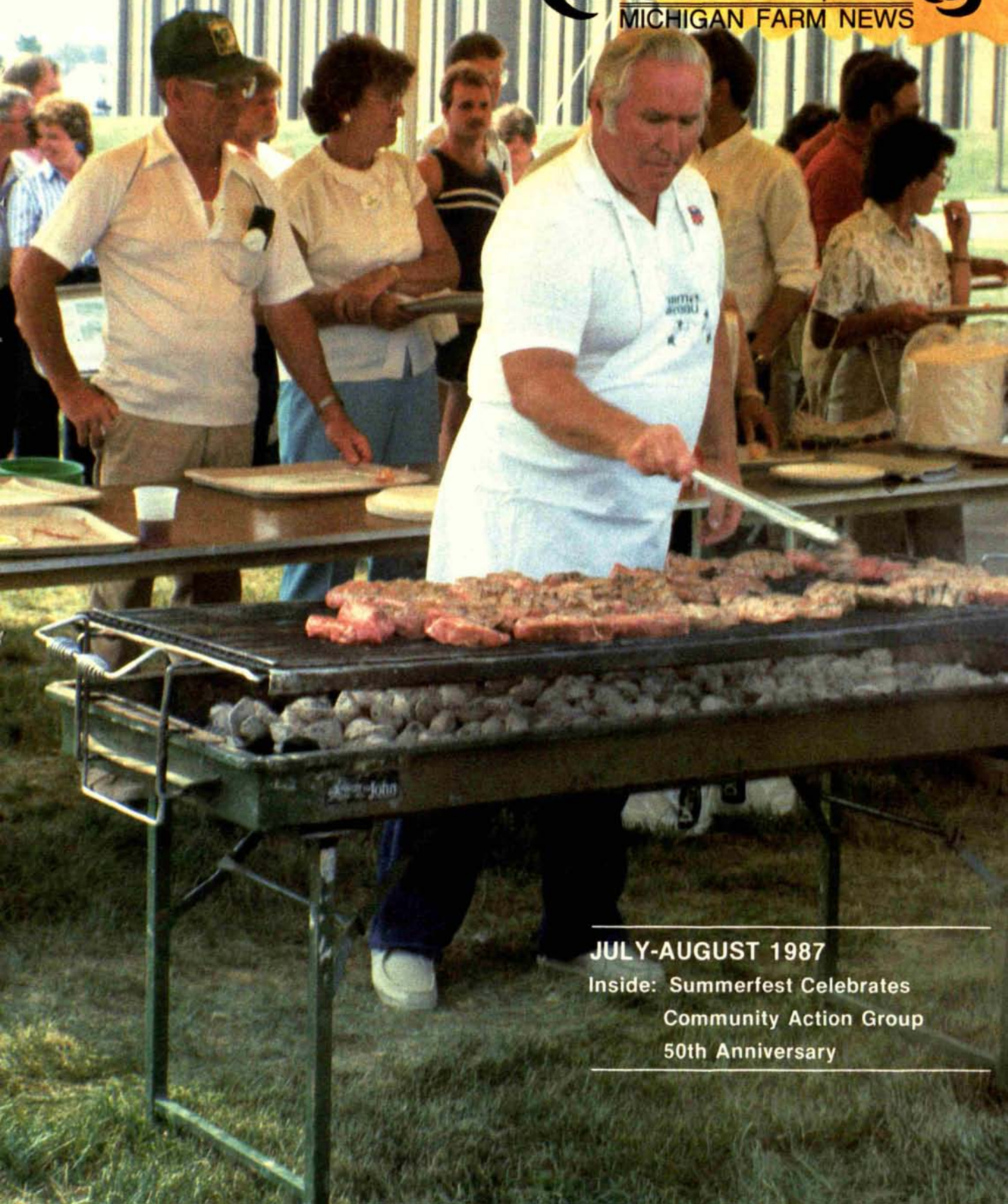


# Rural Living

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



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**JULY-AUGUST 1987**

Inside: Summerfest Celebrates  
Community Action Group  
50th Anniversary

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# MACMA FROZEN FOOD EXPRESS

Order Deadline — August 26, 1987



**FREE** 10 pound box of **CHERRIES** with a \$100 minimum order of any products. Receive four 2½ pound bags of high score, IQF red tart cherries. A \$9.90 value. We want you to share in this year's abundance.



**INTRODUCING** new microwave foods. Making a debut with the August sale are hot-n-moist microwave sandwiches and pastries made by Sara Lee and Chef Pierre. Items include:

- Monte Cristo Sandwiches
- Tuna Melt Sandwiches
- Ruben and Rye Sandwiches
- Pepperoni Cheese Pastry
- Denver Omelets
- Bacon and Cheese Omelets
- Egg and Sausage Breakfast Sandwiches
- French Croissants
- Individual Pie Slices —  
Cherry, Apple and Peach

**ADDITIONS** to the upcoming MACMA sale also include a greater variety of boneless fish, including Michigan White fish fillets, blackened Cajun catfish fillets and garlic butter catfish fillets.

**Contact your county Farm Bureau secretary today for order information. Order deadline is August 26.**





# Rural Living

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau



## About the Cover

*MFB staff and board members prepared over 1400 cooked-to-order steaks for Summerfest participants, July 22.*

## SAVE UP TO 32% THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY CRUISE

Nov. 21-28, 1987

EXCITING NEW ITINERARY:

Miami, St. Maarten, Mayreau,  
Martinique, St. Thomas, San Juan  
ABOARD THE SUN PRINCESS\*

\*Registered in Britain

COMING IN MARCH!

MFB HAWAIIAN  
ISLAND CRUISE \$1475  
10 DAYS - 3 ISLANDS

- Circle Island tour - Visit Pineapple Field, Orchard Nursery, and tour Parker's Ranch
- City tour of Honolulu and U.S.S. Arizona Memorial
- Volcano National Park

These are only examples of the available cruise itineraries; many more are available. Call for details.

For more information, Call  
1-800-331-1729; in Grand Rapids,  
Call 452-9556.

## In This Issue

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- 10 Citizenship Seminar '87** Past seminar students return to the 1987 Young People's Citizenship Seminar as junior counselors to share their enthusiasm and the lessons of citizenship with the 1987 seminar participants.
- 15 Take Pride in America** Care and conservation go hand-in-hand in this national program to encourage citizens of every age to "Take Pride in America."

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**Rural Living is Published Monthly:** on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information and Public Relations Division, except during July and August when a combined issue is published on July 15. Publication and editorial offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Mich. 48917, Post Office Box 30960 (zip 48909); phone 517-323-7000, extension 510.

**Subscriptions:** \$1.50 per year to members, included in annual dues. \$3.00 per year non-members in Michigan, \$5.00 per year non-members out of state. Publication No. 345040. Established Jan. 13, 1923 as *Michigan Farm News*, name changed to *Michigan Farm News Rural Living* Dec. 1, 1981. Third-class postage paid at Lansing, Michigan, and at additional mailing offices.

**Editorial:** Connie Turbin, Editor and Business Manager; Donna Wilber, Contributing Editor; Marcia Ditchie, Associate Editor; Kimberly Marshall, Associate Editor and Production Manager.

**Officers:** Michigan Farm Bureau President, Jack Laurie, Cass City; Vice President, Wayne Wood, Marlette; Administrative Director, Charles Burkett; Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Tom Parker; Secretary, William S. Wilkinson.

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## Conserving for the Future

A good farmer always plans for the future. He conserves soil, rotates crops and invests in good breeding stock. Perhaps he works to build up a prosperous farm enterprise as a legacy for his children.

A good farmer is always thinking beyond this month's bottom line, always giving some thought to what the financial needs may be years down the road. And a good farmer, a wise farmer, recognizes the need to preserve and save a troubled institution that's going to be crucial to the long term prosperity of his industry.

The Farm Credit System is worth saving. Sure, the FCS has made some mistakes, both in assumptions about where the farm economy was going and how the system should react. And it's true that the system needs to do more to heal itself, especially when it comes to taking action to work out problem loans.

But, it's wrong to turn our backs on the system just because of the errors made in the past. Farmers have too much at stake to write-off the FCS just out of spite.

First of all, remember that the FCS holds 40% of agriculture's real estate loans. If the system went under, and this land went onto the market all at once, land values would take a nose dive.

Second, I know that a major complaint lately is that the FCS has been charging rates above what other lenders are offering. But, during the inflationary 1970s Federal Land Banks and Production Credit Associations offered rates below the commercial banks (thanks in part to the "lag time" that came from loaning money that was obtained by selling inexpensive bonds). Just the opposite happened in the last couple of years. . . the system had to loan money that came from selling expensive bonds. Traditionally, the FCS has been a competitive counterbalance to commercial lenders. I'm confident they'll fill that role again now that the bond market has stabilized and the system is working its way back to a sound financial footing.

Finally, consider this: no other financial institution is chartered specifically to serve **farmers**. Agriculture is their only business. That means that the FCS is going to work harder than other lenders to meet the needs of farmers simply because it depends upon farmers as their only source of customers. The FCS will always be there for agriculture.

Farm Bureau is urging lawmakers to support a comprehensive farm credit rescue package designed to help the Farm Credit System and its farmer borrowers. I encourage you to contact your congressman during the summer and ask him to support this legislation.

The Farm Credit System needs the support of every farmer. It'll be a form of conservation every bit as valuable as that practiced on your farm, with results just as fertile and long lasting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Laurie".

Jack Laurie, President  
Michigan Farm Bureau

## Seeds

- MFB President Jack Laurie and members of the board of directors met in joint session with the Michigan Milk Producers Association board of directors, July 9, at Howell, Michigan.
- Hearings conducted by the National Dairy Commission took President Laurie to Denver, July 13, and Dallas, July 14. Laurie serves as a member of the commission charged with making recommendations to the USDA regarding future dairy policy.
- Following a July 17 briefing on U.S./Canadian trade issues, President Laurie accompanied eight members of the AFBF Council of Presidents for a four day series of meetings with Canadian officials. The FB presidents also toured farms in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.
- MFB President Laurie welcomed members and guests to the MFB Summerfest celebration, July 22 on the grounds of FB Center in Lansing.





# WHEN YOU REACH 65—

**A** lot of you have been in Farm Bureau from the start. With good reason. Farm Bureau has always been looking out for your best interest. And we're not going to stop—especially now that you're looking for ways to fill the many gaps somebody left in Medicare coverage.

Looking for the best deal for you—that's our job. And we've got three health insurance programs for you, depending on where you live and your insurance needs. Take a good look at the way Farm Bureau keeps you covered—taking over wherever Medicare leaves off.

**Complementary Econo Plan:** For hospitalizations, you pay only the Medicare deductibles. The plan pays the coinsurance requirements for covered services at only \$18.13 per month.

**Complementary Comprehensive Plan:** The plan pays both the Medicare deductible and 100% of hospital charges, and provides Master Medical 65 benefits to cover your prescription drugs and minimize your out-of-pocket expenses.



**STAY WITH THE ONE YOU'VE TRUSTED FOR OVER 40 YEARS.**

**Group Medicare Plus:** HMO convenience in the newest of health care plans for seniors. No deductibles to worry about, and for as little as \$50.00 per month. Check with your county secretary regarding the availability of a Farm Bureau Medicare Plus group plan for your area.

**For More Information:** Contact the Farm Bureau secretary in your county to find out more about how Farm Bureau is working hard to keep insuring Michigan's farming community—just like we always have. Or fill out the coupon below and

mail it to: Michigan Farm Bureau, Member Services Dept., P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909.

**PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP  PHONE (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number eligible for Medicare \_\_\_\_\_



Blue Cross  
Blue Shield  
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**Farm  
Bureau**

For the location of your nearest County Farm Bureau Office call 1 (800) 292-2639, ask for ext. 537 or 538



## MFB Protests Michigan Field Sanitation Standards

**T**he Michigan Farm Bureau voiced its objections to the proposed Michigan field sanitation regulations during a hearing at the public health department in Lansing on July 7. Testifying for the state's largest farm organization, MFB legislative counsel Howard Kelly said that Farm Bureau strongly opposes any standards that are more restrictive than the federal standards which are now in place.

"Michigan should not now attempt to make rules which are tougher on the struggling Michigan farmers, growers and loggers than the federal government already has," Kelly said. The new federal field sanitation regulations were not the only new requirements facing Michigan agriculture this summer, he said.

"An Immigration Reform Act has also caused a great deal of new administrative work for farmers and concern about the future availability of a work force. Right-to-Know laws, proposed new rules in the Michigan Pesticide Act, and changes proposed for migrant labor housing are all on the farmer's platter this summer," Kelly said. "Somewhere in their day they have to set aside time to produce the food to feed our citizens and attempt to stay afloat as small business operators in Michigan.

"Government regulations are important, but right after one set of rules are issued, farmers are told there is an even worse set waiting in the wings that may or may not affect them. This does not make for good government. It is difficult to comply with bureaucratic confusion," he said.

Kelly said that Michigan's proposed field sanitation standards would bring thousands of farmers under a law that their competitors in the majority of other states would not have to abide with. Michigan agriculture needs competitive edges, not government mandated disadvantages, he said.

"Congress has for years forbidden OSHA from enforcing any standards on an employer with less than 11 employees. We trust that the Michigan Legislature would provide the same protection to Michigan farmers. It is incomprehensible that the Legislature would take away from the small business person a protection which has already been granted by Congress," Kelly said.

An important consideration in FB's support of the proposal would be the form and effectiveness of the "safety net" program that will be left in place when other programs are phased out.

FB would oppose the elimination of Extension programs from the USDA budget because CES provides valuable educational information to farmers and does not contribute to surplus production or in any way interfere with worldwide trade.

### ■ **FB's Farm Credit Plan —**

AFBF's proposal to assist the nation's troubled Farm Credit System, introduced in Congress in July, includes government help in the form of a guarantee of funds to keep the FCS solvent.

Under the plan, FCS farm borrowers would also benefit through loan restructuring.

The U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees are currently marking up farm credit proposals. A major farm credit reform bill is expected to reach both houses of Congress before the congressional recess in August.

### ■ **Farm Labor Shortage —**

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is moving to unplug the bottleneck in movement of farm workers into the U.S. from Mexico created by implementation of the new federal immigration law. INS Commissioner Alan Nelson said agricultural workers who pay \$185 in fees will be admitted to the U.S. for 90 days without full documentation. The INS has also opened more processing centers to help speed the flow of workers across the border for the harvest season.

## Washington

### ■ **Agricultural Subsidies —**

An administration proposal to phase out all agricultural subsidies over a 10-year period has the qualified support of AFBF. U.S. representatives made the proposal at a recent trade meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

FB generally supports the proposal as a way to point the GATT trade negotiations in the right direction, open trade in agricultural products and reduce market intervention by governments.

However, FB would support the proposal only if agricultural subsidies were eliminated worldwide — not just in the U.S.

## Lansing

### ■ **Cooperative Extension Funding —**

The Michigan Legislature has approved an additional \$5-\$6 million in funding for

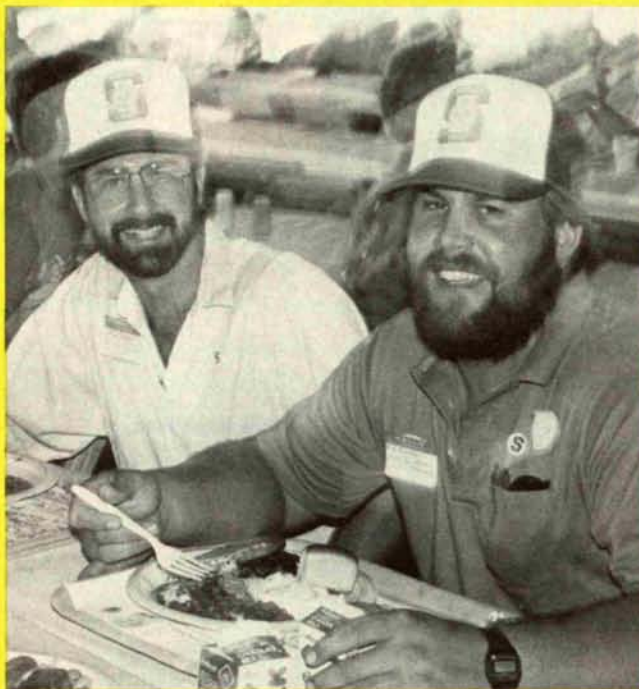
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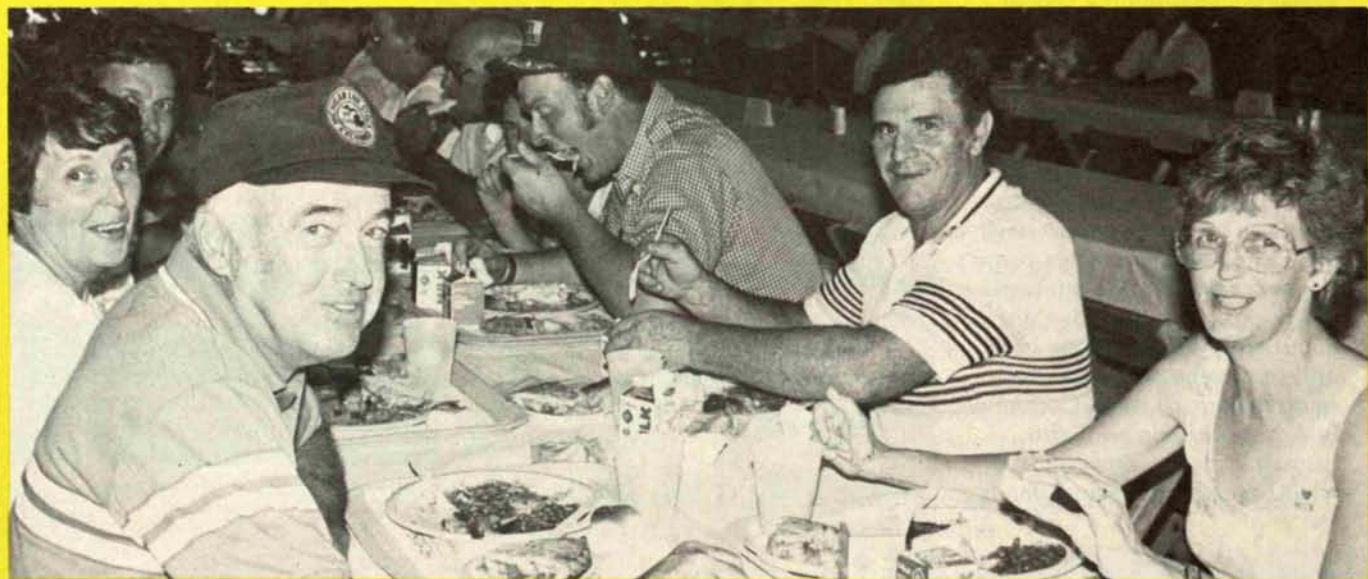


Farm  
Bureau

# Summerfest Celebration!



With temperatures holding in the 90s throughout the day, the cool, shady Summerfest tent was a perfect place to sit, visit with Farm Bureau friends and listen to a good country band. There was plenty of cold lemonade and ice tea and you could order up a charcoal grilled steak for supper. The more than 1,400 FB members who attended called it a good deal at just two bucks a person.







One of the things Summerfest stands for is fun and good food. That's what people had plenty of!



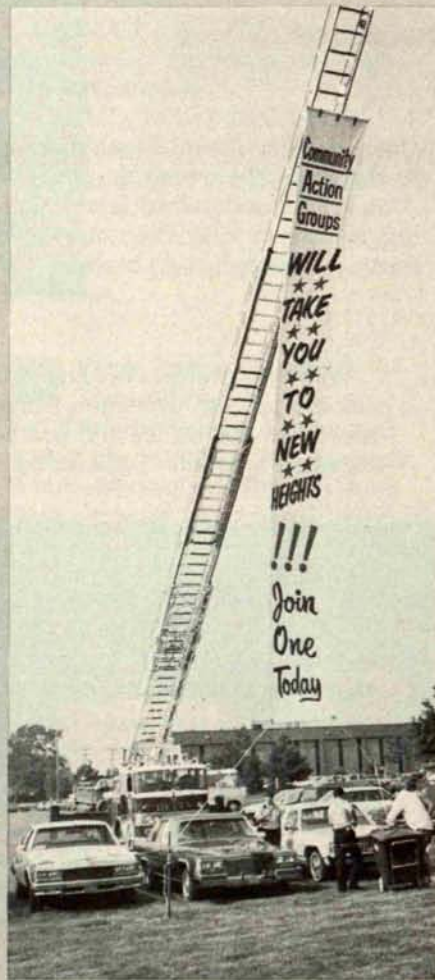
## In the Good 'Ole Summertime . . .

The purpose of Summerfest was to salute 50 years of FB Community Action Groups. Congratulatory letters came from Gov. Blanchard, delivered by MDA Director Kindinger, and from AFBF President Kleckner, read by MFB President Laurie. A 35 foot banner unfurled from a fire department ladder truck boasted, "Community Action Groups will take you to new heights!!! Join one today!"

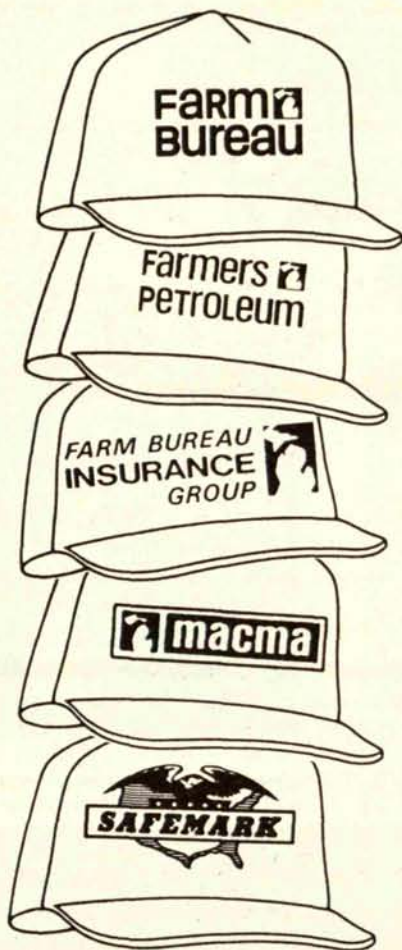
FB members like Howard Straub, member of the Haymakers Group, paid their own tribute to Summerfest and the Community Action Group program. "It's a great idea to have all the community groups come out and celebrate the anniversary of the program. We have just about all of our members here and they're having great time," said Howard. "I think Community Action Groups are Farm Bureau and they represent just what Farm Bureau is and stands for."



All afternoon, folks lined up to take a shot in the cherry pit spitting contest and to qualify for the championship. The winner was Dale Volz of Sanilac County with a distance of 42 feet.







# Inside Information on Hats, Farming and the County Annual Meeting

*(Editor's Note: Everyone needs to "pass the hat" and collect ideas, problems and solutions to share at policy development and county annual meetings. The foundation of FB's strength lies in the dedicated involvement of individual members. J. Donald Sutto, Saginaw County FB president, has expressed this idea to his county through the following letter:)*

**By J. Donald Sutto  
President, Saginaw County  
Farm Bureau**

Several days ago I came in for dinner, only to find a large shopping bag in the utility room full of hats. My hats! I called to my wife Barb, and asked what she was doing with my hats. She replied, "Throwing them away." I said, "THROWING THEM AWAY?!" She asked, rather sharply, "Is there an echo in here?" and continued, "those hats are so old and so dirty you don't wear them and won't let me wash them because you say they don't fit right afterwards. They're going out." With that, she went to the kitchen.

As I stood there and looked at all those old, dirty hats, I wondered why I felt so attached to them. Was I afraid the hat manufacturers would go out of business? Probably not. I noticed most of them had dark stains just above the brim. I began to wonder how often had I, or we as

farmers, pulled the brim of our hats down to shield the sun's glare? How often had we lifted our hats to wipe sweat from our forehead? How often had we pulled our hat down tight to keep it from blowing off in a strong April or May wind? How often have we felt, in despair and frustration, like throwing the hat on the ground and stomping on it? How often have we taken our hats off and bowed our heads to thank God for a long overdue rain? Perhaps these are the reasons I save my hats.

Well, as I ate dinner, Barb still insisted on throwing them out. She said, "no one else saves hats." I maintained many people do, so we made a wager, which I said I could prove at our annual meeting. Here's the plan — I am requesting that all farmers come to our annual meeting on Aug. 20 to vote. I'm sure friendly discussion and possibly even some debate will take place before the vote is held. So, come, and vote for your right to keep all your old friends — your hats!

Once you're at the meeting, exercise your constitutional rights on other issues. Seize the chance to help form the FB policy of the future. FB must maintain its grassroots policy development and policy execution programs which provide you, the member, with a strong voice in legislative and regulatory issues. □



**T**he effect on the students who attend the Young People's Citizenship Seminar is most evident in those who are chosen to return the following summer as junior counselors.

This summer, Kim Kuhn of Muskegon County, Mike McCafferty of Branch County, Nancy Laethem of Tuscola County and Paul Knoerr of Saginaw County, returned to act as seasoned seminar leaders. Their responsibility — to help motivate over 200 students to not only participate, but discover how to incorporate what they have learned during the seminar into their lives.

"The responsibility of a junior counselor is to act as a catalyst, getting the reaction started, without really getting involved in the reaction," said Nancy. "We get the political parties going and try to get the leaders to surface, so that they can eventually run the parties themselves. We also get people together, talking and excited about the program. Because once you get them started, they just take off!"

The importance of the right to vote was stressed throughout the week. The students participated in a mock voter registration and validation process in order to be able to vote in the seminar elections.

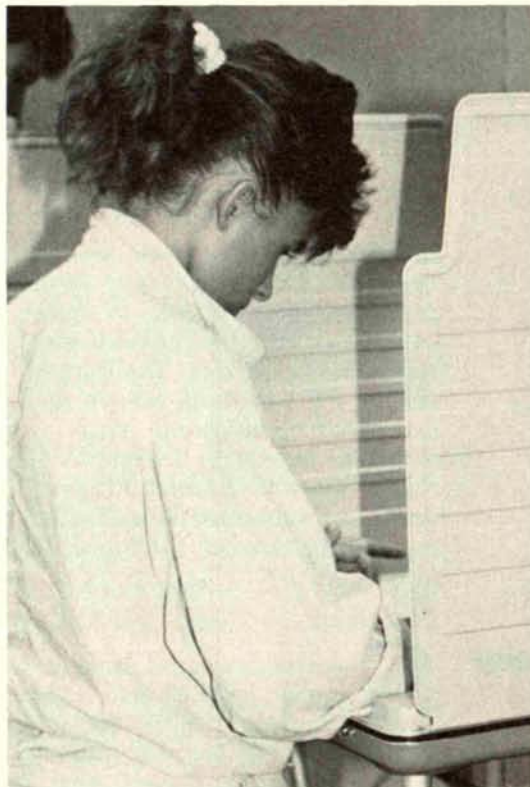
Students had the opportunity to vote in primary, general and ballot proposal elections. Many of the races were close, with one vote deciding the winner in some. A tied vote was broken by the traditional coin toss — the same method used to determine the winner of some real-life election ties.

Last summer, the seminar election results were also very close, with tied races decided by the coin toss. The seriousness of depending on luck to determine a winner in not only mock, but in real elections, inspired Kim to register to vote as soon as she turned 18, and to encourage her friends to do the same.

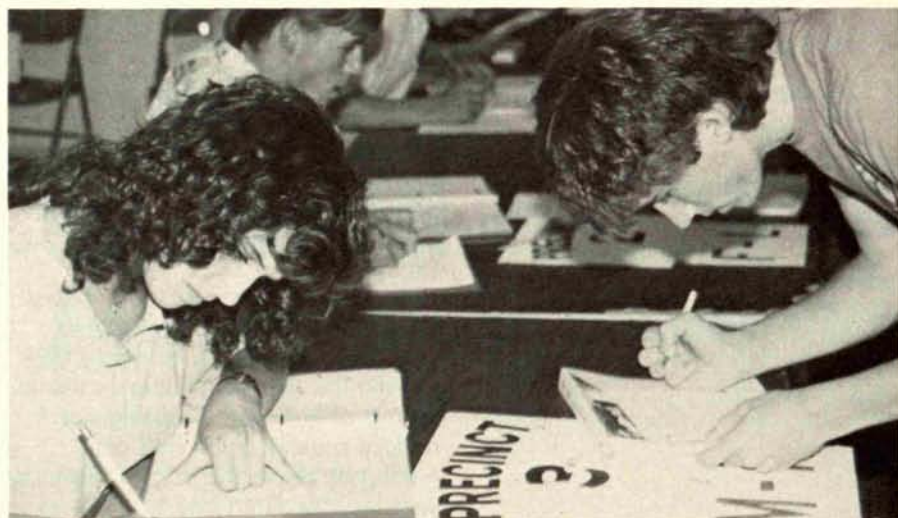
"When the flip of a coin determines the winner of a tied election, you realize that one person's vote really does make a difference," Kim said.

Nancy, a high school senior, is also ready to exercise her right to vote, "I'm very excited about being able to register to vote when I turn

# CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR '87



*The importance and the value of an American's right to vote was emphasized throughout the week. Students experienced the voting registration and validation process. Each election used a different voting method in order to familiarize the students with the punch card, Shoup (lever) and ballot means of voting.*







*Important members of the Citizenship staff were junior counselors (left-right) Paul Knoerr, Kim Kuhn, Mike McCafferty and Nancy Laethem. They played an important part in getting the students involved in the seminar activities and helping break the ice between people on the first day.*



*Seminar activities included speakers, political rallies, elections, and a public hearing. Students learned about economics, history and patriotism. A popular speaker was Rev. Bruce Hanks (left), a direct descendent of Abraham Lincoln. He delivered a brief history of Lincoln's life, speaking as if he were Lincoln himself talking to friends. A favorite activity was the political rallies (above) held several times during the day.*

18, and to be able to vote in the presidential election."

Since the 1986 seminar, both Kim and Mike have been actively involved as campaign workers. Kim helped a member of her local schoolboard run for office. Mike, a high school senior, worked on the campaigns of state Sen. Nick Smith, who is also chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and U.S. Congressman Fred Upton.

The Young People's Citizenship Seminar was designed to develop in its participants an understanding of, and an appreciation for, democracy, capitalism and the American way of life. It also provides practical and meaningful experiences in citizenship education through information, discussion, self-expression, participation and self-discipline.

"I think that Farm Bureau is interested in encouraging youth to get involved in the political system, primarily so that its members will have a voice in the future," Nancy said.

Having a voice in the future of our country and the responsibility of citizens to exercise the right to vote was stressed by Becky Jeppesen, political activities coordinator for the seminar and the local affairs specialist with MFB.

"My goal during the seminar was to impress upon the students their responsibilities as voting citizens, the importance of the political party system, and the role voting plays in the make up of our country," Becky said.

"When these students leave the seminar, we want them walking tall and feeling proud about being a citizen and eager to participate in all the privileges that go along with being a citizen," said Vic Verchereau, seminar chairman and manager of the MFB Young Farmer Department.

"The highlight of the seminar, for me personally, is that last day when the kids show their true reaction to the seminar and to see how many close friendships have developed during the week," said Vic. "It's that process from the first day when their general attitude is 'O.K.—motivate me,' to that last day when they've become warm, appreciative and have gained a true understanding of what the seminar is all about." □



## National Governor's Conference Looks at Rural Issues

■ Dawn Iott, regional FB editor of "The Fence Post", invited Gov. James Blanchard to write a letter concerning the emphasis he was going to place on agriculture during the 1987 Governors' Conference. The letter was published in the July issue of The Fence Post, a FB newsletter which covers seven NW Michigan counties. Following are some excerpts from that letter:

Our nation's governors will soon have the opportunity to experience firsthand the beauty and richness of Michigan's renewable resources when they assemble for the National Governors' Association annual meeting July 25-28, in Traverse City, heart of Farm Bureau's northwest region.



During the conference, the NGA Task Force on Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness will release a report addressing the issues of agricultural diversification, rural economic diversification and access to capital. We will discuss legislative reform of the Farm Credit System as part of an overall strategy for agriculture and rural America.

Michigan's leaders are aware of the importance of the food and agriculture industry to our state's economy. We know that agriculture means jobs — in farming, agri-

businesses, transportation, processing and retailing. We know that agriculture is the base for a stable rural economy so important to so much of our state. We know that food and agriculture, together with forest products and tourism-recreation, form a special — and renewable — resource for Michigan's present and future.

As your governor, I intend to broaden and intensify our state's efforts in this area. (The governor specifically cited these actions to support agriculture:)

- The availability of farm credit through state programs.
- Assisting producers and processors in expanding their operations and in finding new markets.
- Strengthening efforts to market Michigan's food and agriculture products internationally.
- An aggressive advertising campaign to promote the quality and value of Michigan's agricultural produce.
- Support basic and applied research at Michigan State University.

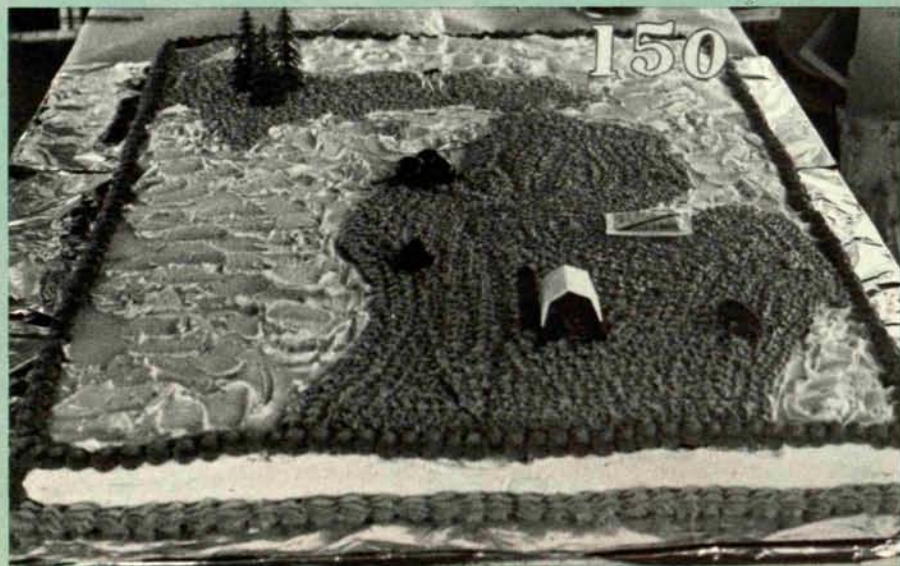


### Summer Celebration

Michigan FB's have been helping the state celebrate its 150th birthday in many ways this summer.

The District 10 Spring Rally held May 5 in Alpena County had a "Michigan My Michigan" theme for their state birthday party. Special cakes (above) were made by Tina Gerke and Lila Will. Many of the women dressed in antique clothes and brought old family relics to display.

Gladwin County FB held a picnic at Beaverton Park June 23. The picnic featured Michigan products and the centerpiece was a cake (below) decorated by Charlene McLaren. Some of the better known products on the cake were dairy, blueberries, cherries, beans, pickles, sugar, pine trees, deer and the Mackinac Bridge. The picnic was hosted by the Busy Beavers Community Action Group.





## Church/Laity Group to Host Annual Farm Tour

Member organizations of the Family Farm Concerns Coalition of the Michigan Ecumenical Forum have announced plans for the annual farm tour in the Saginaw-Genesee communities of Montrose and Saginaw, Wed., Aug. 19. Tour participants will visit Leach Farms in Saginaw County where sugar beets, dry beans, soybeans, corn and wheat are produced. In the afternoon, the group will tour the 165 acre Montrose Orchards and farm market in Genesee County.

According to the organizers, tour objectives are to foster awareness among clergy and laity of the capital demands and risks of a farm business, including how farm families are rebuilding after the flood disaster of 1986.

Tour cost is \$5 and includes luncheon. For more information or to register for the tour, contact Alice Happel, 62299 Happel Road, Burr Oak, Mich. 49030, phone: 616-651-2207. Make checks payable to the Michigan Ecumenical Forum. Register by Aug. 14.

## FARMETTE

By Andrea Hofmeister  
Tuscola County



"Dear, we're on vacation, this is a campsite. It's suppose to have weeds!"



## Teichman Honored

Herb Teichman, President of Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm and creator of the International Cherry Pit Spitting Contest, accepts an Ambassador of Tourism Award from Paula Blanchard. Teichman was cited at special ceremonies in Lansing for his contributions to Michigan tourism and for "spending as much time promoting southwestern Michigan as he does his own fruit farm."

## Ag/Tourism Conference Offers Special Discount for FB Members

MFB members interested in attending the first Michigan Ag/Tourism Conference at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, Sept. 21-22, can use the coupon below to receive an exclusive \$5 discount on the conference registration fee.

Keynote speaker for the conference will be Orion Samuelson, WGN radio and television farm director, who will address common issues and concerns facing individuals and businesses in ag/tourism. Samuelson's remarks will complement exhibits, workshops and "familiarity tours" of area ag/tourism sites. Participants may select one of four tours. The tours will highlight examples of successful combinations of agriculture, food and tourism.

Scheduled sessions include: starting an ag/tourism business, developing an effective promotional brochure, improving an existing ag/tourism business, marketing and hospitality, and getting to know the tour business.

Cost of the one-and-a-half day conference is \$50 which includes three meals and reception, conference sessions and tours. Lodging is not included. However, special overnight rates are available to conference participants at area lodging facilities.

To receive registration information, write or call: Ag Tourism Conference, Michigan State University, 131 Natural Resources Building, East Lansing, Mich. 48824-1222; phone 517-353-5190.

I am looking forward to attending the first Michigan Ag/Tourism Conference, Sept. 21-22 at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor. As a Michigan Farm Bureau member, this coupon entitles me to a \$5 discount on the conference registration fee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

County Farm Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ MFB Membership # \_\_\_\_\_



# Country Almanac

## August

- Aug. 2-8** Huron County Fair, Bad Axe.  
Oakland County 4-H Fair,  
Davisburg.  
Sanilac County Fair, Sandusky.
- Aug. 2-9** Clare County Ag Fair, Harrison.  
Muskegon County Fair, Ravenna.
- Aug. 3-6** Clinton Co. 4-H Fair, St. Johns.
- Aug. 3-8** Kent County 4-H Fair, Lowell.
- Aug. 3-8** Monroe County Fair, Monroe.
- Aug. 4-8** St. Clair County Ag Fair, Goodells.
- Aug. 5** District 2 Policy Development Mtg.
- Aug. 6.** District 8 Policy Development Mtg.
- Aug. 6-9** Ontonagon County Ag Fair,  
Greenland.
- Aug. 8-15** Isabella County Fair, Mt. Pleasant.
- Aug. 9-15** Branch County Fair, Coldwater.  
Jackson County Fair, Jackson.  
Shiawassee County Fair, Corunna.
- Aug. 10-14** Missaukee Falmouth Ag Fair,  
Falmouth.
- Aug. 10-15** Bay County Fair, Bay City.  
Otsego County Fair, Gaylord.
- Aug. 10-16** Lapeer County Ag Fair, Imlay City.
- Aug. 11** District 6 Policy Development Mtg.  
District 8 Policy Development Mtg.
- Aug. 11-15** Montmorency County Fair, Atlanta.
- Aug. 12** District 4 Policy Development  
Meeting, 8 p.m., Kent County FB  
Office, Comstock Park.
- Aug. 12-15** Kalkaska County Ag Fair, Kalkaska.
- Aug. 15** Gratiot County FB Annual Meeting,  
5:30 p.m., Moose Lodge, St. Louis.
- Aug. 15-16** Antrim County Farm Fair, Bellaire.
- Aug. 15-22** Northern Michigan Fair, Cheboygan.
- Aug. 16-22** Calhoun County Ag Fair, Marshall.  
Lenawee County Ag Fair, Adrian.  
Midland County Ag Fair, Midland.
- Aug. 17** District 11W Policy Development  
Meeting.
- Aug. 17-22** Newaygo County Fair, Fremont.  
Northern District Fair, Cadillac.
- Aug. 17-23** Genesee County Ag Fair, Genesee.  
Ogemaw County Ag Fair, West  
Branch.
- Aug. 18** District 11E Policy Development  
Meeting.
- Aug. 18-23** Armada Ag Fair, Armada.  
U.P. State Fair, Escanaba.
- Aug. 20** MFB Statewide Policy Development  
Conference, Clarion Hotel, Lansing.  
Saginaw County FB Annual  
Meeting, 6:30 p.m., KC Hall,  
Williams Road, Saginaw.
- Aug. 20-23** Iron County Fair, Iron River.
- Aug. 21-23** Baraga County Fair, Pelkie.
- Aug. 23-29** Alpena County Fair, Alpena.
- Aug. 24-29** Kalamazoo County Ag Fair,  
Kalamazoo.
- Aug. 24-29** Western Michigan Fair, Ludington.
- Aug. 25** Bay County FB Annual Meeting,  
7 p.m., Williams Township Hall,  
Auburn.
- Aug. 25** District 10 Policy Development  
Meeting, Gaylord.
- Aug. 26-30** Oceana County Ag Fair, Hart.
- Aug. 27** District 3 Policy Development Mtg.  
District 7 Policy Development Mtg.  
Tuscola County FB Annual Meet-  
ing, 6:30 p.m., KC Hall, Caro.
- Aug. 27-30** Houghton 4-H Fair, Hancock.
- Aug. 28-30** Schoolcraft County Fair,  
Manistique.
- Aug. 28-  
Sept. 7** Michigan State Fair,  
Detroit.
- Aug. 31-  
Sept. 5** Northwestern Michigan Fair,  
Traverse City.





# TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

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*"Our goal is to strengthen the conservation ethic of all people toward soil, water and other resources in Michigan and the nation."*

**T**ake Pride in America is the name of a nationwide campaign by the U.S. departments of Agriculture, Education, and Interior to involve all citizens in the care, rehabilitation and preservation of our nation's resources. Everyone is encouraged to "Take Pride in America" and is invited to do what they can to improve the use and care of public and private resources.

"Our goal is to strengthen the conservation ethic of all people toward soil, water and other resources in Michigan and the nation," said Homer R. Hilner, chairperson of Michigan's Take Pride in America Coordinating Committee. "When people are proud of their land or community they tend to be more careful about its use and care."

The Take Pride in America effort began with the 1986 State of the Union Address when President Reagan reminded people that every American shares the responsibility for the nation's parks, forests and other resources. The 1986 Take Pride in America campaign, which focused on care and protection of the nation's public lands, was expanded to include private, as well as public land, in the 1987 and successive campaigns.

Take Pride in America is a broad-based volunteer effort in which anyone can participate. A list of 50 ways every citizen can participate in the campaign is available to help people get started and to suggest other volunteer activities. Suggested activities include: community clean up/fix up campaigns, tree and flower planting projects, recycling campaigns, park supervision programs and awards programs for outstanding conservation or community "Take Pride" efforts.

Representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and Cooperative Extension Service are coordinating Take Pride in America efforts at the state and county level. Local organizations or groups and individuals who want to learn more about the campaign and how they might participate in the campaign should contact their local USDA office.

A national awards program will recognize individuals, and public and private groups that carry out outstanding stewardship actions or awareness efforts on behalf of public or private resources. National finalists will receive their awards and be recognized at a special Take Pride in America awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. Local USDA offices have the entry forms.

The Department of Agriculture has conducted several events including special programs at the USDA building and Jefferson Auditorium, a new exhibit and "dash for trash" race for young people during Awareness Week (May 17-23) to initiate 1987 activities. Sept. 13-19 has been selected for Take Pride in America work-fest week. Volunteer and community projects will be highlighted during the special week to recognize work being done to improve and protect community resources. □



# Oil overcharge refund worth \$8/10,000 gallons used

An oil overcharge refund opportunity will be worth at least \$8 per 10,000 gallons for all crude oil-based fuels and greases that farmers purchased from independent (non-cooperative) suppliers between August 1973 and January 1981.

**Q. Where do I apply for a refund?**

**A.** The Office of Hearings and Appeals of the U.S. Department of Energy is in charge of the refund program.

**Q. What caused the refunds?**

**A.** Crude oil was under government price controls during that time and some energy companies charged more than they should have for crude oil. Everyone who purchased products refined from that oil therefore paid a higher price than they normally would have. Lawsuits were filed and the companies agreed to settlements worth several billion dollars. The money was divided into several funds by negotiated settlement.

**Q. Do I need a lawyer to file a claim?**

**A.** No, if you are a farmer just use this form. Consumers who don't resell the products as petroleum need only to be able to prove the amount they purchased.

**Q. If I can't locate records showing gallonage, can I estimate it?**

**A.** Yes, but a full description of your estimation technique must be included with the application.

**Q. What if I only have sales slips showing dollar value of purchases?**

**A.** You should be able to estimate the number of gallons purchased by dividing the amount you spent each year by the price for that product in your area during that period.

**Q. What will happen to my refund application when it reaches DOE?**

**A.** DOE will assign it a reference number and send you a letter confirming its receipt and reference number (Make a copy of the application for your files before you send it.)

Some applicants will be spot checked on a random basis for documentation of purchases. Do not send supporting invoices unless asked.

DOE will send you a written decision on your claim. If a refund is approved it will take another 60 days or more for the check to be mailed.

**Q. What's the minimum number of gallons needed to qualify for a refund?**

**A.** The U.S. Treasury will not write a check for less than \$15 because it costs that much to process it. Therefore it will definitely be worthwhile to file a claim if you purchased a grand total of more than 19,000 gallons of petroleum products. And, because the fund is drawing interest, it is very possible that you could get a refund if your grand total is more than 10,000 gallons for the 7 1/2-year period.

**Q. What is the deadline for filing a refund claim?**

**A.** December 31, 1987.

## APPLICATION FOR CRUDE OIL REFUND

Prepared by the American Farm Bureau Federation to meet Department of Energy requirements

**1. Check :**

I bought all, or part, of my gasoline, diesel, kerosene, lubricating oil, propane, greases, and heating oil from an independent (non-cooperative) supplier between August 1973 and January 1981. **If you check this box then continue to fill out this refund application.**

If these products were purchased totally from your local cooperative, **STOP HERE.** You do not need to fill out this application form. Regional petroleum cooperatives will receive refunds which are intended to benefit farmers and ranchers who are members of the petroleum cooperatives.)

Also **STOP HERE** if you purchased a grand total of 10,000 gallons or less of these crude oil products between August 1973 and January 1981.

**2. Check  those activities on your farm that used petroleum products:**

Planting     Spraying     Tillage     Heat Buildings     Dry Crops  
 Cultivating     Harvesting     Irrigation     Transportation     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fill in below to indicate the amount of petroleum products purchased for both on- and off-farm use from independent (non-cooperative) suppliers**

	GASOLINE	DIESEL & FUEL OIL	PROPANE	MOTOR OIL & GREASE
	gallons			
Aug. - Dec. 1973				
1974				
1975				
1976				
1977				
1978				
1979				
1980				
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				
<b>GALLONS GRAND TOTAL</b>				

**4. Check  how you arrived at the yearly figures for petroleum use:**

State off-road fuel tax exemption records     Sales receipts  
 Local fuel supplier records     Credit card purchase slips  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other estimating methods may be used. For instance, if none of these documents is available, you may estimate petroleum use by multiplying your average number of acres farmed per year by USDA's national average of 23.8 gallons/acre/year of petroleum. Then multiply that figure by 7.44 years.

\_\_\_\_\_ acres/year × 23.8 × 7.44 = \_\_\_\_\_ Gallons Grand Total

**5. If you did business under more than one name or corporation, please list names and dates when used:**

<b>6. Applicant's Information</b>	Name & address of person to receive refund if different than applicant
Name _____	
Corporation _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Social Security No. _____ - _____ - _____	

**7. Contact Person's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return before December 31, 1987, to: Department of Energy, Office of Hearings & Appeals, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585**



## Standards Seek to Improve Grain Quality and Marketability

Several major changes in grain standards became effective May 1, 1987. Aimed at efforts to more accurately describe the grain being traded and/or to improve the quality of grain, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) recently announced the following changes, as they relate to the issuance of official grade certificates:

- Dockage, defined as all matter other than wheat, which is readily removable, will be reported to the nearest 0.1%. In the past, dockage certification was rounded DOWN to the nearest one-half or whole percent, resulting most often in understating the amount of dockage.
- Protein content of wheat will be reported, corrected to a constant 12% moisture, rather than on an "as is" basis. This will permit a more accurate evaluation of the protein value of wheat offered for sale to processors and importers.

In addition, based on the Grain Quality Improvement Act of 1986, it

is now illegal to add any foreign material or re-introduce screenings to grain traded in the domestic market. A similar prohibition will be effective January 1, 1988 for all exported grain and oilseeds.

These changes should all help to improve the marketability of grain in the domestic and export markets and provide incentives to producers to market cleaner, higher quality grain than in the past.

Unfortunately, the effect these changes will have on the value of grain as it moves in commerce are being misrepresented by some grain buyers.

For instance, the change made in reporting dockage in wheat has changed the value of a bushel of wheat only slightly — at most, one cent per bushel if wheat is priced at \$2.50 per bushel. On the average, the effect would be only one-half cent per bushel. The net effect—bottom line—however, is that wheat producers should receive exactly the

same price for wheat as before, since processors and other end-users of wheat can now bid the price of wheat with no dockage (previously any wheat with up to 0.49% dockage) at its true value. With the assurance that they are not paying for any dockage when it is reported as such, the value of clean wheat is now as much as one-cent higher.

By the same token, reporting protein content corrected to a 12% constant moisture does not alter the value of producers' wheat. Elevator operators, who have established discounts for wheat with less than 12% moisture because correcting the protein content to that level results in lowering the protein reading, are misleading producers.

The deception does not justify the discounts. Persistence by the grain trade in following such a practice will only strengthen producers' reasoning for pricing grain on a dry-matter basis. □

## Tips & Trends

**Corn** — Carryover stocks of 6.3 billion bu. remain a burden in the corn trade. However, active participation in recent government programs, and similar programs/participation next year, may mean cutting into supplies as early as the next marketing year.

**Wheat** — An export bonus offer accepted by Russia gave good support to the spring wheat market. The purchases complete the sale of 4 mmt (147 million bu.) provided under the EEP program and meet the requirements under the long-term grain agreement between the U.S. and Russia.

**Soybeans** — A soybean market rally which opened in mid-February was fueled by 1987 planting intentions reports that production levels would not be high enough to meet export and domestic demand. The rally was further supported by a sharp rise in precious metals and crude oil prices. The falling dollar meant the best overseas commodity selling prices in ten years. A pre-planting weather scare finished off the big rally. On June 30, USDA reported soybean stocks at 865 million bu.

**Cattle** — USDA Cattle Inventory Report (June 30) indicates the industry is turning inventory at a lower

pace than in past rebuilding phases. The report also indicates early spring storms claimed calf losses as high as 250,000 head.

**Hogs** — Cash price weakness is expected in the third and fourth quarter. Expansion is taking place, but not at an alarming rate.

**Horticultural Crops** — The U.S. Customs Service has completed development of regulations for country of origin labeling on apple juice, and has submitted the regulations to the Treasury Department for review. Implementation is expected by late summer. □



## "You Said It"

Here's how Community Action Group members responded after discussion of the June topic, "Farm Credit Update":

- The majority (48%) of CAG members rated FB's plan for the farm credit system as fair, 33% rated the plan good and 19% rated it poor.

- When asked their opinion about what extent the state and federal governments should be involved in providing credit to farmers or guaranteeing loans made by lenders. Members said: 44% involved, 43% not involved and 13% very involved.

- Comments on what FB should be doing to keep competitive sources of credit available to farmers included: support credit system, convince farmers not to borrow more than they can pay back, work with creditors to keep the interest low and to give advice, and work with individuals.

- CAG members made the following suggestions: the ad hoc committee should be dissolved when their work is done; better inspections should be made before loans are issued; government should be involved with guaranteed loans only; and with local control, boards can react quickly and understand local differences and conditions better.

### In September

#### Promotion & Education Committee

*The purpose and goals of the Promotion and Education Committee will be outlined in next month's topic. The discussion will be designed to encourage Community Action Groups to seek ways to work with the Promotion and Education Committees in their counties.*

## Discussion Topic

# Right to Farm Update

### Background

Because of the complexity of the "Right-to-Farm" issue, the Michigan Department of Agriculture established a "Right to Farm Task Force" in 1985. It is made up of representatives from various departments of state government and is charged with making recommendations on regulating intensive livestock operations.

A report issued by the task force in 1986 generated a great deal of controversy. A number of recommendations were made regarding criteria for farm management practices to qualify for protection under the Right to Farm law. Due to the controversial nature and limited distribution of the recommendations, they were later dropped.

In October of 1986, the MDA organized "Multidisciplinary Evaluation Teams" to begin a long term investigative process. Again, the goal was to make recommendations on the livestock waste management problem in the state. The teams were later named the "Animal Waste Resource Committee" (AWRC) and further segmented into legislative, management practices, and information and education subcommittees. These subcommittees were formed to draw upon the knowledge of technical experts and the committee members' practical experience. In addition, the process included an extensive review of what was written in scientific literature regarding livestock management.

The teams started with 60 people and grew during the nine month process to its present total of over 250 people. The group represented a variety of interests including Michigan Farm Bureau, the Soil Conservation Service, Michigan State University, the Department of Natural

Resources, the Department of Public Health and many private experts.

The Management Practices Subcommittee was given the responsibility to develop a uniform set of management and design standards and specifications for use by the MDA director as "generally accepted agricultural and management practices." These standards could also be adopted by other agencies and Michigan State University for use in assisting animal agriculture producers statewide.

The Legislative Subcommittee was to develop suggested changes to the Right to Farm Act and/or other environmental laws and regulations. The Information and Education Subcommittee was charged with publicity or information programs that would be needed after the other subcommittee reports were completed.

A series of meetings, discussions and reviews took place from the beginning of the AWRC until June of this year. From that process came recommendations to modify certain state policies on livestock waste management.

### Proposals

The committee recommendations on changes in the Right-to-Farm-Act were:

- A farm would be protected from a nuisance suit if the farm had been there for one year or more, was not a nuisance at the time it began, and conforms to "generally accepted agricultural and management practices."

Those practices would not be included directly in the law, but would be promulgated as rules based on Soil Conservation Service technical specifications. Current law does not

*(continued on next page)*



## Discussion Topic

(continued from previous page)

define these practices. The proposed specifications would pertain only to livestock waste management practices. It's not clear what this means to non-livestock producers who seek protection under the Act, but it is anticipated that non-livestock standards will be promulgated by the MDA at a later date.

- A farm would not be protected from a nuisance suit if the nuisance results from "negligent or improper farm operation."

- A person who alleges that a farm does not conform to the above requirements for protection from nuisance suits has two options — mediation through local government channels, or arbitration through state government channels. Either option requires that both parties agree in advance to participate in the process and jointly share the cost.

For local government mediation, complainants would make a written request to the township supervisor or chief locally-elected officer for mediation. The supervisor or local officer would be required to submit written findings and recommendations to the parties in the dispute within 30 days of the written request.

For state government arbitration, complainants would make a written request to MDA for arbitration, which would be binding and based on methods of the American Arbitration Association.

The committee recommended this proposed policy for the state of Michigan:

- A waste management plan will be required for a new or expanded High Density Livestock Operation (HDLO) with less than the equivalent of 1000 animal units (the number of animals that generate a volume of waste produced by 1000 slaughter or feeder cattle) provided that waste is not directly discharged into surface water. No plan will be required for an existing HDLO with less than 1000 units that is not causing surface or groundwater pollution.

- A surface Discharge Permit will be required for an HDLO with more than 1000 animal units; an HDLO with less than 1000 units that dis-

charges into surface waters; or an HDLO that does not directly discharge into surface waters but a) does not have an animal waste management plan, or b) the site cannot meet standards and specifications for the plan; an HDLO with less than 1000 units that is causing or has caused water pollution.

- Existing non-polluting farms are not required to have a permit or a waste management plan.

Finally, proposed Air Pollution Control Act amendments would more clearly exempt agriculture from having to obtain an air quality permit.

### Opportunities for Comment

These recommendations are expected to be part of a final report on "Right to Farm" that the MDA is

scheduled to be released for mass distribution by August 1. The MDA will hold public hearings on the report during the first two weeks of November and December, and submit the report to the Agriculture Commission at its February 1988 meeting. The commission will then make recommendations to the Legislature.

Farm Bureau members should carefully consider these proposals and be prepared to offer input during the consideration process. □

### Discussion Questions

- Do you feel these proposals are fair and equitable?
- Are there sufficient protections against nuisance suits?
- Are there too many restrictions on livestock operations? Too few?

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## NOTICE

Michigan Farm Bureau Group Blue Cross/  
Blue Shield Reopening Plan Selection  
Cards Due August 31, 1987.



## Legislative Review

(continued from page 6)

the Cooperative Extension Service and the agricultural experiment station.

The additional funding will support a broad range of CES programs from marketing education and support to nutrient management, livestock odors, forestry issues, and finding solutions to the problems facing agriculture to improve the economic advantage of farmers.

### ■ Oversize Farm Equipment

— Gov. Blanchard has signed into law a bill to allow the movement of wider farm equipment on most public roads. The new law amends the state's motor vehicle code.

The new law, Public Act 90, allows the movement of any sized farm equipment on roadways during daylight hours, as long as the movement of the equipment does not impede the flow of traffic. The new law allows any sized farm equipment on roadways after dark as long as it does not move left of center. Also, the equipment must display a tail light or be followed by a vehicle displaying tail lights.

### ■ School Finance Reform Commission

— The first draft overall proposal from the Education Quality Subcommittee states that "Education must still be primarily directed by locally elected school boards..." However, the "ultimate responsibility" lies with the state as required by the Constitution and "All children in the state must have an equal opportunity to learn essential skills, etc." Therefore, "all districts should be required to adopt and implement student and system standards." And where consistent "failure occurs the State must assume temporary control of the districts' programs." This means:

- State standards for "core requirements" (required and elective courses) and "acceptable educational results" (determined by testing) for achievement, employability, etc., and make the information public.

- New state, intermediate and local district responsibilities.
- Restructure the Department of Education.
- Require development and use of a K-12 plan containing required course work.
- Better teacher training.

It is estimated that more than 50% of the school districts fail to meet standards of quality needed in course content and instruction. The proposal will require much more work and time.

FB serves on the Property Tax Revenue subcommittee which is meeting once a week. Other subcommittees are Distribution of State Aid and a Steering Committee. There is a consensus on goals for evaluating school finance reform proposals which include:

- School operating property taxes should be reduced by a minimum of \$1.6 billion, a cut of approximately 50%.
- All classes of property should receive at least a 50% reduction in school operating property taxes.
- Each of the following changes should be considered as a potential source of revenue to fund a high-quality, K-12 education program:
  - increases in the rate and/or base of the sales tax.
  - business tax increases, including changes in the Single Business Tax.
  - increases in the rate and/or base of the personal income tax.
  - narrowing of the state Homestead Property Tax rebate program (P.A. 116 would not be affected).
  - the possible adoption of a uniform, statewide school operating millage rate.
  - possible changes in school pension funding.
  - local revenue options including local sales or income tax.
  - measures to broaden the property tax base, such as reducing or eliminating exemptions and abatements.
  - increased operating efficiencies through school district reorganization,

consolidation or cooperative programs.

— adjustments in other revenue sources.

- The revenue system for funding K-12 education should include an equitable distribution of resources to every child in the Michigan Public Schools.

The final report is expected to be released in September or October for action in the fall legislative session. This issue should receive major attention in the 1987 FB policy development process.

### ■ Income Tax Rollback

— The Senate has passed S.B. 7 and 8 to rollback the income tax from 4.6% to 4.4%, however, it was expected that the House would hold it up because of the expected deficit this year. The governor supported the rollback and also proposed a "10/20" plan under which the state would pay the first 10 mils on the first \$20,000 market value of a home. This would be paid for by taxing insurance premiums, bank intangibles, military pay, etc. The House has now combined both of these proposals. Instead of a tax rate cut, the so-called \$170 million federal tax windfall would be used to increase personal tax exemptions from the present \$1,500 to \$1,900 in 1987, \$1,950 in 1988 and \$2,000 in 1989.

■ **Sales Tax** — S.B. 222 has passed the Senate and is in the House Taxation Committee. It would exempt agricultural drain tile and portable grain bins for sales tax. It includes a definition of grain bin portability.

### ■ Highway Legislation

— A joint House-Senate subcommittee is working on an agreeable package of 10 or more bills. Key provisions include:

- Proposes increases in user fees totaling approximately \$90 million generated by:
  - increasing the title transfer fee \$2 to \$10 (\$28 million total).

(continued on page 21)



## Legislative Review

(continued from page 20)

— adding a \$4 processing fee to vehicle registration cost (\$32 million total).

— increasing driver license fee \$7.50 to \$15 for new and \$6 to \$12 for renewal (\$10 million total).

— increasing commercial registration fees by 15% (\$10 million total).

— increasing diesel fuel sticker from \$12 to \$25 for out-of-state trucks and retain \$92 fee for in-state trucks (\$5.6 million total).

— increasing driver reinstatement fee \$25 to \$100 (\$4.5 million total).

• Allows the following local options by vote of people:

— up to \$10 per year vehicle registration fee.

— up to \$3 per year on driver's license (\$12 total on four-year renewal).

• Creates an Economic Development Authority to be funded by \$96 million from the auto-related sales tax (general fund). The revenue would be distributed as follows:

— 25% for road projects required by economic development;

— 25% for capacity improvement projects;

— 25% for trunkline take over projects; and

— 25% for rural primary road support.

• Establishes a four-year matching fund in the Department of Transportation using state trunkline dollars to match locally-raised revenue on a receding basis (two-for-one down to one-half-for-one).

• At one point, the present 15 cents per gallon gas tax was reduced to 13 cents. It is now back to 15 cents and a further increase is being considered. The Joint Legislative Committee will continue to work on the highway issue during the summer recess because an agreement could not be reached during the legislative session. At least two public hearings will be held; one in the Detroit area, and the other in the U.P.

■ **Michigan's Budget** — The budget bills are presently on the governor's desk. The Senate Fiscal Agency reports that 1987-88 appropriations will increase \$207.3 million, or 3.3%, over the present

year 1986-87 levels with the largest increase in the Department of Corrections (16.2%), capital outlay projects decreased by 31.8%. Revenues for 1987-88 are expected to be \$6.478 billion with expenditures estimated at \$6.573 billion. This could mean a deficit of about \$94.5 million in the 1987-88 budget. It is

also expected that there will be a \$51.6 million deficit for the present year 1986-87. □

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

## "Farmers, Protect Your Engines!"

Tetraethyl Lead has been all but eliminated in gasoline thanks to an EPA decree. Unfortunately the valve seats in engines built for leaded gasoline will slowly — but surely — self-destruct without lead protection or a proper lead substitute.

Tractors, combines, light and medium size trucks, marine and RV engines through 1985, and auto engines before 1974 are all in danger of real damage without proper valve seat protection.

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## MFB Declines NFO Offer; Asks for More Details

■ The Michigan Farm Bureau has declined a request by the National Farmers Organization (NFO) to join them in marketing efforts for agricultural commodities. In a letter to NFO President Devon Woodland of Iowa, MFB President Jack Laurie cited the organization's already existing marketing programs and lack of details on the proposed joint marketing program as reasons for declining the request at this time.

"Michigan Farm Bureau is keenly interested and very much involved in helping its members realize maximum net income from the marketplace," Laurie told Woodland. "We have researched various marketing programs, organized an affiliate company to operate marketing programs, and assisted the affiliate to successfully implement the programs.

"Currently, effective marketing programs are operating for various fruits and vegetables as well as feeder pigs. Computerized marketing information and advice on wheat, soybeans, feedgrains and livestock are also being provided for Farm Bureau members to improve their income in the marketplace," Laurie said.

Laurie did leave the door open for future discussions, however.

"When complete details of the proposed joint marketing program are developed, you may send me a copy for more thorough evaluation," he told Woodland.

Laurie said that in Michigan, FB has been meeting with NFO and other farm organizations periodically for a number of years.

"We feel this has been a positive action on the part of all farm groups and provided a much better understanding of each others' concerns, and we sincerely look forward to continuing these discussions in the future," he said. □



# Farm Bureau Market Place

## CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

- Farm Bureau members pay 25 cents per word for all classified advertisements.
- All other advertisers pay 50 cents per word for one insertion and 45 cents per word for two or more consecutive insertions of the same ad.
- All advertisements are subject to a 15-word minimum charge, including member ads.
- Please indicate if you are a Farm Bureau member.
- The deadline for ads is the first Monday of the month preceding publication.
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- It is the responsibility of the advertiser to re-insert the ad on a month-by-month or year-by-year basis.
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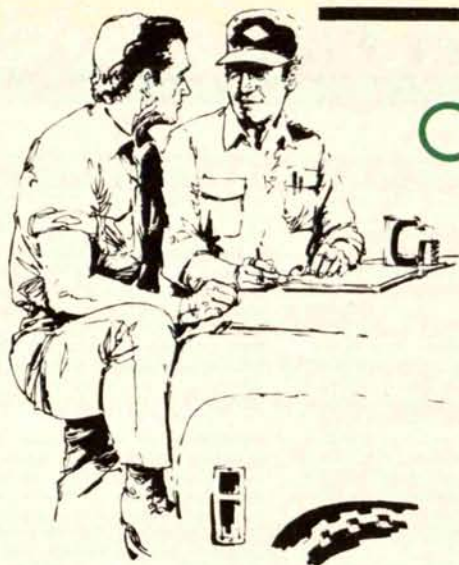
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