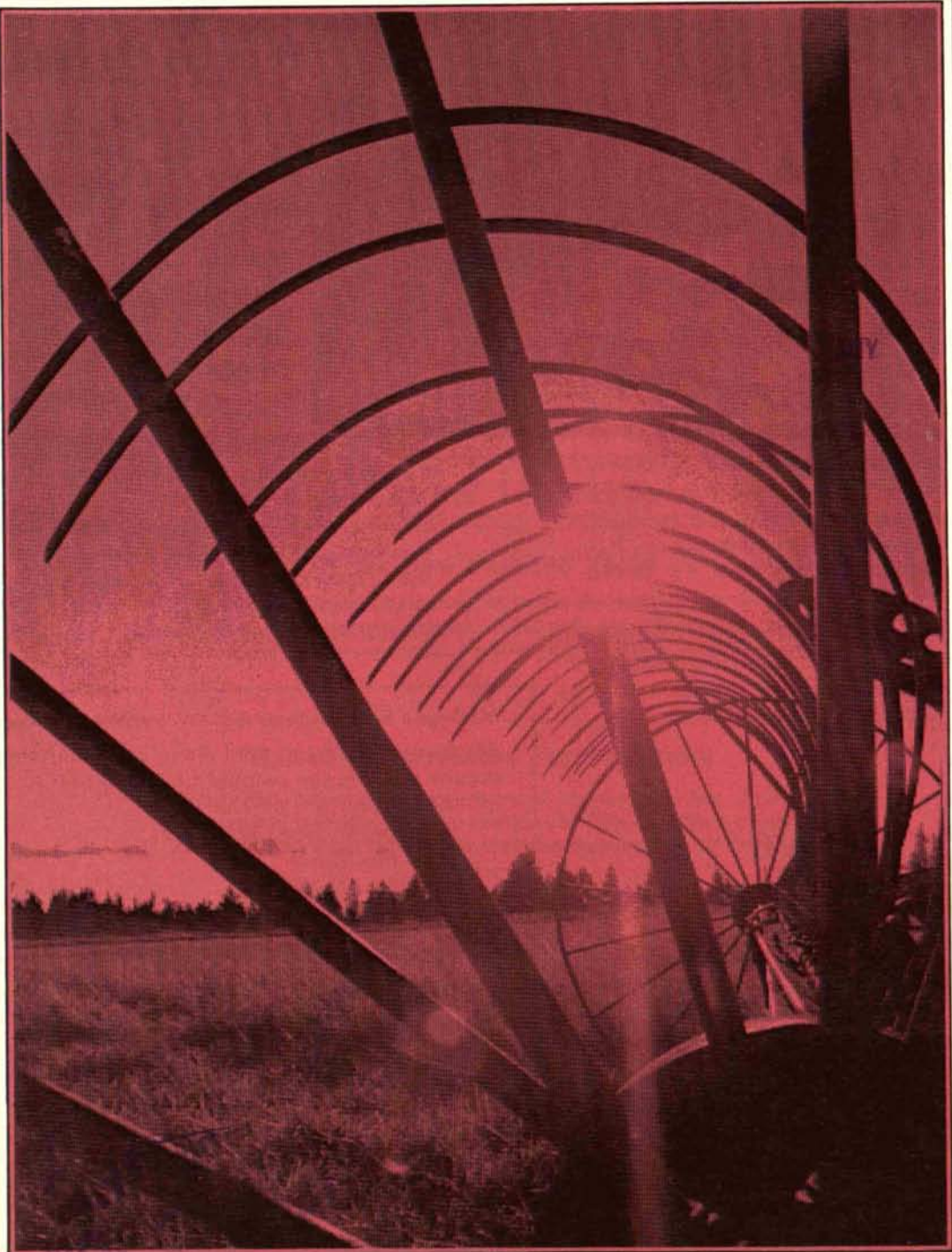


# RURAL LIVING



**Farm Bureau Policy Development  
Agriculture's United Voice**





## Michigan Farm Bureau Buyer's Service Program

### What is the Buyer's Service?

The Michigan Farm Bureau Buyer's Service is a program designed to help save you hundreds of dollars on major purchases that you may make in the coming years. Farm Bureau has contracted with the Family Saver Co. to provide this service.

The Family Saver can be your purchasing agency by eliminating much of the middleman's high mark-up and pass these savings on to you. No pressure to buy, only our help in saving you money.

### How can we do this?

Very simple. We order merchandise direct from the factory or distributor and ship it directly to you or to a warehouse near where you live. We do not have the high cost of inventory, or large warehouse and showrooms, sales commissions, etc. As your purchasing agent to help you save money, we also have some retailers who are interested in increasing their volume and thus giving them larger buying discounts by brokering their product through our great purchasing power.

### What does it cost?

The Buyer's Service, at a cost of only \$20 for the first year and \$15 thereafter annually, allows you to get unlimited pricing information via a toll free number. This program compares favorably with ones costing up to \$795 annually.

## Some Purchases Made by Michigan Farm Bureau Members

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Whirlpool Refrigerator — Savings: \$117  
G.E. Dishwasher — Savings: \$140  
Styleline Table — Savings: \$120  
Thomasville Bedroom Suite — Savings: \$421  
St. Johns Furniture — Savings: \$580  
Amana Radarange — Savings: \$170  
Amana Refrigerator — Savings: \$157  
Homelite Chainsaw — Savings: \$75  
RCA Video Recorder, Tuner, Camera — Savings: \$425  
Dressher Brass Headboard — Savings: \$192  
Richardson Dining Room Furniture — Savings: \$690  
Whirlpool Washer — Savings: \$94  
Whirlpool Dishwasher — Savings: \$79  
John Deere Chainsaw — Savings: \$50  
Zenith Television — Savings: \$135  
Bassett Occasional Tables — Savings: \$631

#### Michigan Farm Bureau Buyer's Service Enrollment Form

Please complete and mail along with your check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 to:

Michigan Farm Bureau  
Member Service Department  
P.O. Box 30960  
Lansing, MI 48909

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Bureau Membership Name  
(as shown on membership card)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

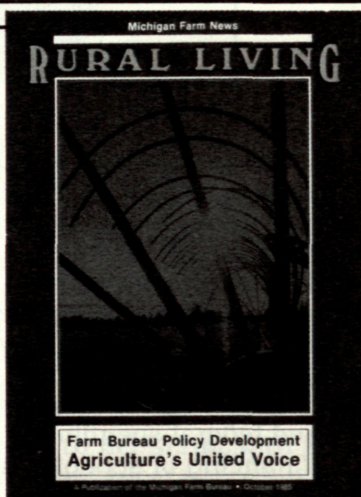
Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check or money order)



# RURAL LIVING

## FARM NEWS

A publication  
of the  
Michigan  
Farm Bureau



OCTOBER 1985

VOL. 64 NO. 10

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## MFB's Purpose Remains Constant: Serving Farmers



Smith encourages members to use the PD/PX process to solve problems.

This is county annual meeting time in Michigan, when Farm Bureau members across the state set aside a few hours to conduct the important business of their organization, recognize the achievements of worthy individuals, and make policy decisions and recommendations. In most cases, business is combined with pleasure as farmers exchange news and views over a good meal.

On the annual meeting agendas of several county FBs this year will be the addition of some appropriate recognition that 1985 marks their 50th anniversary as an organization. With the focus on policy development, county annuals are a time for looking ahead. But reaching such a significant landmark is worthy of celebration and a look back.

I think looking back on such an occasion is a good exercise because it reminds us what Farm Bureau is and why it was started.

In 1935, when several of our county FBs were born, we had just experienced the worst drought in history. Farm prices were on a slight incline but still 40% behind the high income year of 1929. Many farmers were on the brink of bankruptcy and county farm debt committees were formed to help these farm families work out equitable solutions with their creditors.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration, developed by the Roosevelt administration to

save a sinking industry, was being touted as a good production control program that just needed some fixing. U.S. farmers were encouraged to forget about the foreign markets they had lost and concentrate only on the domestic market.

Tariffs, unfair trade practices, increased federal spending, taxes, financing of schools and roads were other concerns of farmers in 1935.

It was in the midst of this challenging environment that the county FBs celebrating their 50th anniversary this year were born. Their parent Michigan State Farm Bureau was emerging as a new power for farmer interests, recognition of its growing influence on legislative issues spreading across the state. The young organization's successful fight for sales tax exemption on farm inputs was won that year, a victory that 50 years later is still recognized as one of the greatest in Farm Bureau history.

That victory saved farmers nearly \$2 million in 1935, in tough economic times when every precious dollar spent had to be carefully evaluated in terms of its return. As one of our FB leaders noted then: "No farmer is so poor but what he would have been poorer had there been no such organization as the Michigan State Farm Bureau. Can a farmer afford to belong to Farm Bureau? He can't afford not to!"

This glimpse of the past tells us that many of the problems we face today are like an instant replay of those we tackled 50 years ago. It tells us that once a problem has been solved,

it doesn't necessarily remain solved and that our victories must be guarded by the continued vigilance of a strong Farm Bureau. The sales tax exemption is a good example because it has been challenged regularly through the years and each time farmers, through their Farm Bureau, have been victorious.

This look back tells us that while times change, and Farm Bureau policies, programs and services change to meet the needs of changing times, one thing is constant. The one thing that does not change is the purpose of Farm Bureau, its reason for being — to serve as a problem-solving tool for farmers.

Yesterday, today, tomorrow — Farm Bureau was, it is, and always will be, an organization through which farmers can analyze their problems and take united action to solve those problems.

I challenge not just those county FBs celebrating 50 years of service to farmers, but also those older and younger, to rededicate themselves to that principle. Your future, the future of agriculture, depends upon how effectively you use the problem-solving tool that is Farm Bureau.

*Elton R. Smith*

Elton R. Smith, President  
Michigan Farm Bureau



# Farm Aid: Good Music, Good Intentions

By Donna Wilber

Everyone, it seems, is talking about the "Farm Aid" concert except farmers.

It's really tough for FB staff and leadership to know how to communicate with members about Farm Aid and the reasons behind it. If you come across with too much skepticism about the event, those who are in trouble think you're insensitive and out of touch with what's really happening. If you follow the gloom and doom lead of some media, politicians and economists, and the entertainers who staged the event, those who are in relatively good financial shape think you're dragging the industry down.

I talked to my mom about this challenge because she's been on both ends and in the middle. The first Christmas I can remember was on an isolated South Dakota ranch, so isolated that the snowstorm that raged outside kept Santa from his appointed rounds. He didn't come with the spring thaw either. We weren't among the survivors of that farm crisis.

Years later, my mom realized her dream of returning to a ranch in South Dakota, a happy "cowgirl" until her retirement. Now in her 80's, she worries that the buyers of her ranch won't make it through the current crisis.

I just had to know how this pioneer felt about her industry being in such sad straits that the superstars of the entertainment world held a benefit concert for troubled farmers. It is pretty ironic that the two major benefit concerts of the year were held for the Ethiopians

who had no food and for farmers who have produced more food than the market knows what to do with.

Through the years, my mom has had two standard answers for every problem I've shared with her, from the zit on my nose on prom night to bankruptcy in the newspaper business: "It builds character" and "It's part of God's plan." She stuck to her script with this problem, too.

Proud and compassionate, she shares the ambivalent feelings of most farmers, I think, about Farm Aid and the problems that led to its staging. Farm Aid did draw national attention to the economic hardships that have befallen many rural Americans. It raised millions of dollars which can be earmarked for various forms of assistance to farm families in need.

But even a concert of this magnitude is little more than a bandaid. If, as some experts maintain, a third of the outstanding farm debt of about \$218 billion is in danger of going in default, it would take a thousand such benefit efforts to relieve even the most needy among farm debtors.

Dean Pridgeon, former MFB vice president and former MDA director who now serves as an MSU trustee, thinks part of agriculture's problems stems from the fact that farmers are loved too much and certainly, the response to Farm Aid proves that the public does love farmers.

Sharing some thoughts with the MFB board recently, he said, "It's too bad we farmers are loved so much. When farmers are in economic trouble, everyone wants the government to

help us. And the more 'help' we get from government, the worse off our industry becomes.

"When the fellow downtown who ran the car dealership or the couple who operated the local hardware store were in financial trouble, nobody loved them enough to call on government to save them. I reject the idea of a government-managed agriculture and that's one of the ideas to 'save' us today," Pridgeon said.

"My freedom of choice, the opportunities I have that farmers in other parts of the world don't have, are sacred to me. I have a great abiding faith in agriculture and I don't believe the problems we have now are insurmountable — if we take a lesson from past mistakes."

Farm Aid did raise the question of how there can be prosperity for some segments of the economy while agriculture, a vitally important segment, still suffers. Fifty years of federal farm programs and billions of dollars of taxpayer money have not made a real difference. Neither did Farm Aid. But perhaps because of it, we will strengthen our determination to solve the problems of American agriculture.

I hope the ultimate solution will rest not with the entertainers who staged the event nor with the publics who responded to it, but with farmers themselves, through Farm Bureau. There's no doubt that will be a character-building experience and my mom says it's part of God's plan.

My mom is seldom wrong.



# Farm Policy and Tax Reform Issues Heat Up in Fall Congressional Session

## WASHINGTON

**Farm Bill Action** — The House Ag Committee passed a five year farm bill Sept. 10. Most of the commodity provisions were unchanged from the July version. The committee did accept savings recommendations for \$11.8 billion. However, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that farm bill costs will exceed the allowable budget levels by \$8 billion.

Amendments approved by the committee would give the USDA secretary authority to reduce the soybean loan rate by 5% if needed to maintain export markets, and establish a producer referendum for wheat and feed grains, or for a voluntary certificate program.

Under the certificate program, the USDA secretary would set acreage reduction requirements. Participating producers would receive a non-recourse loan (\$4.50/bu. for wheat; \$3.25/bu. for corn) and be issued marketing certificates. A government subsidy would be paid to exporters in cash or in grain, much like the current export bonus program, to make the U.S. competitive. Producers would vote every two years with a 60% majority required for approval.

During floor consideration many amendments and lengthy debates can be expected. Congressmen will be faced with intense lobbying from the many interest groups that will be in Washington, D.C., when the farm bill is being considered.

Over 60 county FB leaders from Michigan were in Washington Sept. 16-17 asking their congressmen to support FB's Farm Bill '85.

**Cargo Preference** — A federal district court has ruled that cargo preference requirements do apply to export sales of ag commodities under the blended credit program operated by USDA. The blended credit program combines CCC interest-free credits and credit guarantees to produce a more favorable interest rate for foreign buyers of U.S. ag commodities.

The ruling is being appealed in the Federal Court of Appeals. AFBF has joined the appeal by filing a brief as a friend of the court. AFBF argues that cargo preference requirements do not apply to commercial transactions such as those involved in the blended credit program. If the ruling is not reversed, the cost of blended credit sales will increase to foreign buyers by 10% to 15%.

**Tax Reform** — Following President Reagan's announced plans to reform the federal tax code, AFBF appointed a Tax Study Committee. The committee has studied various tax reform proposals, developed recommendations and submitted a report to the AFBF board. Recommendations of the task force approved by the board include:

- Support repeal of the investment tax credit.
- Support retention of the current Accelerated Cost Recovery

System including the scheduled increases in expensing of certain depreciable property from the current \$5,000 to \$10,000 after 10 years.

- Support a capital gains rule that would give a taxpayer the option of excluding between 40% and 60% of nominal gains on assets or reporting only gains in excess of inflation as ordinary income.

- Support a change in present capital gains so that all gains on sales of breeding, draft and sporting livestock and dairy animals would be treated as ordinary income.

- Support current law that allows timber sales to be eligible for capital gains treatment.

- Support current law that allows annual expensing of pre-production expenditures for livestock, orchards, vineyards and timber management and development expenses.

- Support repeal of income averaging.

- Support cash accounting but limit it to taxpayers with gross farm receipts of \$1 million or less.

- Support current law that allows expenditures for soil conditioners to be deductible in the year paid.

- Support capitalization of land clearing expenditures.

- Support long-lasting soil and water conservation expenditures and permanent improvements being capitalized and then depreciated or added to the basis of the land, while non-permanent, shortrun improvements could be expensed without limit.

- Support repeal of the special tax credit for timber develop-



ment but continue all other current timber amortization rules.

- Support a graduated rate structure with lower tax rates for lower income small corporations.

- Oppose taxation of life insurance inside buildup.

- Oppose allowing the alcohol fuels tax credits and exemptions to expire.

## LANSING

The Legislature reconvened on Sept. 18 with many issues to be resolved during the fall session.

**Taxation** — The Senate Finance Committee held hearings on the governor's tax proposals which passed the House before summer recess. About a dozen bills are involved, ranging from increasing some taxes to a rollback of the state income tax to 4.6% before its present phase-out time.

FB strongly opposed the 150% increase proposed on capital gains. It would have severely hurt many livestock producers and those selling land. The House finally amended the bill to exempt agriculture.

FB also strongly opposes a new insurance tax that would place a 2% to 3% tax on premiums. Farmers buy a greater variety of insurance coverage than anyone else. There are 28 different types of insurance affected.

Premiums which would be subject to a 2% tax rate include: workers' comp, life, liability, autos, trucks, group accident and health. The 3% tax rate would apply to fire and allied lines. In the case of "multiple peril" insurance such as farmowners and homeown-

## 1986 FB Policy Must Provide Clear Direction on Key Issues



AFBF staff member Mary Kay Thatcher told county and state FB leaders gathered for the statewide policy development meeting at Lansing, Aug. 20, that the organization needs clear policy direction in the year ahead on key issues such as tax policy, farm credit, soil conservation and federal crop insurance.

ers, 70% of the premium would be subject to the 3% rate and 30% to the 2% rate.

Testimony by a farm woman at the Grand Rapids hearing revealed that total insurance premiums on their farm are over \$13,000. The tax could be well over \$300. This includes all types of insurance. . . workers' comp, cars, trucks, life, health, fire, wind, etc. A large portion of that total is a family health care policy which would be taxable. It is not a Blue Cross policy. Under the current legislation, Blue Cross would not be taxable but is expected to become taxable later.

**Ethanol Production** — FB continues to work toward in-state production. There is a good possibility that two or three production units could be built in Michigan, depending on legislative support.

The new market for corn nationwide due to ethanol production now exceeds 200 million bushels. As a comparison, the U.S.S.R. bought 126 million bushels in 1983 and 255 million in 1984 while the ECC bought about 150 million bushels. One ordinary size ethanol plant could use the corn production from 40,000 acres.

**Subdivision Control** — The final draft of proposed legislation completely rewriting the present subdivision control law was to be introduced in September. It results from nearly three years of work by a special study commission. FB was represented on the commission.

**Bottle Bill** — The issue is whether "wine cooler" bottles should come under the bottle deposit law. The attorney general and Michigan United



Conservation Club are trying to get the Liquor Control Commission to do this by rule. If an amendment to the law is needed, it would take a 75% vote in the Legislature because the bottle law was put into effect by a voter referendum.

FB is supporting a drive to have wine cooler bottles included in the bottle law. Wine cooler bottles often cause damage to farm equipment tires.

#### **Transportation Formula —**

This issue will continue for the next year. The Legislature extended the expiration date of the present allocation formula because of controversy. FB has been very involved and has testified before the special task force.

**Energy Study —** FB is now represented on the advisory committee on "Michigan's Least Cost Electricity Options." This will take about two years to complete.

**Liability Insurance —** S.B. 327 and 328 will be considered in the fall session. The bills place various limits on liability claims against governmental units (townships, counties, cities, school districts, road commissions). A House committee is also holding hearings on the health related liability problems.

The State Bar of Michigan and Trial Lawyers Association are the chief opponents.

**Balanced Budget Amendment SJR "A" —** One last effort will be made during this session to make Michigan the 33rd state to pass a resolution to require Congress to begin the federal constitutional process to mandate balanced federal budgets.

**Blue Cross Blue Shield —** A major legislative effort will be made to make the "Blues" a non-profit mutual insurance

company in order to avoid the oppressive state regulations and make them competitive with the other health care companies. Legislation will be considered this fall.

#### **Assessment Equalization**

— The Supreme Court recently ruled that "creative financing" used in property sales during times of high interest rates must be considered when determining property value for tax purposes.

This was a defeat for the Tax Commission which, in 1982, refused to take "creative financing" into account. The effect was higher valuations of 5% to 6% in some areas. The decision is not retroactive but applies after Jan. 1, 1986.

**Petition Drives —** Citizens will be deluged with at least 19 petition drives to put various issues on the 1986 ballot.

Some of the petitions would:

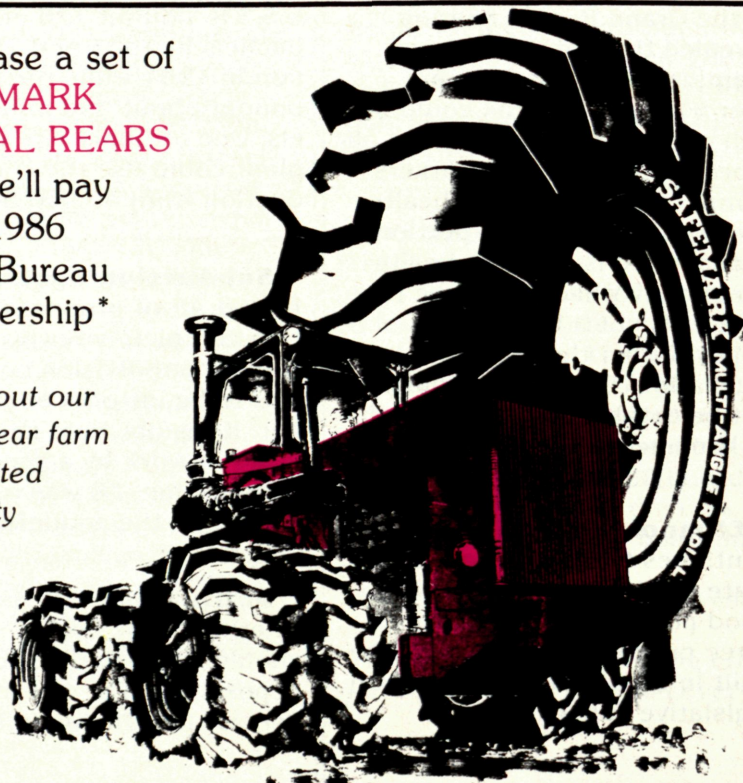
- Permit capital punishment
- Require a part-time Legislature
- Change the present two house Legislature to one house
- Assure civil rights for homosexuals
- Earmark 25% of beer and wine taxes for substance abuse programs
- Limit income tax to 5%
- Limit governors to two terms
- Authorize Court of Appeals to determine legislative redistricting
- Prevent utility companies from charging customers for construction costs
- Eliminate taxes for businesses netting less than \$1,000 per year
- Cut state spending 1% per year through 1996 and refund surplus money to taxpayers
- Ban abortions

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

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Michigan Farm Bureau

# AgriPac Raffle

Promoted by State and County Young Farmer Committees

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### GRAND PRIZE

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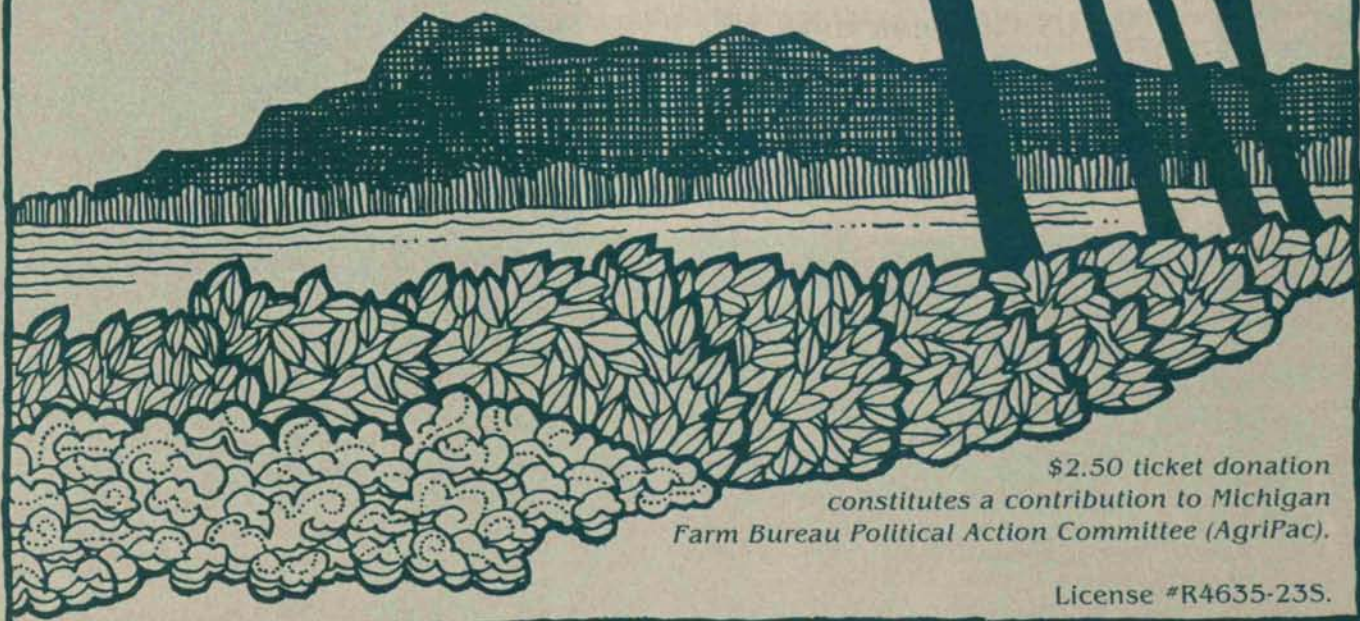
### OTHER PRIZES

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Drawing will be held at the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, AgriPac Breakfast, Dec. 12, 1985, 8 a.m., Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids.

Contact your local Young Farmer Committee or a member of the State Young Farmer Committee for tickets.


*Tickets may be purchased by MFB members only.*



\$2.50 ticket donation  
constitutes a contribution to Michigan  
Farm Bureau Political Action Committee (AgriPac).

License #R4635-23S.



A black and white photograph showing a large, arched greenhouse structure. The structure is made of a series of curved ribs, creating a series of large, arched openings. A person is standing inside the structure, looking out. The background shows a landscape with trees and a body of water. The image is framed by a window with a grid pattern.

*"Farmers are such a small segment of the population. Now more than ever it is important for us to speak with a united voice."*

*— Edith Humm, President  
Gratiot County Farm Bureau*



# Agriculture's United Voice

## Gratiot County Farm Bureau members celebrate 50 years of service to agriculture

In 1935, several programs designed to aid agriculture in its recovery from the Depression and drought were established as part of the second phase of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

Notable among those programs were the development of the Soil Conservation Service to help farmers fight erosion, and the establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration, to build power lines and provide electricity through government-sponsored cooperatives in areas not served by utility companies. Both agencies are celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year.

As FDR's programs to aid farmers were gaining national attention, a still youthful Farm Bureau organization was gaining stature in its efforts to help farmers in Michigan.

Organized in 1919, the Michigan State Farm Bureau was in its 16th year of service to the state's farmers when in May 1935 the organization won a resounding victory in a 23-month battle to end the 3% sales tax on farm supplies. At that time, it was estimated that the exemption could save Michigan farmers nearly \$2 million a year.

The success of the agricultural exemption suit resulted in many farmers organizing county units which eventually became a part of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

At least one county that organized in 1935 made special plans to commemorate its 50th anniversary this year.

"The basic purpose of Gratiot County Farm Bureau has not changed since 1935," said Edith Humm, Gratiot County FB president. "Our main goal is still to promote farmers and agriculture. The main issue today is the survival of the family farm unit.

"I feel Farm Bureau, as an organization of farmers, can accomplish much more than individuals," she said. "Farmers are such a small segment of the population and now more than ever it is important for us to speak with a united voice."

In his brief comments to the nearly 250 members attending the Gratiot annual meeting on Sept. 6, MFB President/AFBF Vice President Elton R. Smith reflected on the history of the organization.

"I looked at the 1935 *Michigan Farm News* copies to refresh my memory of what was going on the year of your birth," he said. "There was one report that caught my attention. Clark Brody, who was then secretary-manager, described the young organization with these words: 'The Farm Bureau has been through its experimental stages and it is just as good as its members make it.'

"Just as good as its members make it!" Smith repeated. "That was true in 1919 when the Michigan Farm Bureau was born... true in 1935 when the Gratiot County Farm Bureau was formed... and just as true today!"

Smith said the "secret" to Farm Bureau's sales tax exemption victory is the same "secret" of every success the organization enjoys. "The 'secret' is the willingness of members to stand up and be counted in support of the policies developed by members," he said. "It's standing on the firm foundation of Farm Bureau policies and speaking out on those policies, turning the words in our policy books — whether they be national, state or local policies — into action!"

Smith challenged the Gratiot FB members to continue the organization's success. "I think it's good to have an occasion such as this to shake out some of the apathy that can creep into a 50-year-old organization. It's a good time to rededicate ourselves to using that 'secret' formula to its fullest potential."

Following Smith's remarks, Mary Kay Thatcher, assistant director of national affairs for the American Farm Bureau Federation, spoke to the group on "Agriculture — the Tragedy, the Humor and the Myths."

(continued on page 23)



# Hall of Fame Honors Farm Partners

**Stanley and Eleanor Powell's farm partnership has stood the test of time and given service to their industry. The Powells and nine other couples were recently inducted into the Michigan Farmers' Hall of Fame.**

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Stanley and Eleanor Powell of Ionia, one of Michigan's most highly-respected farm couples, were recently inducted into the Michigan Farmers' Hall of Fame along with nine other couples. The following article, based on a Sept. 3, 1985 front-page story written by R. C. Gregory, managing editor of the Ionia Sentinel-Standard, reflects their lifetime of commitment to agriculture so well that we decided to share the story with our readers.)*

When they first learned about their upcoming induction into the Michigan Farmers' Hall of Fame, Stanley and Eleanor Powell of Ionia were reticent. But, after a little reflection, the high honor rests easily with them.

"I always think at times like this that there are so many others who have done more, accomplished more than we have," Eleanor said. "We appreciate the honor but there are others for whom the honors are overdue."

Stanley agreed. "When the committee first came to interview us about this and told us the date, I said, 'Oh, my, that's when I expect to be showing cattle at the (Michigan) State Fair, which I have done for so many years.' I've lived and

looked forward to showing cattle at the State Fair — of dating things from it, looking forward to it, and looking back on it.

"But, then, I thought, a lot of these honors have been given to me and this one honors the partnership of farmer and wife — and that's a good thing," Stanley said. "So I decided to forget about showing cattle in order to go to the ceremony."

## **Hall of Fame Emphasizes 'Partnership' in Recognition**

The Powells' "partnership" has been going strong since 1927 when they married and took over operation of the farm that has been in Stanley's family since 1842.



At the fourth annual induction ceremonies, held at the new Michigan Farmers' Hall of Fame building near Delton in Barry County, the Powells proudly accepted this latest recognition as they were honored along with nine other farm couples. Thirty-two farm couples have now been inducted.

Formed by a group of citizens led by William Aukerman, the purpose of the hall of fame is to honor farm couples exclusively, and in that respect, the organization is apparently unique.

"Other organizations include people from agribusiness and implements," Stanley said. "This organization is different because it honors the farm couple, the working farm partnership."

## **State and National Dignitaries Honor Couples**

Along with a plaque, the Powells and other inductees received letters of congratulations from President Reagan, Gov. Blanchard and other state and national political figures.

In his letter, Reagan wrote, in part: "Farming remains as demanding and difficult an enterprise as ever despite vast scientific and technological advances. It requires pioneer spirit and stamina along with business acumen to survive and prosper in the face of innumerable challenges, including the uncertainties of nature."



Thanks to Congressman Guy VanderJagt (R-Luther), Eleanor says she'll be ready when "my flag wears out." In his letter, VanderJagt said he would send them a flag that was to be flown over the capitol on Aug. 30 to commemorate their induction into the hall of fame.

"Our nation owes a debt to you and all those who have farmed our land, provided our food and established the values that make us strong. Your 58 years of farming in the Ionia area are indeed impressive as is your outstanding public service," VanderJagt wrote.

### Career of Service to Agriculture

Stanley, who has been active in public and political affairs for more than half a century, started his career at Michigan Farm Bureau in 1921 working with the part-time Legislature. In 1927, when his father, Herbert (a former state senator), was named director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, he left FB to return to farming full-time but soon went to work for the Michigan Co-op Wool Marketing Association, an FB affiliate.

Never one to sit back and wait for others to take action, Stanley decided to run for the Michigan Legislature (then a part-time job) when he was unhappy with the work of his state representative. That was in 1930. He served two years (1931-32) and was one of many Republicans soundly defeated in the wake of FDR's coattails in 1932. Once again, he returned to farming full-time.

In 1938, he returned to Farm Bureau as a legislative counsel and interrupted his FB service only once more, to serve as a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention in 1961-62. He left FB at age 65 in February 1964 after 43 years of service. But the word "retire"



Many Michigan families got to know Stanley Powell, his family and farm philosophy through his column, "Notes From Ingleside Farm," which appeared in Michigan Farmer magazine from 1926 until 1965. "Writing that column was probably the highlight of my career in agriculture," Stanley said. Here, he and Eleanor look through a scrapbook of some of those columns.

wasn't in his vocabulary then, so he ran for the Michigan House again. This time he was elected and survived redistricting of his district twice before retiring, once again, in 1978.

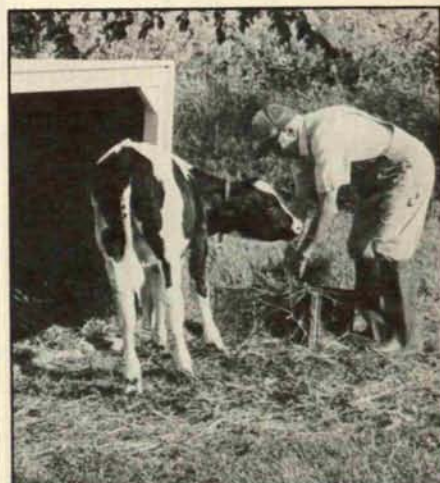
In addition to his Farm Bureau involvement, Stanley has served in various capacities with the Soil Conservation District, the Michigan State Grange, state and national milking shorthorn societies and the Michigan State Fair Authority.

"Sometimes," said Eleanor, "it was 'Goodbye,' on Monday morning, 'I'll see you on Friday.' I always say there are three C's in Stanley's life: church, cattle and children. . . and I'm still cleaning up straw from the kitchen floor because he still goes to the barn every day to do chores."

### Powell Partners Push Bill Through Legislature

The Powell partnership also worked in another way, mentioned by Gov. Blanchard in his

letter of congratulations: "It is my understanding that you both were instrumental in the passage of the Home Prepared Food Bill 6090, known by many as the 'Potluck Supper Bill.' It is (continued on page 29)



The Powell farm, which was once known for its purebred Shropshire sheep and milking shorthorn cattle, is now a dairy and cash crop operation run mainly by the Powell's oldest son, Ron. But Stanley still gets up at 5:30 a.m. every day to help with the chores.

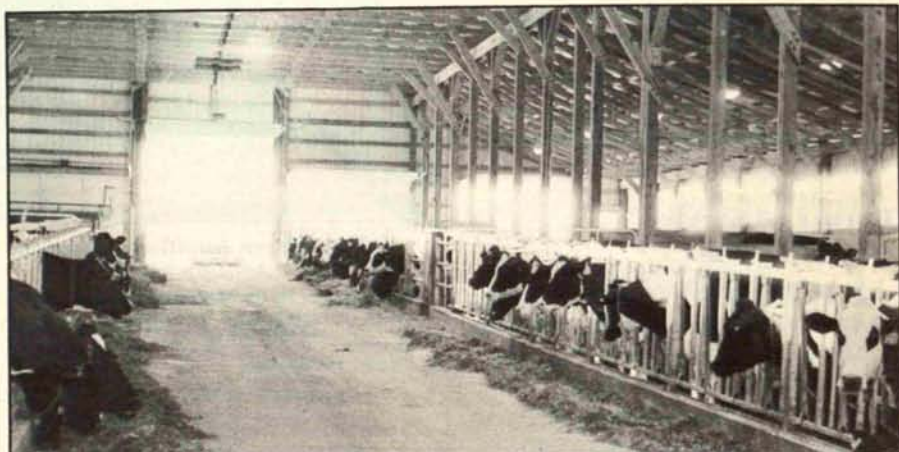


# Kellogg Dairy Center Focuses on Management and Applied Research

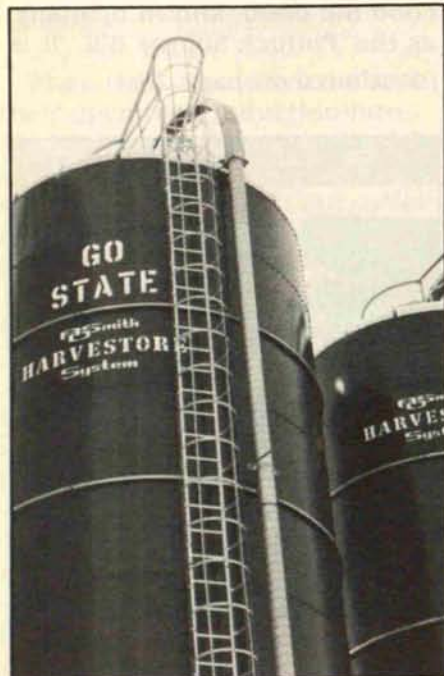
By Mike Rogers

Successful dairy farmers in the future will have to do more than just get maximum production from their herds. They'll have to "milk" their operation for information. . . information on all aspects of their farming operations. Then they'll have to evaluate that information and apply it in a sophisticated manner in order to run their farms at top efficiency.

Demonstrating some ways that farmers can do just that is one of the goals of the new Kellogg Dairy Center located at



An automatic flushing system empties dairy barn waste into a holding tank. From there it is pumped to a liquid/solid separator. The liquid goes to a lagoon and is later returned to water tanks or applied as irrigation. Researchers are looking for ways to process the solid waste for reuse as animal bedding.



MSU spirit is really in evidence among the KBS Dairy Center students, faculty and staff. Although the A.O. Smith Harvester silo isn't available in Spartan Green, the silo carries the spirited cheer "Go State" painted in white.

the Kellogg Biological Center in Kalamazoo County. The center was dedicated Aug. 28.

John Speicher, MSU dairy Extension specialist who will direct research at the center, said the facility brings together state-of-the-art dairy production technology. "We'll be focusing on management research applied to both the dairy and cropping aspects of production," he said. "It will be applied research rather than the more basic research done on the campus of Michigan State University."

As might be expected, computers play a key role in managing the operation. Each cow's ear tag number is entered on a computer keyboard as the cow enters the double-six herringbone design milking parlor. As the cow is milked, production levels are automatically measured and a computer display

can show that cow's average production for the previous seven days. In the future, a computer will be installed that will identify each cow as she enters the parlor. The computer will then record data on that cow without human intervention.

While keeping close track of production is crucial, Speicher said the center will also be doing research on all of the inputs in dairying.

"Our research is very much focused on the dairy and farm operation side. . . feeding, handling and breeding. But Michigan dairy producers can also be thought of as crop producers who market their crops through dairy cows, so we have the opportunity here to work with crop production and get

*(continued on page 29)*



**A vacation for just \$2.50? That's the price of tickets in AgriPac's newest fundraiser: a raffle** (license #R4635-23S). Top prizes are a Caribbean cruise and a Northern Michigan weekend for two. Other prizes include a 19" color TV, microwave oven, video cassette recorder and 35mm camera.

Only MFB members can purchase tickets and the \$2.50 donation is a contribution to MFB's political action committee, AgriPac. Tickets are available from members of state and county Young Farmer committees, who are sponsoring the raffle. The drawing will take place at 8 a.m. on Dec. 12 during the AgriPac Breakfast at the MFB annual meeting, Grand Rapids.

**Mark your calendars for MFB's 66th annual meeting, Dec. 10-13** at the Amway Grand Plaza and Grand Center in Grand Rapids. Together We Win — Farm Bureau" is the theme. Policy development will be the top priority but there will also be a full agenda of recognition activities, keynote speakers, elections and entertainment.

**The 1986 AFBF annual meeting is set for Jan. 11-16 in Atlanta.** Features include development of policies for the nation's largest farm organization, world-renowned speakers, entertainment, an awards program, and a trade show. A brochure describing the various convention packages, including a Caribbean cruise and bus tour to Nashville, is available from county FB secretaries and the MFB Information & Public Relations Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. Make your reservations early.

**Agra Land, Inc.'s board of directors and management will recommend to stockholders that substantially all of the company's assets be sold to Mid-States Terminals, Inc., and/or Countrymark, Inc.** A meeting is planned for Sept. 27 to consider the proposed acquisition. Stockholders received notification of the meeting and details of the sale arrangements in mid-September. The asset purchase and sale agreement is contingent upon approval by affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Agra Land, Inc.

Major assets involved include Agra Land's 2.25 million bushel grain terminal on the Saginaw River, fertilizer/farm supply warehouse at Saginaw, 6 million bushel grain terminal at Ottawa Lake, feed manufacturing plant at Battle Creek, and 14 retail farm centers. Countrymark was formed in May 1985 upon the merger of Landmark, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, and The Ohio Farmers Grain and Supply Association of Fostoria, Ohio.

**October is "Co-op Time" every year.** That's when Cooperative Month helps to create a sharper awareness and understanding of what cooperatives are and how cooperatives improve our lives. This year's theme is "Building a Better America... and a Better World." A Co-op Month project planned by the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives will make teaching and study units available to vocational agriculture instructors throughout the state.

**MSU fans are making Autumnfest an annual tradition.** This year's all-Michigan brunch and game will take place Nov. 2, when the Spartans will be meeting the Golden Gophers in East Lansing. Brunch and game ticket purchases can be made by mail. The cost is \$22. Brunch-only tickets can be ordered at a cost of \$8. Add \$1 for postage and handling. The Autumnfest mail order deadline is Oct. 18. Send check or money order, payable to MSU, to: Bob LaPrad, 121 Agriculture Hall, MSU, East Lansing, Mich. 48824-1039.



# Cherry Bowl II

PONTIAC SILVERDOME  
DECEMBER 21, 1985 • 1:00 P.M.



HALFTIME



PAGEANTRY



SPECIAL EVENTS

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# THE GREAT COLLEGE FOOTBALL SHOW **BE THERE!**



**MICHIGAN SPIRIT**



**ACTION**



**FUN**

## **TICKET APPLICATION**

***BE THERE!* JOIN THE CHERRY BOWL CLIMB  
TO THE TOP OF THE COLLEGIATE BOWL WORLD**

SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$20.00 EACH (plus \$1.00 handling & postage)

TO \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please  
make checks payable to CHERRY BOWL, INC., P.O. BOX 27488, Lansing, MI 48909.



## 4-H Fair and Mint Festival:

### Great Week for Agriculture in Clinton County

St. Johns was alive with agriculture related thoughts and activities the week of Aug. 5.

The week started out with the 4-H fair. Dairy Diplomats were there giving samples of cheese and ideas for using dairy products. The Clinton County Farm Bureau was there with a booth, and then there were the 4-H'ers themselves.



There were scores of activities to involve those attending and a special kid's day for the youngsters. The fair ended on

Thursday and was quickly followed by another big event.

The first-ever Clinton County Mint Festival began on Friday, Aug. 9. It was a great community effort and promoted an important farm product while giving visitors and residents alike an opportunity to visit and shop in a festive atmosphere.

Clinton County FB was active in both visible and non-visible ways. We had a float in the parade, thanks to Gwen Nash and her 4-H group. Our county president, Don Sisung, rode in the parade in a car driven by Don Keim, Farm Bureau Insurance Group agency manager. Many of the mint farmers in the area are FB members, including past county FB president Tom Irrer. Tom and Marilyn's daughter, Becky, was selected 1985 Mint Queen.

The entire affair was a positive promotion for agriculture.

*Marsha Brook, Ovid  
Clinton County*



**RURAL RASCALS** — "Fairs, friends and fun all go together," said Paul Wilcox (left), 17, of Lowell. With him at the 1985 Kent County Youth Fair are Chad Blasher (center), 17, and Mike Nugent, 16, also from Lowell.

### Hop Atop Pop



With a crowd of a quarter-million people, seeing the Cherry Festival Parade in Traverse City wasn't easy for little rascals, but this pyramid helped. Atop his pop (MFB northwest regional representative Andrew Ferdinand) is Nicholas, 4, while his sister, Bethany Ann, 2, sits atop grand-pop (Arthur Ferdinand of Grosse Pointe Farms).

## FARMETTE

*By Andrea Hofmeister  
Tuscola County*



"Mom told me that she was a kid once, but until this moment, I never believed her!"

### Does Your Co-op Represent You?

Most people involved in agriculture would agree that farm marketing cooperatives have been a blessing to farmers. Many have become so large that representatives to boards must be elected to speak for members.

Employees must also be hired to run the cooperatives and make important day to day decisions and recommendations to those boards. Co-ops often hire lobbyists, fund Political Action Committees, and generally speak for members in the halls of Congress.

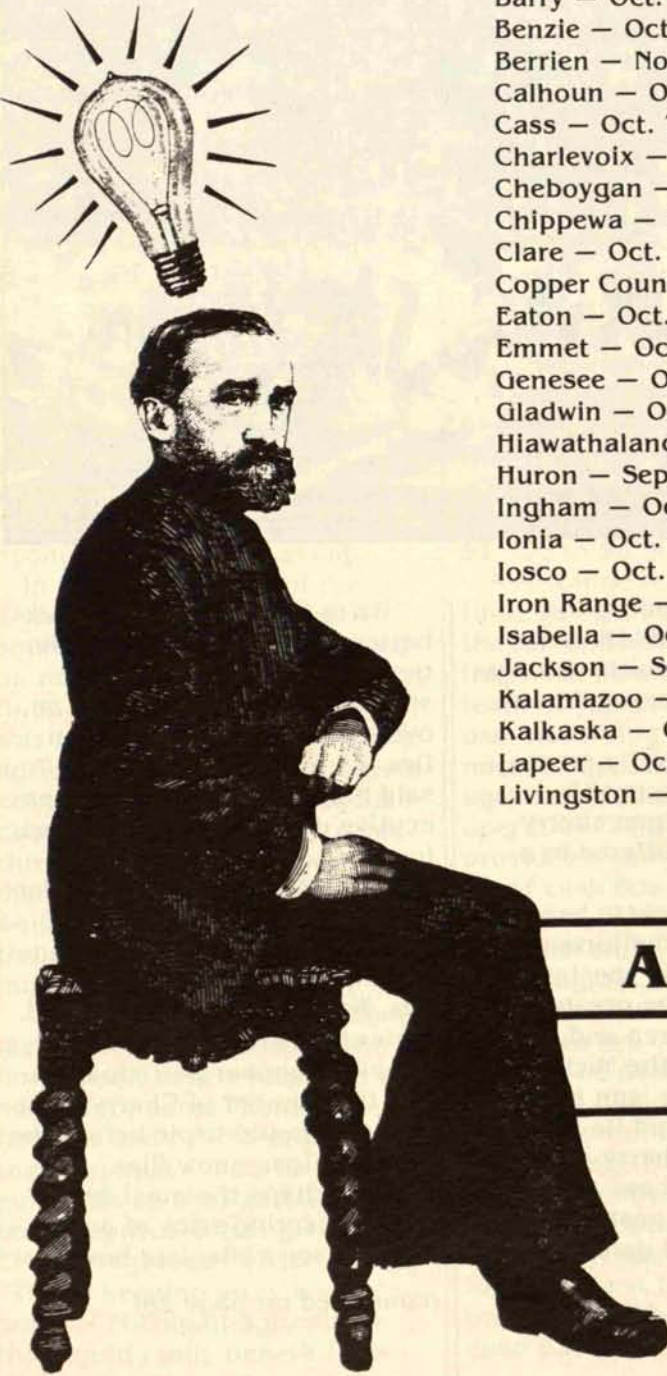
When wielding such influence, whose welfare is at the top of  
(continued on page 30)



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# Good Ideas Get Better When They're Shared

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Alcona — Sept. 29  
Allegan — Oct. 8  
Alpena — Oct. 10  
Antrim — Oct. 9  
Arenac — Oct. 14  
Barry — Oct. 17  
Benzie — Oct. 7  
Berrien — Nov. 1  
Calhoun — Oct. 1  
Cass — Oct. 7  
Charlevoix — Oct. 2  
Cheboygan — Oct. 15  
Chippewa — Oct. 14  
Clare — Oct. 24  
Copper Country — Oct. 10  
Eaton — Oct. 5  
Emmet — Oct. 14  
Genesee — Oct. 8  
Gladwin — Oct. 1  
Hiawathaland — Oct. 8  
Huron — Sept. 26  
Ingham — Oct. 5  
Ionia — Oct. 7  
Iosco — Oct. 23  
Iron Range — Oct. 12  
Isabella — Oct. 16  
Jackson — Sept. 26  
Kalamazoo — Oct. 8  
Kalkaska — Oct. 28  
Lapeer — Oct. 3  
Livingston — Sept. 26

Mackinac-Luce — Oct. 15  
Macomb — Oct. 10  
Manistee — Oct. 21  
Mason — Oct. 1  
Mecosta — Oct. 7  
Menominee — Oct. 9  
Midland — Oct. 1  
Missaukee — Oct. 1  
Montcalm — Oct. 24  
Montmorency — Oct. 10  
Muskegon — Oct. 19  
Newaygo — Oct. 10  
Northwest Michigan — Oct. 9  
Oakland — Oct. 3  
Oceana — Oct. 21  
Ogemaw — Oct. 24  
Osceola — Oct. 15  
Otsego — Oct. 3  
Ottawa — Oct. 10  
Presque Isle — Oct. 8  
Saginaw — Oct. 3  
St. Joseph — Oct. 26  
Shiawassee — Oct. 12  
Van Buren — Oct. 24  
Washtenaw — Sept. 27  
Wayne — Oct. 8  
Wexford — Oct. 8

*Counties not listed  
have already held their  
1985 annual meeting*

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## Attend Your County Annual Meeting

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*Contact your county Farm Bureau  
secretary for more information*



# Cherry Bowl II

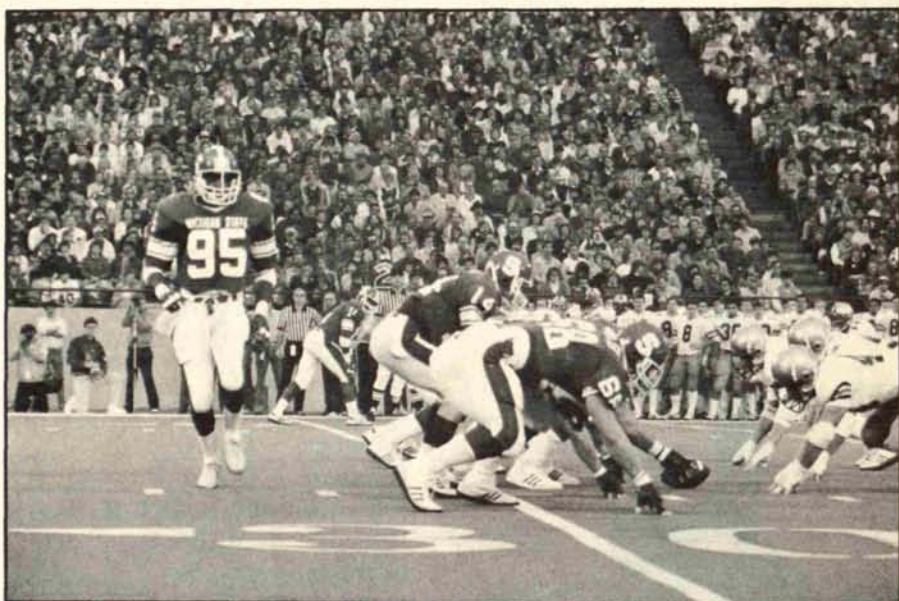
## The Encore!

The inaugural Cherry Bowl between Michigan State University and the U.S. Military Academy was a "90 day wonder" that delighted Michigan football fans and impressed the collegiate football world.

Organizers and supporters from all segments of the state's business community pulled together to carry off the most successful inaugural effort for a post season collegiate football game. When NCAA officials gave the go ahead for the event in late August 1984, the Michigan Cherry Bowl was off the drawing board and ready for the grid-iron. By Dec. 22, 1984, more than 70,000 fans responded to the invitation to be part of the state's first collegiate bowl game.

Among the biggest fans of the event were the idea originators — members of the Michigan Cherry Committee. This year Michigan's cherry growers are taking an even greater interest in Cherry Bowl II.

According to Harry Foster, executive secretary for the committee, the cherry industry will be playing a more visible role in promotion and sponsorship. The Michigan Cherry Committee has declared sponsorship and co-sponsorship for several bowl



week events, including the Cherry Bowl Awards Dinner. In addition, the committee has extended its ticket commitment to 5,000.

Also a new specialty promotion item, the "Cherry Bowl Sampler" of Michigan cherry products, will be offered in a gift pack.

"The cherry industry believes that the combined efforts of the sponsor group, the special interest people of the greater Detroit/Pontiac area and out-state, along with the Michigan Cherry Committee, can build the Cherry Bowl and its related activities into a cherry and agricultural showcase as well as a very successful post-season collegiate football game," Foster said.

So what's being planned for Cherry Bowl II?

"We're making it bigger and better by planning more activities, more excitement, more sponsors and by attracting an overflow crowd to Pontiac on Dec. 21 for this year's event," said Frank "Muddy" Waters, executive director of Cherry Bowl, Inc.

The first plan of action undertaken by Waters and his staff was to expand corporate sponsorship and game week activities. Before the summer ended, their efforts had more than doubled sponsor participation, and the number of Cherry Bowl sponsors could triple before the first Michigan snow flies.

But perhaps the most important measuring stick of any post season collegiate bowl

*(continued on page 28)*



# CES Resources Target Regaining Profitability for Michigan Agriculture

By Connie Turbin

A unique outreach program utilizing MSU Extension specialists in agricultural production, economics and family life that has provided support and recommendations to over 200 farm families was initiated in January 1985. Now project leaders have announced that the Extension management assistance team (EMAT) concept will be continued under the theme "regaining profitability for Michigan agriculture."

Profitability is the pivotal word in the fall and winter program, explained Frank Brewer, assistant Extension director for agricultural and marketing programs. The thrust of the 1985-86 program is to reaffirm the Extension Service's commitment to all of agriculture and to help producers improve their economic decision making.

In the initial phase of the EMAT program, Extension resources and personnel focused on responding to the farm financial crisis. The program was also a part of the statewide agricultural assistance program announced by Gov. James Blanchard. Referrals to EMAT came through the Michigan Department of Agriculture hotline as well as those initiated through the county Extension Service by individual farm families.

"There was a critical problem last winter," Brewer said. "An immediate, expert response was needed for some Michigan farm families and EMATs provided that response." But, he added, emphasis on the "assistance team" approach has given the EMAT program a "crisis" image. "That's keeping away a segment of Michigan agriculture that could really benefit from the production and manage-

ment consultation services of the EMAT teams.

"We're concerned that farmers are not asking for management analysis by EMATs because there is a misconception that teams are only for farms in financial trouble. Analysis and recommendations by the teams has always been available to anyone who wanted to check out the economic health of their farming operation or farm related business," Brewer said. "We are in a position to provide analysis and recommendations to any commercial farmer that will improve profitability for that operation, regardless of its size or complexity."

There is no charge for the "consulting" services of the EMATs, but Brewer estimates that the analysis and recommendations would have a private industry price tag from \$1,500 to \$3,500.

Assistance teams will continue to be a key component in the fall and winter program, but there will be more "tools" for team members and farmers to use. According to Brewer, three microcomputer software packages are available now for farm operators: Telplan '80 which provides a complete farm analysis of cash flow and production decisions; a lease cost/ratio analysis; and fertilizer application program.

Seventeen additional software packages are being developed and will be available to farmers and farm businesses over the next nine months. The programs range from production and cost analysis programs for dairy, beef, sheep and swine to a nutrition spot check for farm families. Cost for the software programs is not expected to exceed \$20 each.

In addition, a series of videotapes and audio cassettes is being developed to provide information and assistance to families on topics such as the decision making process, problem solving, blame and shame behaviors, and family strengths.

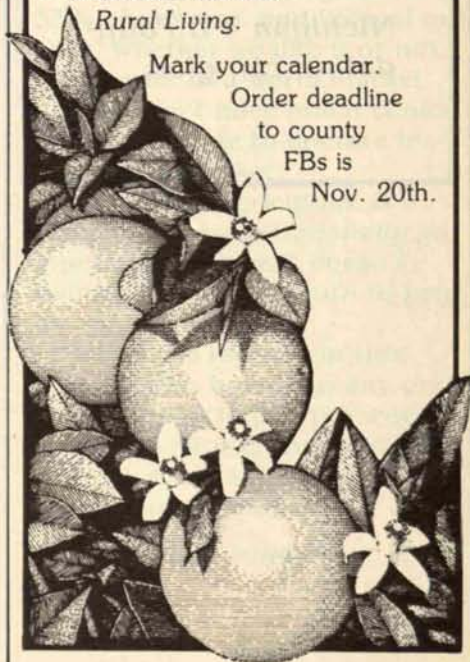
The Extension Service is also examining the feasibility of a series of seminars focusing on the production and economic complexities of commercial agricultural operations, Brewer said. "We hope to bring in nationally recognized resource persons to provide the most up to date, usable information on computers, accounting, estate planning, financial management, decision making and marketing."

## Tree Ripened

Florida Farm Bureau members pick the best of their crop for you.

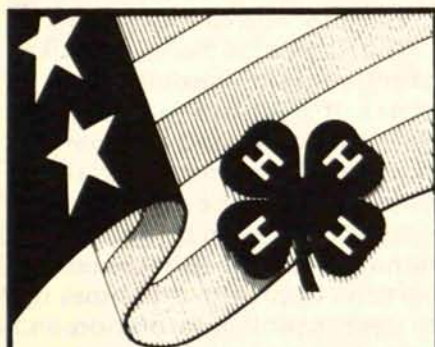
Look for details in the November issue of *Rural Living*.

Mark your calendar.  
Order deadline  
to county  
FBs is  
Nov. 20th.





# Contributions Support 4-H for Youth of America



*National 4-H Week, Oct. 6-12, is a good time to focus our thoughts on the many ways 4-H programs touch the lives of young people and the help a contribution to the Michigan 4-H Foundation can give.*

*By Janice Child*

The telephone company encourages us to "reach out and touch someone." That's good advice. Not only does it make us feel good to keep in contact with the people we love; it makes sense for us to "reach out and touch" those who might benefit from our help.

We feel good, too, when we demonstrate our willingness to lend a hand through our individual financial contributions to charitable organizations. According to recent statistics, help in the form of donations to charitable groups in the U.S. totaled over \$74 billion in 1983.

But sometimes it's not possible to give as much as you'd like. Deciding on an organization to receive your contribution can be difficult, too.

Don Jost, executive director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation, hopes that when the people of Michigan are considering a gift to a non-profit organization, they will think of the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

National 4-H Week, Oct. 6-12, is a good time to focus our thoughts on the many ways 4-H programs touch the lives of young people, and the help a contribution to the foundation can give.

## **Head, Heart, Hands, Health**

The foundation is a public, not-for-profit corporation established in 1952 by business people and educators from Michi-

gan State University. They wanted to support 4-H youth programs through an organization that could serve as a vehicle for private sector gifts and contributions.

In Michigan, the 4-H program serves over 200,000 young people. Because of its grassroots direction, each county program reflects local needs and interests.

"The dollars that we receive are used almost entirely for programs," said Jost. "Each year we devote contributions to sponsor 4-H volunteer leader workshops, to programs for handicappers, to innovative programs developed by county 4-H organizations, and to many other educational programs — like our nutrition education program.

"The 4-H experience touches our young people in cities, towns and rural areas throughout the state. We try to provide them with educational experiences that supplement those they receive in school," he said.

"Since we are affiliated with the university and rely heavily on volunteers in the counties, we are able to tap into the knowledge and skills of some very talented, very aware individuals who share our concern that the programs we sponsor be informative, up-to-date and useful."

*(continued on page 30)*



## United Voice

(continued from page 11)

"The tragedy part is fairly obvious," Thatcher said. "Hundreds, even thousands, of farmers are in the process of being uprooted and being forced to start over. It's important for us to help the people who are losing their farms to understand that while it's awful tough, it doesn't make them a failure."

"General Grant failed in farming, failed in business, and failed as a president. And yet, he's given and deserves most of the credit for the North winning the Civil War," she said. "Look at President Harry Truman — he failed in farming, failed in business, and he was a pretty good senator and he'll probably go down in history as one of our greatest presidents."

Thatcher said the humor is in the stories that farmers are telling each other. "I think it's admirable that they can keep their sense of humor at times like we have now."

She then related several myths about agriculture that she frequently hears in Washington, D.C.

*Myth 1 — The public can get the facts from the media.*

"Probably the best example I can give is the recent '20/20' episode where they essentially said that the farm situation had turned farmers into neo Nazis. They interviewed four or five farmers who were admirers of Hitler's deeds and were haters of Jews. The program projected the image that this was the mentality of all farmers in this country who are in financial trouble."

"You and I know that those kind of people represent only a handful, but it's that kind of misrepresentation that makes it even more important for us to go out and tell our own story."

*Myth 2 — All farmers are complainers and radicals.*

"I'd say the exact opposite is true," Thatcher said. "Farmers tend to be eternal optimists. They tend to blame themselves more than they should."

*Myth 3 — All farmers are going broke.*

"According to USDA statistics, four out of five farmers are in relatively good financial shape, and the story we need to tell is not that all farmers are going broke, but that even those that are in relatively good financial shape can't stay that way if prices remain where they are."

*Myth 4 — The situation we're facing right now is all the farmer's fault.*

"I grant you that we had some land speculators, but in general, most of the farmers who bought land did it because they needed to expand. A lot expanded in order that sons and daughters could come back home and farm — a worthy cause if only the timing had been a little better."

*Myth 5 — None of the problems we have now are the farmer's fault.*

"I wonder if we can think realistically that a cash grain farmer can plan to own all the land he can farm with modern machinery. In that sense I think there are farmers who let machinery expenses and other expenses get out of line in the last few years."

*Myth 6 — Small farmers are disappearing.*

"Really, it's just the opposite. Most of the small farmers have gotten either part-time or full-time jobs. Because of that, they're able to stay on the farm. The farms that are really going out of business and really disappearing are the middle size farms and the larger end of the middle size farms."

*Myth 7 — The corporations are taking over.*

"Corporate ownership is well under 3%, probably closer to 2%. Instead of worrying about corporations, maybe we ought to be taking a look at vertical integration."

*Myth 8 — We're running out of land and we're all going to be hungry soon.*

"We only need to look at what we're doing in the 1985 farm bill with reauthorizing set-asides and paid land diversions and for the first time, putting in place a 25 million acre conservation reserve. Don't be fooled — it's not all for conservation purposes. Part of it's to make sure that we don't end up with those same price depressing surpluses that we've had in the past."

*Myth 9 — All farmers are subsidized.*

"In this country we produce about 300 commodities. Some of them have government supports but by far the largest majority of the crops have no kind of government support. Most farmers realize that we've got to move away from that government support and move toward a market-oriented agriculture if we hope to be able to get agriculture prosperous again."

"Right now we export 50% of our wheat, 50% of our cotton, almost 50% of our soybeans, 33% of our rice, and 25% of our corn. Whether we like it or not, we operate in a world market, and we don't have much choice but to continue to operate in that world market."

*Myth 10 — Agriculture is fragmented organizationally so much that Congress doesn't know which way to turn to help us out.*

"Of all the farmers in this country who belong to any organization, a higher percent belong to Farm Bureau than the percent of organized labor that belongs to the AFL-CIO. If we

(continued on page 30)



# Check-off Programs Contribute to Commodity Research and Promotion

For the last 20 years, Michigan crop and livestock producers have had opportunities to vote for and financially support commodity check-off programs. Such programs, administered by commodity commissions and committees, are established through P.A. 232 or can be created through separate legislation.

P.A. 232 was adopted in 1965 and became effective in 1966. Since that time agricultural producers have utilized this legislation to establish committees for apples, asparagus, cherries, milk, onions, plums, soybeans, special fed veal, mint and red tart cherries. Producers of beef, potatoes and dry edible beans supported statutory legislation allowing for the existence of these three commissions.

The purpose for commodity check-off programs is to provide research and promotional funds which directly aid producers. The theory is that non-brand advertising and promotion goes a long way toward arousing and maintaining consumer interest in a particular commodity. Such promotional activities take place in a consumer market that has been

bombarded with food product advertisements, the vast majority of which are branded product ads. Non-brand advertising paid for by a state commodity committee or commission cuts across the branded products, concentrating on the commodity rather than the product.

Committees and commissions also play a significant role in funding research and product development. Producers, through their commodity check-off programs, are major contributors to ongoing and specialized research projects.

These various activities are administered by commodity committee members, who are appointed by the governor. Each commission or committee uses a nomination procedure for selecting candidates for gubernatorial appointment. While producers comprise all or most of the appointees to these commissions and committees, some members are appointed to represent related agribusinesses or agricultural groups. Appointments are for a specific period of time with a revolving system which allows new appointments to be made every several years.

Over the last few months, several commissions and committees have either been organized or faced the challenge of a referendum. Currently, Michigan blueberry growers are voting for organization under P.A. 232. Corn growers recently defeated the same type of plan. In the potato referendum held this summer, producers were divided, but balloting supported continuation of the Potato Commission. A small group of mint growers voted in favor of a Mint Committee and check-off plan.

Through the policy development process, MFB members have expressed their support for producer check-off programs as long as the majority of producers producing the commodity favor the creation of a commission or committee.

Farm Bill '85 legislation being debated by the House Ag Committee calls for a check-off of three-tenths of a cent per pound for hogs and \$1.00 per head for cattle, without prior producer approval. Under this plan producers would be allowed to vote for continuation

*(continued on page 28)*





# MFB Defense Fund Monies to Support Appeal of Jones' Right to Farm Case

The Michigan Farm Bureau, through its Legal Defense Fund, has taken action to provide financial support to St. Joseph County hog producers Olin and Timothy Jones in their appeal of a circuit court decision which "permanently enjoined" the farm partners from "operating a hog feedlot operation on the property."

The decision to provide a contribution of up to \$2,000 for the purchase of the trial transcript was made on the recommendation of the MFB Agricultural Labor Advisory Committee, after a 45-minute conference call with Olin Jones and his attorneys. The trial transcript is used to establish the basis for the appeal.

According to Ron Gaskill, MFB local affairs and labor specialist, facts supporting the committee's recommendation include:

- The court erred in interpreting the testimony given by an acknowledged expert in the production of swine and, therefore, substantially misinterpreted the Michigan Right to Farm Act.

- The party bringing suit (the village of Mendon) against Olin and Timothy Jones was not the proper party and, therefore, the case was not properly before the court.

- The court, without reason, dismissed testimony vital to the Jones' successful defense and, therefore, erred in establishing the use of the farm prior to its use by the Jones.

"Agriculture's commitment to the Michigan Right to Farm Act must be demonstrated by our support in this appeal," Gaskill

said. "The decision rendered by the appellate court will be the first decision to establish a statewide precedent on the act. Therefore, it is important to every farmer in Michigan.

"If the trial court's decision in this test of the Right to Farm Act is upheld, then testimony provided by industry experts will be meaningless in defending the actions of any farmer who contends he is using 'generally accepted agricultural and management practices,'" warned Gaskill. "If that happens, the effectiveness of the Right to Farm Act in its present form would be substantially impaired."

To date, \$1,000 has been contributed to the Jones' case, with an additional \$2,000 promised if Jones moves forward with the appeal. According to Gaskill, producers such as Jones may feel the case has been decided for them by the anticipation of the legal costs that are beyond their reach as individuals.

Since 1982, Gaskill said, the MFB Legal Defense Fund has considered nine requests for financial assistance from FB members. The MFB Agricultural Labor Advisory Committee, which administers the fund, granted financial support totaling \$12,500 for five of those requests. Actual and estimated legal costs in all five cases are expected to exceed \$105,000.

"These requests for financial assistance, including the Jones request, have been considered very carefully because the fund does not have extensive resources," Gaskill said. The MFB Legal Defense Fund, which was established in 1978, is able to make such contributions only

to the extent that it receives donations by Farm Bureau members and/or sympathetic agricultural businesses or groups.

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**"Agriculture's commitment to the Right to Farm Act must be demonstrated by our support of this appeal."**

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"There is a need to rebuild the fund so that Michigan agriculture can continue to provide financial support in these precedent-setting legal challenges to our industry," he said. The MFB Legal Defense Fund accepts general contributions in any amount, however, it is possible for donors to the fund to designate their contribution for a specific case.

Farmers who wish to show support for the Right to Farm Act can make a contribution to the Olin Jones appeal case by mailing their check or money order contribution (payable to the MFB Legal Defense Fund) to MFB Legal Defense Fund, c/o Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. Such a designated contribution should be clearly marked. General (undesignated) contributions will be credited to the fund.



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

## Rebuilding Michigan's Infrastructure

The word "infrastructure" is an uncommon word to many. Webster defines it as "the underlying foundation or basic framework" or "the permanent installations required for military purposes." The latin "infra" means "below, under, beneath, underneath" a system or organization.

These definitions still don't fully explain what is really meant by "Michigan's infrastructure." Perhaps it could be said that "it's a problem underfoot." For this discussion, it's a one-word description for "public investment" in all the things that make a society operate.

Communications facilities and utilities are also part of the infrastructure but are not included because they do not involve significant state capital investment.

### Repairs, Replacements Delayed

Nationwide, much of our infrastructure is wearing out. Repairs and maintenance have been delayed for many reasons. But it's like the barn roof that's not maintained or kept in repair. It soon becomes a structural problem costing much more.

The Congressional Budget Office states that from 1960 to 1980 investment in seven key infrastructure systems fell by more than 40%. In 1980, Michigan ranked 40th among the states in per capita investment in infrastructure systems.

The life of a freeway is 20 to 25 years and much of Michigan's system was built in the 1950s

and 60s. Hundreds of bridges, county and local roads also need repair.

Repairs are also needed on water drainage and sewer systems. In some areas of the state, water contamination is also a problem. Solid and toxic waste facilities are needed as well as prisons, college and school repairs. And the list goes on and on.

### INFRASTRUCTURE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Broadly defined, infrastructure includes but is not limited to:

- Highways (interstate, state, county, local bridges)
- Public transportation
- Railroads
- Airports
- Ports
- Solid waste facilities
- Toxic and hazardous waste cleanup
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Storm and sanitary sewers
- Land drainage systems
- Municipal water supply facilities
- State-owned buildings of all types
- Correction facilities and prisons
- Public mental health and public health facilities and hospitals
- State parks and water access facilities
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Economic development where the state or federal government expends funds

### Groups Examine State's Infrastructure

In late 1983, Gov. Blanchard appointed a 70-member Michigan Infrastructure Coalition. Robert E. Smith, senior legislative counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau, was the only person representing agriculture.

A "Public Investment" Coordination Task Force was also appointed. It consists of the directors of 12 state departments: agriculture, commerce, corrections, education, labor, management and budget, mental health, military affairs, natural resources, public health, transportation and treasury. Additional members include representatives from the governor's office, Senate and House fiscal agencies, Energy Administration and State Housing Development Authority.

The purpose of the two groups was to determine, for the first time, exactly what federal and state projects are ongoing within the state; develop a computerized system where such information can be found in one place; determine Michigan's infrastructure needs; identify a sound management system for rebuilding; create finance methods; develop a 5 to 10 year plan with annual capital budgets; and coordinate priorities between state departments.

Heavy emphasis was placed on ways to work with local governments in their rebuilding effort.



## FB Testimony Stresses Effect on Ag Economy

In the fall of 1984 a preliminary report was ready for public hearings. Seven were held throughout the state. MFB's Robert Smith testified at the hearings in Warren (Macomb County) and Grand Rapids.

His testimony dealt with how "infrastructure" applies to Michigan's agriculture and forestry economies. Emphasis was placed on the need for adequate transportation (roads, bridges, rail and water), good public drainage, adequate and clean water, proper solid and toxic waste disposal. He also stressed other public services needed in rural areas such as schools, hospitals, police and fire protection, ambulances, hospitals, prisons, soil conservation and ag research, including veterinary science and funding of the MDA's ag services.

FB's testimony highlighted the need for good county and local roads and bridges, pointing out that all production inputs must travel on local roads to the farm and all goods produced must travel local roads to the processor, elevators, etc., and finally to the consumer.

Data showed the importance of agriculture and forestry to the entire economy of the state, and the steady increase in production as well as movement of grain production into the northern counties, including many where crops had never been grown.

Over 150 people testified at the hearings resulting in 1,300 pages of transcript. These ideas were incorporated in the final report called "From Crises to Opportunity — Rebuilding Michigan's Infrastructure."

## Recommendations on Infrastructure

General recommendations included:

- Five-step strategy (data base, needs surveys, 5 to 10 year budget process, various

financing methods, and creating annual capital budgets.)

- "Infrastructure bond fund" which could lend money to local units at lower interest.

- "Privatization" involving the purchase and/or management of public facilities by private business and public leasing of private facilities and shared savings/risk financing.

- Local government coalitions to determine needs and cooperative methods to meet them.

- Information and education programs on new products and processes developed by the private sector for repair, replacement and construction.

- "User rates" and budgets for public services to include actual maintenance, repair and limited replacement costs.

The section on agriculture states in part:

"Agriculture is a diverse activity which includes production, processing, transportation, and marketing of food and forest products, and protection of our natural resources.

"Critical needs include an efficient transportation system, an assured energy supply, sufficient clean water, soil properly conserved, good public drainage systems, and proper waste disposal methods."

Task force proposals called for cooperation between the departments of agriculture, transportation and natural resources on transportation for the agricultural and forestry industries.

Additional recommendations include:

- Funding to construct a new veterinary science building and update the veterinary science college at MSU.

- Sufficient funding for operation of the MDA and its laboratory.

- A detailed forest inventory, including forested agricultural land.

The recommendations are very close to FB's policies and testimony.

## Discussion Questions

- What are the infrastructure needs in your area?
- Do you think private business should build and/or run public facilities?
- Could your local governments work together to provide needed facilities without duplication?

## co·op·er·a·tive/

1a: it's an adjective

b: it's a noun 2: it's

something special

for 60,000,000

people from

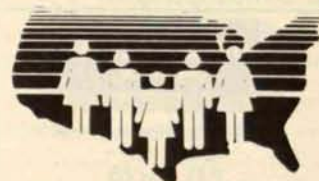
coast to coast

**T**hat something special means 40,000 member-owned cooperatives throughout the United States devoted to serving their members and communities in every way imaginable.

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No matter whether you think of cooperative as a noun or an adjective, it means the same thing — people working together to meet common needs to benefit their entire communities. And co-op people are proud of their track record because better communities mean a better America for everyone.

## COOPERATIVES



**BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA  
... and a BETTER WORLD**



## Agrinomic Update

(continued from page 24)

only after the check-off program has been in use two years. Clearly MFB policy is in opposition to this "cart-before-the-horse" approach.

Total expected revenue from commodities organized under P.A. 232 or their own statute is expected to be between \$8 million and \$10 million for fiscal year 1985. These funds have contributed significantly to the development and maintenance of outlets for producer products in Michigan.

It is critical to producers to maintain a razor's edge in product promotion and research. This is clearly not a program that will work for all crop or livestock producers. However, it has served many Michigan-grown commodities very well.

In addition to the check-off programs mandated by law,

there are others in this state that operate on voluntary funding. The two most notable are the Michigan Pork Producers Association and the voluntary effort by sugar growers to fund advertising.

The following is the per unit check-off amount for each committee and commission:

**Beef** — .01% of gross receipts

**Special Fed Veal** — .01% of gross receipts

**Dry Edible Beans** — 5¢/cwt. by producers; 1¢/cwt. by shippers

**Blueberries** — Organizational vote is pending. If passed, they are expected to ask for .8¢/lb.

**Fresh Apples** — 15¢/cwt. plus 1¢ for research

**Processing Apples** — 12¢/cwt. plus 1¢ for research

**Juice Apples** — 5¢/cwt. plus 1¢ for research

**Asparagus** — \$10/ton

**Cherries** — \$10/ton

**Red Tart Cherries** — currently \$3.50/ton for information program

**Milk** — 10¢/cwt. state, 5¢/cwt. national

**Onions** — 2¢/50 lb. bag

**Plums** — \$2.50/ton

**Mint** — Not yet established, expected to be 2 to 4¢/lb.

**Potatoes** — 1.5¢/cwt. plus 1¢ from the shipper

Most farmer members of Farm Bureau are subject to the provisions of the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, and approximately 20,000 pay fees under P.A. 232 programs. Several thousand FB members also are subject to check-off provisions of the three commissions which operate under separate enabling laws.

## Cherry Bowl II

(continued from page 20)

game is enthusiastic fan participation. Rallying an overflow crowd into the Silverdome's perfect 72 degree climate for game day activities is the challenge of Cherry Bowl II.

The indoor facility seats 80,000 fans. While 1984 response was excellent for an inaugural event, success this year will be measured by attracting at least 10,000 more fans. To do that, a million-piece direct mail ticket application was mailed in September. Print media advertising was placed in selected publications, including *Rural Living*.

Putting ticket applications in the hands of fans goes a long way for convenience, but the motivation for 80,000 plus people to fill out the form and send their money will come from the line-up of pre-game and game events.

Cherry Bowl II promises top notch collegiate football competition, fun and pageantry with an \$80,000 half-time show featuring top name entertainers like Doc Severinson, and two of the best college football teams in the nation competing for the fourth largest purse in college bowl games.

Michigan's Cherry Bowl offers so much holiday excitement it's practically a Michigan Christmas party. Cherry Bowl Week festivities in and around the Silverdome include a 2,400 person Michigan Brunch with both teams participating.

What's a party without music? This holiday party will feature a Motown review with the Four Tops and the Temptations the night before the game. Area attractions and a variety of tours are also planned for team members and visitors.

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## Kellogg Dairy Center

(continued from page 14)

more information on yields and lower cost production."

Another important aspect of the research at the center will be on monitoring and preventing the runoff of animal wastes into a nearby lake. Runoff from the barn goes into a settling basin, via ditches, which allows absorption of damaging nutrients before the water reaches the lake.

"We sit in an area of the state that has recreation, agriculture and homes," Speicher said. "We have a real opportunity to show how a dairy farm fits in the total environment. Food production is part of the environment too."

Energy and labor efficiency is the focus of much of the rest of the research that will be done at the center. For example, cool well water is warmed by the heat of the milk in a heat exchanger. The water warmed by the milk is pumped to cattle waterers (keeping them ice-free in the winter) while the partially cooled milk is sent on its way to refrigerated tanks. Excess heat from the refrigerator compressors is used to warm water to be used for washing and sanitizing the milk parlor.

An automatic flushing system eliminates the need to manually scrape the floors of the barn. Water from tanks at the top of the sloped floor washes the manure down to a collection channel. The manure then goes to a holding tank and is pumped to a liquid/solid separator. The liquid is pumped to a lagoon where it can later be returned to water tanks or applied as irrigation. Research is being done to make it possible to process the solid waste and reuse it as bedding.

Speicher said an additional purpose of the facility will be to provide hands-on dairy exper-

ience to students. "We've felt the need for this for a long time, since 70% of our animal science students are not from farms," he said.

## Hall of Fame

(continued from page 13)

fitting that you receive recognition for your devotion to agribusiness."

That battle was fought in 1977 and 1978 when, after a "war" with the health department — waged mostly in the news media, the state Legislature passed the bill that makes it possible for potlucks, smorgasbords and homemade pie sales to continue without health department interference.

Eleanor declares that she's not a public person but when it came to protecting the potluck, pies and Ionia County FB's annual fund-raising smorgasbord, she put her fears aside and took action. As Stanley said at the time: "This is my wife's battle — I'm just introducing the bills in Lansing."

During the many years that Stanley was in the spotlight, Eleanor stayed home to raise their four children. But being a busy mother and farm wife didn't keep her from becoming involved in many local organizations, including her FB Community Group, the Ionia County FB Women's Committee, the Michigan State Grange, 4-H, the PTA and the Ionia First Baptist Church.

Last spring, her many hours of devotion to Farm Bureau projects were recognized when the District 4 FB Women named her Outstanding Farm Bureau Woman for 1984.

While they have spent most of their lives bettering their industry, the pace at Stanley and Eleanor's home is slower now.

Their oldest son, Ron, manages the operation but often gets advice, along with help with the chores, from his father. There's time for afternoon talks with visiting children and grandchildren.

But there's still work to be done. Late each afternoon Stanley gets his rubber knee boots on and heads for the barn, and it's time for Eleanor to start supper.

That's the way it is with a partnership.

## 1985 Hall of Fame Inductees

Other farm couples inducted into the Michigan Farmers' Hall of Fame on Aug. 30 were:

- Raymond and Ruth Walton  
Allegan County
- Carl and Edith Grashuis, Barry County (and posthumously, Carl's first wife, Imogene)
- John and Carolyn Brecheisen  
Branch County
- Elmer and Ruth Heisler Sr.  
Calhoun County
- Howard and Beulah McKenzie  
Cass County
- Verne and Beatrice Wenger  
Kent County
- R. W. and Ruth Petersen  
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St. Joseph County
- Max and Evelyn Harris,  
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RL 10/85



## United Voice

(continued from page 23)

take up the memberships of all the other general farm organizations and we total those together and we triple it, you still don't get Farm Bureau's membership," Thatcher said.

"The protest organizations are vocal and because they are vocal it always seems like there's more of them than there really are, but certainly in Washington and certainly in Michigan and in most other states, Farm Bureau is viewed as the voice of responsible farmers and of responsible agriculture."

## Support 4-H

(continued from page 22)

Contributors to Michigan 4-H can decide how their contribution is to be used. The foundation, like other charitable organizations, welcomes gifts of money, land, securities, bequests from wills, distributions from trusts, and life insurance policies.

### Life Insurance — Affordable Giving

Designating a charitable organization, such as the 4-H Foundation, to be the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is one method of giving that is easy and affordable.

"One of the main reasons why life insurance is a good choice is that the death benefit going to the charity is guaranteed as long as the premiums are paid," said Tom Fitzsimmons, training specialist for Farm Bureau Insurance Group. "This means that the charity will receive an amount that is fixed in value and not subject to the risks to which securities are exposed."

Charitable donors find life insurance to be an affordable means of giving, too. "Life insurance provides an amplified gift," Fitzsimmons said. "It can be purchased on an installment plan, and through a relatively small annual premium cost — which is tax deductible — the donor can provide the charity with a substantial benefit. With life insurance, the donor can make a large gift without impairing savings or investment programs.

"With life insurance the proceeds can be received by the designated charity free of federal income and estate taxes, probate and administrative costs and delays, brokerage fees, and other costs. This prompt payment favorably compares with the payment of a gift to a charity under the terms of an individual will. With a bequest, probate delays can stretch indefinitely.

"Finally," Fitzsimmons said, "life insurance is a self-completing gift. Cash values grow from year to year. If the donor becomes disabled, the policy will remain in full force through the disability premium waiver. Or should death occur after only a few deposits, the charity is assured of its full gift."

### Reaching Out

Throughout the years, 4-H programs have touched many of our lives, providing fun and educational experiences for young people and for the many thousands of people who volunteer their time and energy to make this program work.

Making a contribution to the 4-H Foundation is one way to "reach out and touch" the lives

of many of our young people and make a better future for Michigan.

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*Janice Child is editor of Crossroads, a monthly publication for Farm Bureau Insurance agents.*

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## Rural Exchange

(continued from page 18)

the co-op priority list? Is it the well-being of the individual farmer members or that of the cooperative itself, the outfit that pays out per diems and salaries?

A real danger exists today in that the cooperative appears to be replacing the farmer as the most important entity in at least one area of agriculture — dairying.

The House Agriculture Committee has approved a dairy bill which contains several producer assessments.

Cooperatives like an assessment bill because they sell manufactured products to the government at the support price (no sacrifice there). Government likes an assessment bill because it doesn't cost the CCC anything (no sacrifice there).

Dairy farmers do not like assessment legislation because they are required by law to buy and pay for something they never receive.

Delegates to the AFBF 1985 annual meeting stated: "We oppose any assessment of producers by the federal government as part of any future dairy legislation."

Your congressman will get bombarded with a "lobbying overload." He wants to know what YOU think about dairy legislation and the 1985 farm bill. Let him know today.

Cooperatives and government should work for the farmers they represent. Not vice versa.

*Marsha Wilcox, Lowell  
Kent County*



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- The publisher has the right to reject any advertising copy submitted.
- No ads will be taken over the phone.

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