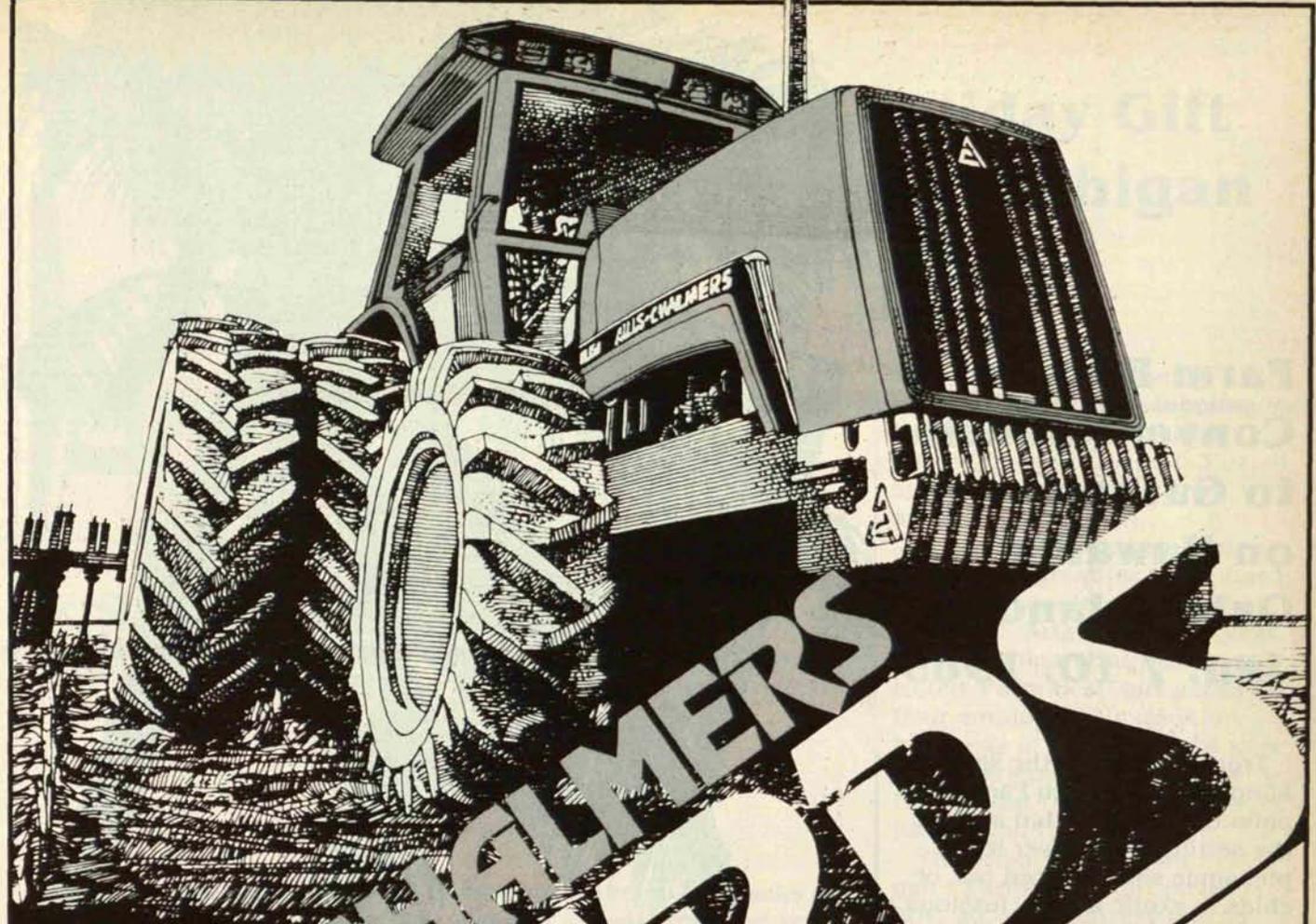
Presentation of awards to the
three Young Farmer title win-
ners will also be on the pro-
gram.

Friday, Nov. 30

The final resolutions session
will begin at 8:30 a.m. and con-
tinue until completion Friday
afternoon.

Election of directors in even-
numbered districts, two direc-
tors at large, one director
representing FB Women and one
director representing Young
Farmers will also take place.

The president of the Michigan
Farm Bureau will be nominated
by the delegate body and
elected during a reorganiza-
tional meeting of the board
following the annual meeting.

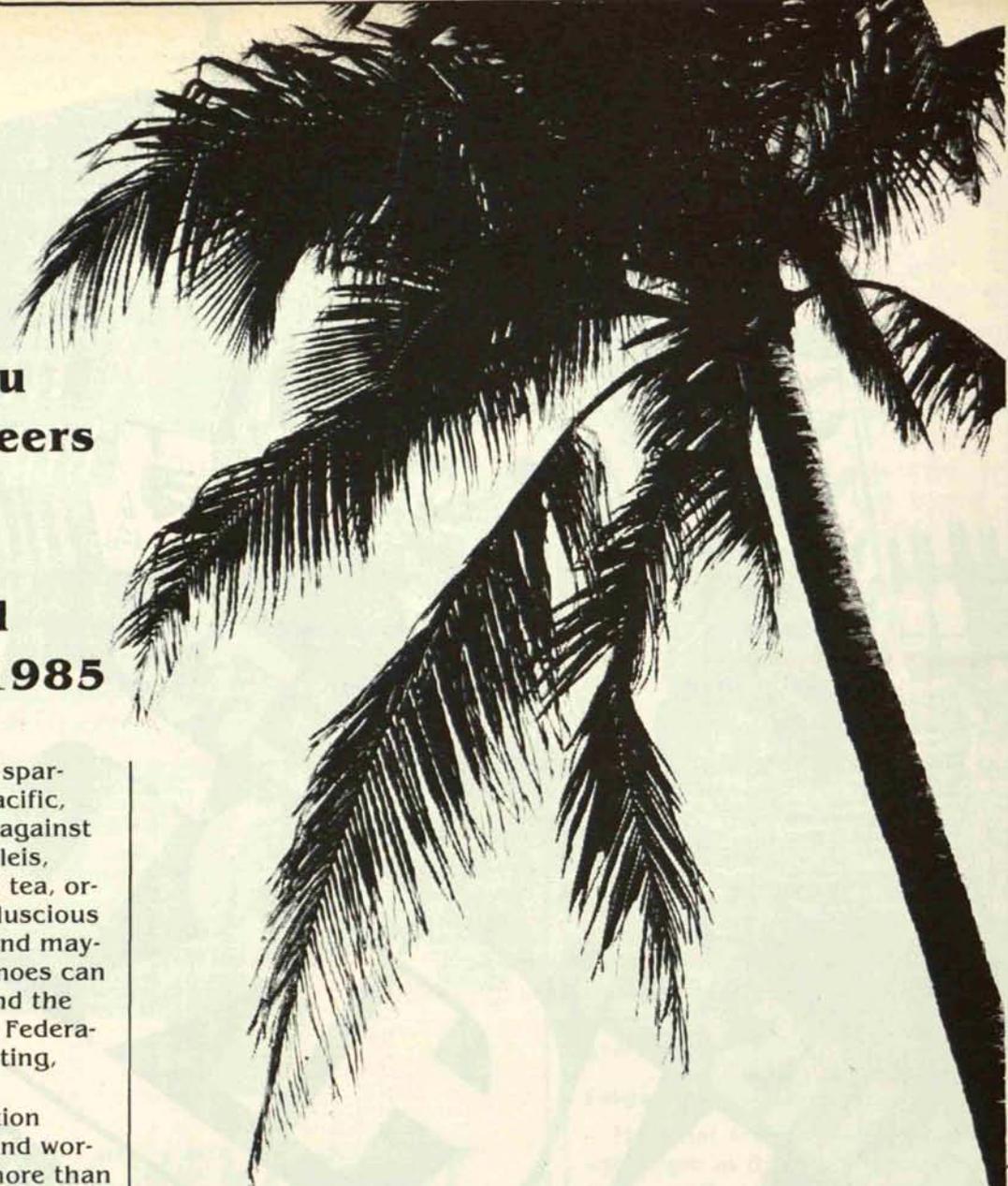


ALLIS-CHALMERS AWARDS

MICHIGAN'S DISTINGUISHED YOUNG FARMER

The winner of Michigan Farm Bureau's Distinguished Young Farmer award will receive use of a high horse power tractor from Allis-Chalmers for one year.

Allis-Chalmers is again sponsoring the Michigan Farm Bureau Distinguished Young Farmer contest at the 1984 MFB annual meeting, Nov. 27-30, Grand Rapids.



Farm Bureau Conventioneers to Gather on Hawaii's Oahu Island Jan. 7-10, 1985

Tropical breezes, the sparkling blue and green Pacific, palm trees silhouetted against the setting sun, flower leis, pineapple slices in iced tea, orchids in exotic drinks, luscious luaus, sandy beaches and maybe even erupting volcanoes can all be yours if you attend the American Farm Bureau Federation's 66th annual meeting, Jan. 7-10 in Hawaii.

While most of the nation shivers, shovels snow and worries about antifreeze, more than 10,000 farmers and ranchers will be enjoying the six island paradise of Hawaii — and it's not too late to make a reservation to join them.

Few places on earth offer the combination of perfect weather, friendly people, eye-stunning scenery and history that Hawaii does. From Oahu, the island which will host the AFBF convention and where most of the state's population lives, to the oldest island, Kauai, the "Garden Island," with its varied vegetation, countless shades of emerald, cascading waterfalls and gentle pace, there is something for every taste and inclination.

Known as the "Gathering Place," Oahu is the most urbanized of the islands, but a half-hour drive from the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, headquarters hotel for the AFBF convention, are thousands of acres of pineapple and sugarcane fields.

Convention-goers will be offered many farm tours, including an orchid nursery, a watercress farm, an aquaculture operation, a poultry operation, a dairy farm, a feed lot and a hog operation. Neighboring islands offer opportunities to visit the only commercially-grown coffee plantation in the

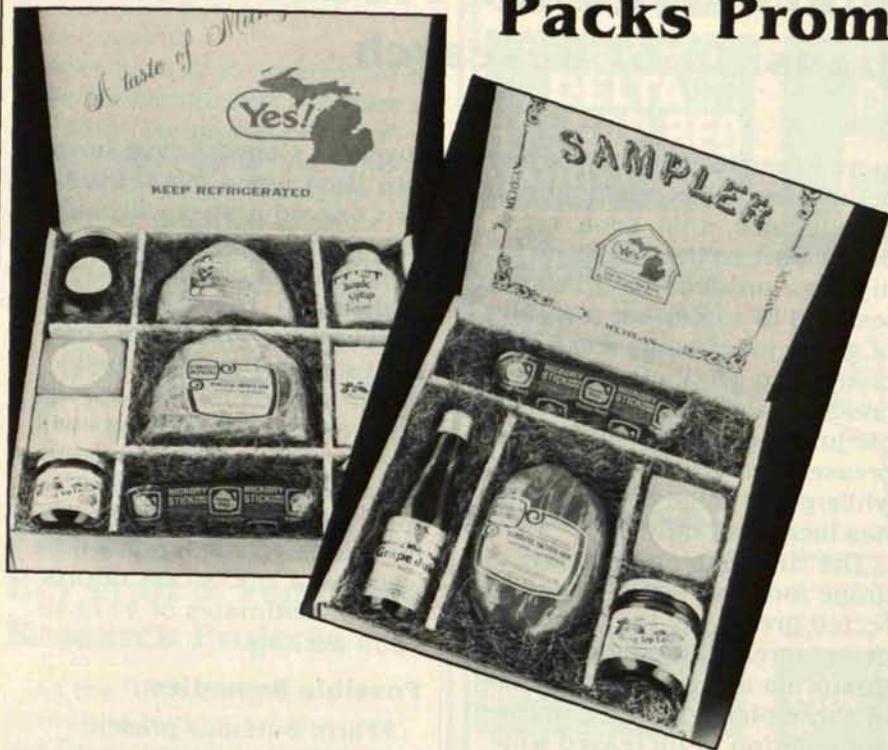
United States, macadamia nut farms and cattle operations, including the 224,000 acre Parker Ranch, one of the largest in the nation.

Convention Highlights

The AFBF convention opens on Monday, Jan. 7 with national discussion meet competition, a vesper service and the Young Farmer and Rancher recognition and awards program.

Tuesday's program begins with a general session featuring recognition of state FBFs' membership achievements and AFBF President Robert Delano's an-
(continued on page 29)

'Farm Best' Holiday Gift Packs Promote Michigan



The Michigan Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Association (MACMA) will repeat its offer of "Michigan's Farm Best" gift packs this Christmas. Last year, gift packs containing over 14,000 pounds of Michigan food products were purchased by Christmas shoppers and the figure is expected to increase this season with growing consumer response to the "Yes! Michigan" campaign, according to Glenn Artz, area representative for MACMA's direct marketing division.

The "Farm Best" gift packs are unique, Artz said, because everything in the packs — from food products to the descriptive brochure — is produced in Michigan and assembled by students in Michigan State University's food science program. The cheese, one of many items in the packs, is produced at the MSU Dairy Plant. Proceeds from the cheese sales and student

labor to make up the packs are used to support the food science and dairy food research facility.

Depending on individual taste and budget, buyers can choose between two gift packs — the supreme, selling for \$39.70, and the sampler for \$15.50.

The supreme gift pack contains a 4½ lb. boneless, hickory smoked and honey cured ham; 1¾ lb. smoked turkey breast; 1 lb. hickory stick (a German style summer sausage); ½ lb. of smoked cheddar cheese and ½ lb. of dagano cheese (both developed at MSU); 16 oz. of pure maple syrup from Michigan's Upper Peninsula; 16 oz. of wild orchard honey from the Grand Traverse fruit belt; 10 oz. of tart cherry almondine topping; 10 oz. of seedless red raspberry preserves; and 7 oz. of chocolate covered raspberries.

The "Michigan's Farm Best" sampler gift pack contains a 2½ lb. boneless, smoked whole

ham; a 1 lb. hickory stick; 10 oz. of gourmet plum topping; ½ lb. golden smoked cheddar cheese from MSU; and 6.3 oz. of sparkling grape juice from southwest Michigan.

"Both packs are excellent values and great for those hard-to-please people on Christmas gift lists," Artz said. "Last year, many Michigan businesses selected 'Farm Best' gift packs for their employees. In addition, hundreds of the gift packs were sent to friends and relatives throughout the country who had moved from Michigan."

The order deadline for "Michigan's Farm Best" gift packs is Nov. 20, with delivery during the week of Dec. 10. The gift packs may be ordered from MACMA, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909, phone 517-323-7000, ext. 709, or from county Farm Bureau offices located throughout the state. See the order blank on page 17 of this issue of *Rural Living*.

MACMA is an affiliate company of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

**USE THE
MACMA ORDER
FORM ON
PAGE 17 OF
THIS ISSUE
TO PURCHASE
SPECIAL HOLIDAY
GIFT PACKS**

Michigan Grape Growers Urge New Product Promotion and Expansion of Research

Michigan is an important producer of grapes, especially when compared to the eastern grape producing states. In 1983, production of 60,000 tons ranked fifth in the nation. Michigan currently grows 12,500 acres of grapes worth approximately \$11 million to \$14 million per year to growers. Climatic and soil conditions are very suitable for the production of lambrusca and French hybrid type grapes.

California is by far the largest grape producing state with over 90% of the total U.S. production. However, the California grape harvest is sold primarily to wine, raisin and fresh market outlets. Michigan and other lambrusca grape producing states produce primarily juice, jelly and jam type grapes. This is due to our heavy reliance on the Concord variety.

Michigan does have a small wine industry, which annually uses 5% to 10% of our grape production. Generally, Michigan grapes do not lend themselves well to fresh market sales. However, there is an increasing market for fresh market sales of lambrusca type grapes.

Michigan grape products compete with other beverages and fruit products. Grape juice, the grape industry's most important product, tends to be

more expensive than most competing beverages (apple juice, orange juice, milk, soda, etc.) due in part to the relatively high raw product cost. This has resulted in somewhat flat sales of grape juice, while some other competing products have increased sales. For example, apple juice consumption has increased over 160% since 1970, while grape juice consumption has increased only 10%.

The Michigan and eastern grape industry has also been affected greatly by the tremendous increase in plantings in California and in Europe. Most of these plantings were made in anticipation of increased wine sales. Unfortunately, sales have not kept pace with the growing supply of wine grapes. This has resulted in a growing oversupply of wine and a very soft market, and therefore the diversion of some traditionally non-juice type grapes into the grape juice market.

In addition, relatively inexpensive foreign grape juice concentrate and wine has begun to take a larger portion of our domestic market. Often, these foreign products are thought to be subsidized by the country of origin.

All of these factors have combined to depress the market for grapes, especially in Michigan, where we have relatively few

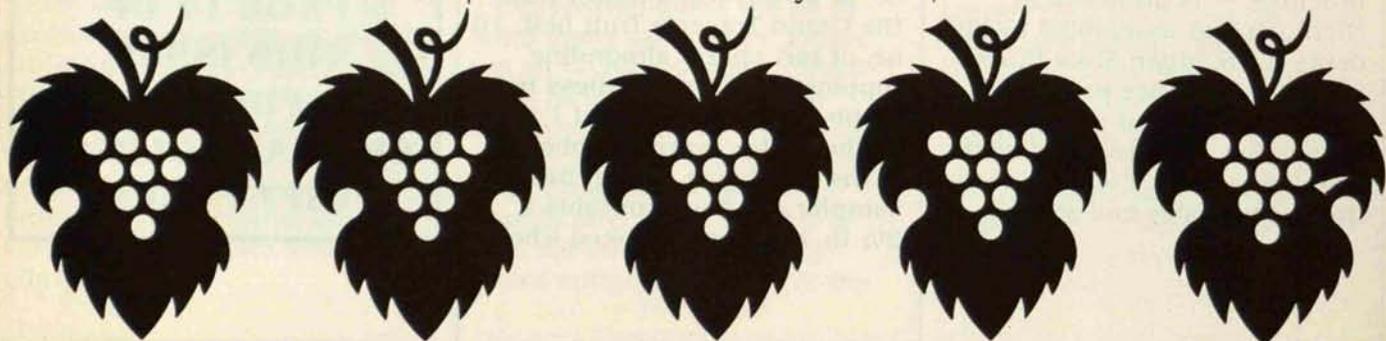
buyers of Concord type grapes.

In 1984, open market prices for Concord grapes will range as low as \$75 to \$100 per ton. While the major buyer of grapes in Michigan, the National Grape Cooperative, will return somewhat higher prices to their farmer members, the average price received by growers will still be extremely low as compared to prices in recent history. Average farm gate prices for grapes in Michigan will be well below MSU's cost of production estimates of \$171 to \$239 per ton.

Possible Remedies

- Farm Bureau's present policy covering the dumping and/or subsidization of grape products entering the United States needs to be enacted into law. In addition, foreign wine and concentrates should be subject to the same inspection, sanitary, quality, labeling and residue standards as domestically produced products.

- An organized promotion and research program for Michigan grapes is needed. Several Michigan produced commodities have found that industry sponsored check-off programs have been beneficial. Most of these programs are organized under Public Act 232 or other specific



enabling legislation. This type of program could sponsor production research, variety development, advertising, promotion and new product development.

Another way to sponsor an industry development program would be through a check-off on the tax collected on wine sales. The state of Ohio instituted a program of this nature several years ago and the results have been beneficial. Currently, there is a bill under consideration to implement such a program in Michigan.

Funding Granted for Key Fruit & Vegetable Research Projects

As the 98th Congress prepared the budget for the coming fiscal year, it included funding for key research projects to be carried out at Michigan State University's Agricultural Experiment Station.

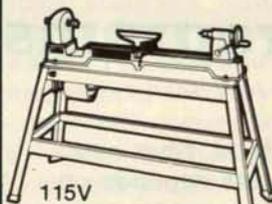
A \$100,000 grant continuation was budgeted for the Asparagus Yield Decline Program, an indepth study of all diseases and viruses that impact the production and yields of asparagus in Michigan.

Funding was also allocated for a Michigan Stone Fruit Decline Study. The multidisciplinary study of tart cherries, sweet cherries, peaches and plums received a grant of \$300,000. The scientific analysis, funded by the grant and conducted by the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station, should provide answers to the problems of keeping trees productive for a longer period of time.

Funding was reinstated for the asparagus statistical data base, which was discontinued by the Crop Reporting Service in 1982.

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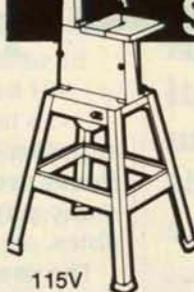
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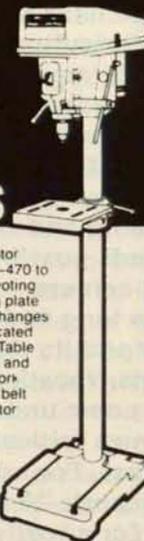
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The Discussion Topic is used by Community Action Groups for monthly policy discussions.



Strengthening Youth Vocational Agriculture Programs

Farmers power today's world! Without skilled farmers and the food they raise, we would be a sorry lot indeed. Farmers and supporting activities and industries make up an agricultural system intertwined with the general economy. This system generates about 20% of the nation's Gross National Product, and employs 23% of the U.S. labor force. Yet only 3% of the labor force is directly engaged in farming.

Where just 10 years ago one farmworker (farmer, family labor and hired help) supplied enough food and fiber for 47 people, an American farmworker now produces enough for 78 people. Agriculture employs more workers than any manufacturing industry. Nearly one in five non-agricultural workers in this country is providing farm inputs or processing and distributing farm products.

The heartbeat of American agriculture is its people. Individuals are engaged in diverse and dynamic agricultural positions in business, communications, science, government services, education, production, processing and marketing. The ability of American agriculture to continue to provide ample

supplies of food, fiber and forest products depends on many physical and human variables.

The most crucial variable in the food equation of the future is the human capital which must continually strengthen and manage the highly technical and delicately integrated production, distribution and marketing system.

Vocational agriculture in Michigan can play an important role in teaching agricultural technology to young people and providing them with the most current career information. According to a recent study by the Production Credit Association, the jobs will definitely be there for those who have the training. Vocational agriculture is unique in that it is so large and dynamic and provides for many career production opportunities for young people. The program of each teacher can make an impact by guiding and counseling the best minds possible into agricultural careers.

Despite its long and honorable history and its significant contributions, vocational agriculture has come under close, and sometimes critical, scrutiny in recent years. For example, the recent report, "A Nation at Risk," calls for a reaffirmation of the five basic subjects: four years of English, three years of math, three years of science,

three years of social studies and one-half year of computer science.

These academic programs are bound to compete with vocational programs for limited resources. And there are some policymakers who would contend that there is no longer room for vocational education in agriculture in our secondary schools.

The problem with this negative view is that vocational agriculture, by its very nature, includes many of the activities and approaches actually recommended for the improvement of secondary education: training for leadership and entrepreneurship, longer periods of time devoted daily to education, a problem-solving approach to learning, higher-quality teachers and greater cooperation with the private sector.

The agricultural curricula typically includes all of the management, finance and marketing aspects of farming — skills useful in any business enterprise. Students are required to set up income-generating business projects or experiments and to record all financial transactions and production tasks in order to measure both profits and productivity. Because agriculture has too many variables to allow pat solutions, students must become innovative, creative thinkers; simply remembering

information and following basic procedures will not suffice in an increasingly complex society.

Perhaps the most outstanding aspect of vocational agriculture is the leadership training it provides through the allied student organization, Future Farmers of America. FFA is an integral part of the vocational agriculture program, reinforcing the program's focus on management training and problem-solving activities. Yet, FFA is but one of several major contributions vocational agriculture has made to secondary education. Other significant contributions include:

- Vocational agriculture emphasizes a problem-solving approach in teaching mathematics and science. Students are taught to use the scientific method, not simply to follow procedures.

- The explicit goals of vocational agriculture have always gone beyond the purely technical skills to encompass equally vital political, economic and communication skills. Each student is required to set up a small business project or experiment for which he or she must estimate productivity and keep financial records.

- Vocational agriculture programs are tied directly to the community and thus have strong grassroots support. Students and faculty members work with local groups on fairs, community education programs and other community activities.

- Competent teachers encourage outstanding students to go on to college and then to join the teaching force. Most vocational agriculture teachers have come through the program themselves, and they strongly believe in its philosophy and value. The regular visits these

teachers make to students' homes during the school year, to meet with students' parents to monitor home-study projects, demonstrates their dedication to the program.

- Vocational agriculture students spend more time in their programs than do other vocational students. Added to the regular school day and year are the after school and weekend meetings of the FFA and the supervised occupational experience, which is generally a 12-month project. To the extent that FFA activities and the occupational experience are academically central — not peripheral — to the program, they significantly expand actual time on task.

- Vocational agriculture programs are most always located in comprehensive high schools, which makes non-vocational courses and other school activities more accessible to students. Vocational agriculture students are less isolated from their counterparts in academic programs than are those vocational students whose classes meet in an area vocational center.

Despite the strengths of vocational agriculture, it is becoming increasingly difficult to justify large expenditures for programs. The key — but often overlooked — justification for vocational agriculture is its historic commitment to developing the entrepreneurial spirit.

FFA provides the leadership training portion of vocational agriculture. The training is related to actual situations the students are involved in, no "make believe." The agricultural contests are also aimed at helping students sharpen their decision-making skills. Both the leadership and agricultural con-

tests are integral to the vocational agriculture program and are intended to motivate students.

The key — but often overlooked — justification for vocational agriculture is its historic commitment to developing the entrepreneurial spirit.

One of several findings of the 1981 Governor's Conference on Agriculture stated: "Continuing and vocational education programs are needed for people actively involved in production agriculture and processing. Both rural and urban Michigan citizens (including youth) need information concerning the importance of Michigan agriculture. This information can be made available through . . . vocational agriculture education."

Discussion Questions

- What should be the responsibility of the local school system for vocational agriculture education?
- What should Farm Bureau do to strengthen current vocational agriculture programs?
- How can Farm Bureau be involved in the development of programs in schools where there is no vocational agriculture education programs?

This month's discussion topic was prepared by Carroll "Jake" Wamhoff, professor and chairperson of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at Michigan State University.

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Legislative Review

(continued from page 8)

licenses, golf fees, occupational licenses, garbage, water and sewer charges, parking, library, tuition, building, etc.).

•Some of the lost state revenue could be made up by eliminating the present property tax credit system including the homestead credit ("circuit breaker") and P.A. 116 credits along with several others. The total would be between \$650 million and \$700 million.

•Another way the state could handle the revenue loss would be by cutting the general fund state aid to schools. The schools have the property tax as another source of revenue which presently requires a vote of the people. This has been done many times through the years to meet budgeting problems.

•The extraordinary approval requirement of a 4/5 vote (80%) by a legislative body to adopt any new fees, license user fee, permit or increase the revenue from such existing sources would place extraordinary power in the hands of a minority.

Proposal C is so far reaching that it is not possible to know all the problems that could be created. Most agree that there could be years of costly litigation in the courts.

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

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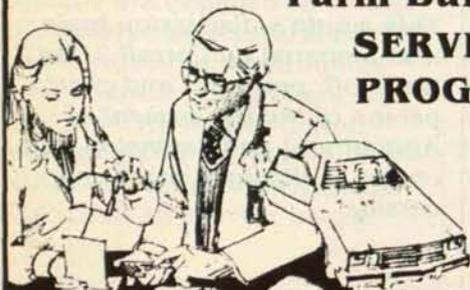
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Jack Lousma

(continued from page 11)

with the farm community. During this campaign I have established a farm committee, headed by Dean Pridgeon, which has a number of farmers on it from across the state who have been instrumental in helping me to take positions on the issues in agriculture, to understand them better and to get more acquainted with the farm problems of the state of Michigan.

I will work in the same way, by keeping in touch with those people in order to see where Michigan stands on the various issues that confront Congress, on a regular basis. I will also keep in touch with Farm Bureau and the major commodity organizations within the state to make sure that I fairly, assertively and aggressively represent Michigan agriculture.

Board of Education

(continued from page 13)

tion of School Boards of Education and twice served on the NASBE board of directors; the American Association of University Professors; Coalition for a Non-Sexist Education, and the World Future Society.

"I have always considered the the most crucial and primary focus of education to be the student," Watnen said. "Everything that is done at any level, but most importantly in the classroom, must be to the student's benefit.

"Other concerns of mine continue to be equality of access, educational equity for women and minorities, and the necessity of imparting to our students entry-level skills with which they can earn a living and further educate themselves."

Watnen believes major educational issues facing Michigan today include school district reorganization; effective financing of schools, colleges and universities; and maintenance of academic standards.

AFBF Convention

(continued from page 22)

nual address. Conferences on commodities, economic services, national issues, FB Women, insurance and natural and environmental resources will be offered in the afternoon, followed by an open Resolutions Committee meeting where FB members can express their views on proposed AFBF policy. That evening the annual star awards program will be held.

Highlights of Wednesday's general session include presentation of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award and an address by Navy Captain Gerald L. Coffee, a former prisoner of war held captive by North Vietnam for seven years. The veteran pilot singles out his faith in himself, his fellow man, America and in God as the key to surviving his long ordeal.

That afternoon the resolutions session opens. Delegates from the 48 state FBs will review recommendations from the AFBF Policy Development Committee, which is chaired by MFB President and AFBF Vice President Elton R. Smith. Members of the MFB board will serve as voting delegates from Michigan. Regional caucuses will also be held that day.

The convention will conclude on Thursday with final discussion and action on resolutions and election of AFBF directors.

Pre- and Post-Convention Tours

Three travel packages have been arranged by Michigan Farm Bureau through the GTU, Inc. travel agency. All packages include roundtrip airfare, neighbor island airfare, hotel accommodations, fresh flower lei greeting, roundtrip transfer service between hotels and airports (including baggage handling), gratuities for all airport porters and hotel bellmen,

cruise on Pearl Harbor, sightseeing and services of a GTU escort. In addition, a \$10 registration fee is required to attend the AFBF convention and use the shuttle bus service between meeting places.

The pre-convention tour takes you to Maui for four days (Jan. 3-6) of relaxation and sightseeing. Then you move on to Oahu for the convention (Jan. 7-10). Cost of this package is \$1,050.19 per person based on double occupancy.

Two post-convention tours are offered. One takes you to Oahu for the convention (Jan. 7-10) followed by visits to Kauai (Jan. 11-12) and Maui (Jan. 13-15). Cost of this package is \$1,093.48 per person based on double occupancy.

On the other post-convention tour, you spend Jan. 7-10 at the AFBF meeting on Oahu, Jan. 11-12 on the island of Hawaii, Jan. 13-14 on Maui and Jan. 15-17 on Kauai. Cost of this package is \$1,301.66 per person based on double occupancy.

Contact GTU, Inc., 66th Annual Meeting Coordination Center, 720 N. Saint Asaph St., Alexandria, VA 22314-1997, for more information. The deadline for reservations is Dec. 1, 1984.

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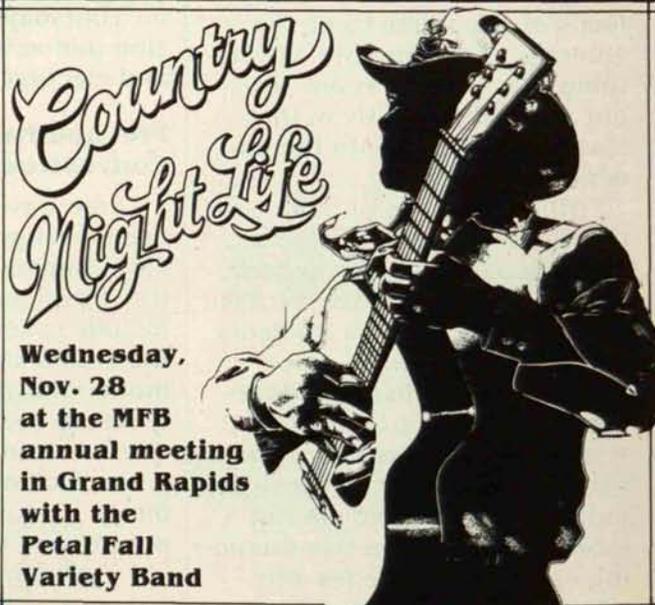
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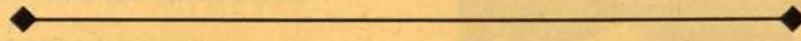
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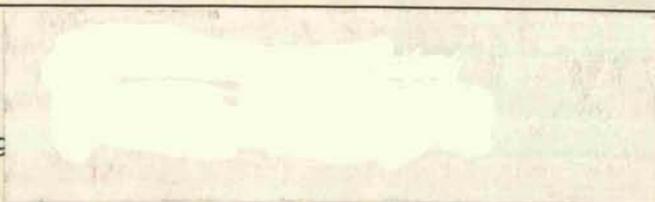
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