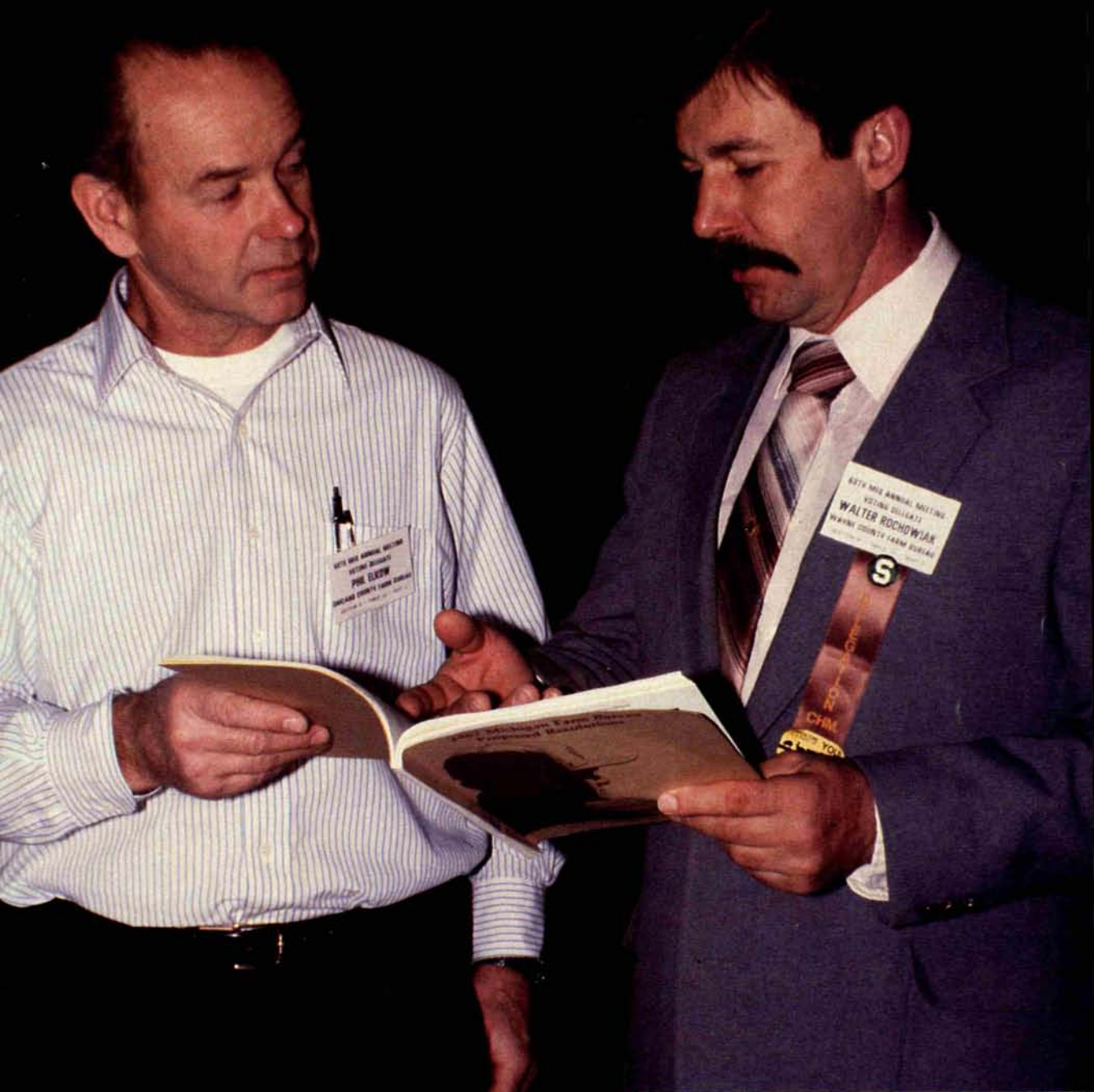


# Rural Living

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



JANUARY 1988

Inside: Annual Meeting Report  
State Policies

As sure as Medicare pays only part of the bills...



When you pass 65, you still need health care insurance. There's Medicare, it's true. But Medicare has holes for your savings to run through.

That's where we can help, with the extra coverage you need at the down-to-earth membership rates you can afford.

As a Michigan Farm Bureau member, eligible for Medicare, you have a choice of Blue Cross Blue Shield complementary coverage to supplement Medicare benefits: a comprehensive plan, an econo plan or an HMO plan\*, starting as low as \$18.13 a month.

Whichever plan you choose, we'll be with you to take care of your health care insurance at down-to-earth membership rates, the same way we've been doing for the last forty years.

For your nearest Farm Bureau office  
call 1 (800) 292-2680 extension 3239/3240

\*available in most counties

Farm  
Bureau



# TO KEEP YOUR INDEPENDENCE

# Rural Living

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau

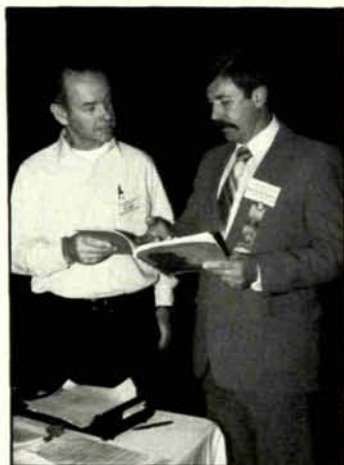


Photo by Marcia Ditchie

## About the Cover

Delegates to the MFB annual meeting convened for the policy setting session Tuesday, Dec. 1. On Friday, the delegate body had acted on over 150 resolutions.

## In This Issue

### 11 State PD Committee Deserves Special Thanks

In the months before the opening gavel fell at the MFB annual meeting, State Policy Development Committee members spent many hours reviewing county resolutions, researching and composing the proposed state resolutions.

**12 MFB Policies** The farmer developed policies adopted by the 485-member delegate body provide the basis for MFB action during the coming year. This issue provides the first installment of a complete printing of the state FB policies. National policies approved by county delegates will be presented at the AFBF annual meeting in New Orleans in January.

## Columns

President's Message . . . . .	4	Grassroots Perspective . . . . .	22
Legislative Review . . . . .	9	Farm Bureau Market Place . . . . .	23
Agrinomic Update . . . . .	21	Advertisers' Index . . . . .	23

**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 6585.

**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.

**Directors:** District 1, Marlin Outman, Constantine; District 2, Blaine VanSickle, Marshall; District 3, Diane Horning, Manchester; District 4, Charleen Thompson, Freeport; District 5, Mark Smuts, Charlotte; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City; District 7, Larry Snider, Hart; District 8, Lyle LeCronier, Freeland; District 9, Joshua Wunsch, Traverse City; District 10, Margaret Kartes, West Branch; District 11, Robert Wahmhoff, Baraga. At-large: David Conklin, Corunna; Wayne Wood, Marlette; Richard Leach, Saginaw. Promotion and Education: Janis Sanford, Parma. Young Farmers: Ed Cagney, Scotts.

*Special*  
**PROMOTIONAL**  
**REBATE**  
*Limited Time Only!*

**ON TOP**  
**QUALITY**  
**COUNTRYMARK**

# SHEEP

# FEED

- **LAMB STARTER**, 21% pre-starter
- **LAMB GROWER**, 18% creep, grower or finisher
- **SHEPHERD'S CHOICE** 15½% for breeding sheep, also can be for growing and finishing
- **SHEEP SUPPLEMENT** 35% natural protein
- **TEND-R-LAMB**, famous no-roughage finishing program

See your participating Countrymark Outlet for promotion dates.

Count On . . .



4565 Columbus Pike • Delaware, OH 43015

FD-8712-1

# President's Message



## Working Together

*(Editor's Note: This month the president's message is based on the annual address to the membership presented by the MFB President Jack Laurie on Thursday, Dec. 3, in Grand Rapids.)*

Perhaps a few of you are hockey fans, and have heard of the great national hockey league star, Wayne Gretzky. He plays for the Edmonton Oilers, and has been the league's most valuable player for the last eight years in a row.

Gretzky's specialty is scoring goals. No one in history has been so skilled...some people consider him the greatest hockey player ever.

The secret to his success is his phenomenal ability to anticipate. As he told a reporter, "I skate to where the hockey puck is going to be, not where it has been."

The ability to anticipate...I think that is going to be a crucial skill for us in agriculture. Our industry has gone through many changes in the past few years, but these changes are nothing compared to the opportunities...and challenges...that face us in the years to come.

World population is projected to grow to six billion by the end of the century...and eight billion by the year 2020. Food production will have to increase nearly 75 percent in order to feed all these people.

As Earl Butz points out, this extra production is going to come at a time when there is no "new western hemisphere" to discover...at a time when there's no more arable land to plow...at a time when there's no more water to use than we have now. Boosting food production 75 percent in the next third of a century is mankind's number one challenge.

But I agree with Dr. Butz that we have the capacity to meet this awesome challenge as long as we don't try to maintain inefficient resources and freeze present patterns of production and as long as we don't put a damper on imagination. I don't believe that farmers are going to make that kind of mistake...because (they) have a powerful forecasting tool at their disposal — their FB.

No other organization has the grassroots structure (of) community action groups, county committees and board of directors that lets it anticipate attitudes and actions as quickly as FB does.

The key to being effective is strong member involvement. There is no doubt in my mind that farmers need an organization like FB more than ever before, but we need to realize that the people, the problems, and the possibilities facing agriculture are different than they were in the past. We need to be open to new approaches, and we need to tap every ounce of creative potential in all our members in order to meet the challenges of the future.

Agriculture has a bright future, but fulfilling the potential of our industry depends upon a number of factors, especially the resolution of the federal budget crisis.

We're disappointed by the lack of real progress in the budget talks held recently between Congress and the Reagan administration.

We have strong and steady FB policy that says the way to tackle the budget crisis is by freezing all spending, including social security, and reforming the budget process so that it no longer rewards federal spendthrifts.

Remember the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982? It was supposed to give \$3 of spending cuts for every dollar of tax increases. What really happened is that we got \$1.50 in spending increases for every dollar of new taxes.

## Seeds

■ Jack Laurie of Tuscola County was re-elected MFB president at the reorganizational meeting of the board of directors following adjournment of the MFB annual meeting, Dec. 4. He was nominated by the 485-member delegate body.

■ In other action, the board re-elected Wayne Wood of Sanilac County as vice president; and David Conklin of Shiawassee County as third member of the executive committee.

■ Newly-elected to the 16-member board of directors were Joshua Wunsch, District 9; Janis Sanford of Jackson County, representing the new Promotion and Education Committee; and Diane Horning, District 3.

■ Re-elected were Marlin Outman, District 1; Mark Smuts, District 5; Larry Snider, District 7; District 11, Robert Wahmhoff; Richard Leach, director at large; and Ed Cagney, representing the Young Farmer Committee.

The sound, practical, workable approach recommended by FB has two parts. The first is an overall budget freeze...at the same time from a political standpoint, a budget freeze treats every interest group equally and eliminates the battle over who gets what size of the money pie...finally, a freeze stops the growth of overall government spending bringing to a halt the upward spiral of federal expenditures.

The second part of the FB approach recommends that the budget stay frozen until a commission can study the budget process and come up with a reformed system...we must make it absolutely clear that we will not tolerate, and will not accept, political leaders who mortgage our children's future with an irresponsible tax and spend mentality.

A crucial state issue that our organization took significant action on this year was the environmental challenge facing Michigan agriculture.

Our agricultural industry in Michigan has the potential to increase its economic impact from its present \$16 billion a year to nearly \$25 billion. But to make that happen, we must successfully deal with the perceptions about how agriculture is affecting the rural environment, including concerns over the effect that use of agricultural chemicals has on the total water system in rural areas. This includes the quality of surface water runoff and the detection of agricultural chemicals in groundwater.

Likewise, farmers have been eager to find a solution to the controversy surrounding animal agriculture in our state. The legislation signed by Gov. Blanchard is a significant and major step toward that solution, and underscores just how important and effective the policy development process is.

Just one year ago our FB delegates approved policy requesting amendments to the Right-to-Farm Act and the Air Pollution Act. It was a policy developed by FB members to benefit all farmers...not just one or more specific farm operations.

Our legislators and governor have responded to the policy you developed. Their action is a state-

ment of strong support for the livestock and poultry industries and all of Michigan agriculture.

We look forward to the recommendations from MSU of generally accepted agricultural and management practices. We emphasize that these are voluntary, not mandatory, guidelines that farmers may choose to follow if they wish to have a measure of protection under the law.

Issues are what FB is all about. The odor issue is a problem tailor-made to be tackled by a general farm organization like FB, because it threatens not only livestock and poultry producers, but all agricultural enterprises.

I'm proud to note a few of the many actions taken by FB on this issue...we monitored meetings of the water resources commission and air pollution control commission. Our organization publicized the issue with a series of articles in *Rural Living* magazine...on radio and throughout the print media.

In the courts, we filed suit against the Department of Natural Resources, the Water Resources Commission, and the Air Pollution Control Commission because we felt they had stepped over their boundaries. We petitioned to enter as a friend of the court in another case involving a hog operation in Jackson County.

Perhaps most importantly we held a series of six meetings across the state. After seeing the program, farmers expressed to us what it was that they felt the industry should do.

In response to that, we met with MSU, the Director of Agriculture and the leadership of the livestock commodity groups across the state. We discussed with them the direction we should go in this highly controversial and emotional issue.

The MSU Relations Committee, which is a standing committee of your board of directors, met with the dean of agriculture, the directors of the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Cooperative Extension Service. As a result of that meeting, they accepted a challenge to develop the interim guidelines for our industry.

Where do we go from here? FB will keep our members informed, work with regulatory agencies, monitor legislation (and seek introduction of bills if needed), communicate with commodity groups, encourage MSU to carry out research and education in this area and, if necessary, take further action in the courts.

We now have the responsibility and opportunity to prove that we are good managers, good neighbors and good environmentalists.

National and state issues are important, but so are the local concerns. Our organization was founded in 1919 because farmers needed a way to fight the road tax law that was crushing farmers. And today, county FB members are uniting to take action on local school financing, roads and bridges, community improvement and many other issues.

The spirit of working together... is exemplified by our community action groups. They are the building blocks of FB...where policy development starts and policy execution begins. They are the nurturing ground of future leaders.

I urge each and every one of you to make the most of your FB abilities by actively participating in your community action group, or by joining a group.

Perhaps the focus of the message here is that we, as farmers and FB members, have an important responsibility to be involved in our organization as a way of controlling our own destiny.

No farmers in history have been as privileged as you have been to have at your fingertips a powerful, effective, member-directed organization like FB, an organization that can be used to shape a tremendous future for you and your families. It is your privilege, and responsibility, to go out in 1988, and make history with today's FB.

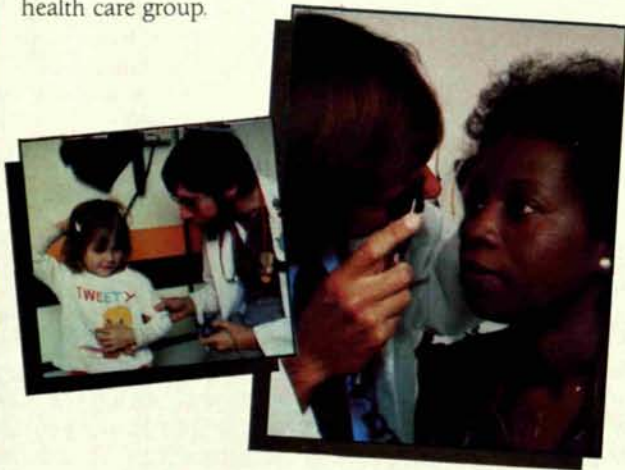
*Jack Laurie*

*Jack Laurie, President  
Michigan Farm Bureau*

# Choose a Farm Bureau family membership to save even more in 1988!

## *Choose Affordable protection and personal service for your family's health care needs*

Michigan Farm Bureau members can choose from three Blue Cross/Blue Shield administered group health care plans designed to meet family health insurance needs at an affordable cost. Members are also eligible for group enrollment in health maintenance organizations (HMO's) throughout the state. Farm Bureau has been providing health insurance for members for over 30 years. Personal, expert assistance on benefits and claims is an important service plus of the Michigan Farm Bureau health care group.



## *Dollar-saving member-only insurance plans for your vehicles, farm and personal protection*

You may already know that **Farm Bureau Insurance Group** is Michigan's largest farm insurer, offering exclusive programs for farmer-members, like Farmowners and Ag Work Comp insurance.

But even if you don't farm, you can take advantage of top quality, money-saving programs like:

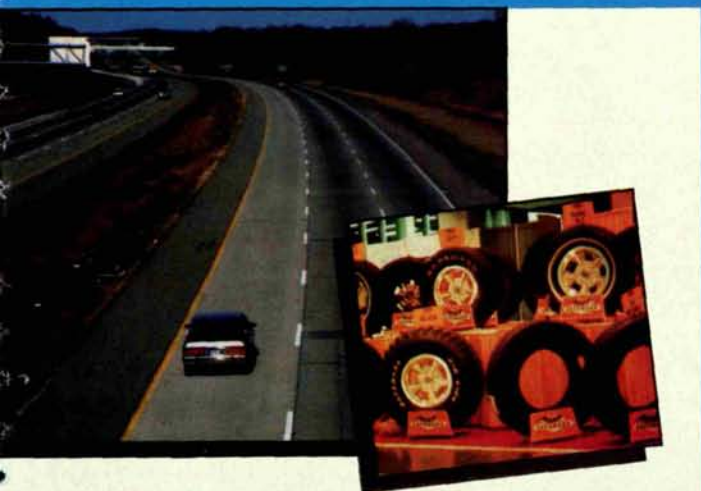
- **Mutual Auto Insurance** provides complete coverage for your personal cars and trucks at competitive rates.
  - **Special Auto Insurance benefits:** Farm Bureau Mutual auto policies also include a new benefit at no extra cost to you: \$10,000 of coverage per person for fatal injuries while properly wearing a seat belt. Another benefit of our Mutual auto insurance is emergency road service, which is included in comprehensive coverages at no additional charge to members.
  - **Member Life Insurance** protects your whole family for just \$25 a year.
  - **Accidental Death and Dismemberment** insurance provides no cost coverage for accidental death or injury (in participating counties).
  - **Guaranteed Arrest Bond Certificate** guarantees bail for any member arrested for specific traffic violations.
  - **FBIG Universal Life**, homeowners, auto, farm, IRA, recreational vehicle and business policies protect people in communities across the state.
- With 400 agents and agency managers throughout Michigan, you can always depend on **hometown** service from Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

## Use the Farm Bureau VISA® Credit Card For Added Convenience and Service

You'll proudly display your Farm Bureau membership every time you use this VISA card bearing the Farm Bureau name and logo. And you'll save money because you pay no credit card fee for the first 12 months, and only \$12 annually for each subsequent year. The FB VISA card is a full service credit card offering a 25 day grace period and competitive annual percentage rate. Qualified card holders will get a credit line up to \$3,000; the capability of getting cash advances at any of 100,000 VISA financial locations or at Magic Line automatic teller machines; \$100,000 common carrier travel and accident insurance, and car rental discounts.

Be sure to include your 1988 FB membership ID number when you apply.

Of course you can use your FB VISA card to make purchases through any of these member services!



## Save on American made cars and trucks—1% over dealer cost!!

You can save hundreds of dollars on your next New Car or Truck purchase with the Sav-On-Cars pricing and purchase system. For just \$9, request a personalized Car Option computer printout showing both wholesale and retail costs. Make your own deal with your local dealership, or buy directly from Sav-On-Cars at an average of just 1% over dealer cost!

## Get top quality auto, truck and farm tires and batteries at group purchasing discount prices

These automotive products are available to Farm Bureau members and are sold under the "Safemark" brand. Safemark is a low-overhead, no-frills group purchasing program available through 53 Michigan dealers and vendors.

## Farm Bureau Travel Service



**GREAT  
SAVINGS!**



**EXCITING  
DESTINATIONS!**

The Farm Bureau Travel Service is a specially designed program that not only offers full travel service features, but also makes available deep discount savings on unsold travel packages to vacation destinations in the U.S. and around the world. Just contact our Professional Travel Counselors by calling the toll-free Farm Bureau Travel Service line (1-800-331-1729; in Grand Rapids, call 452-9556) weekdays 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You may also ask for the Deep Discount Travel Desk to receive information about Flexible Travel opportunities available at savings up to 50%.

Be sure to have your 1988 FB membership ID number ready when you call. No additional fees or service charges are made for FB members.



**ENROLL  
FREE!**

Free enrollment means you start saving right away with the Farm Bureau Family Saver. The buyer's service program can save you 20-60% on purchases of nationally known furniture, appliances, carpeting, electronics, sporting goods and much more. The exclusive "Quik Quote" system lets you compare costs on new merchandise. We're sure you'll choose Family Saver discounts and convenience. Family Saver purchases are delivered to your door or to a retailer in your area. Plus you get full factory warranties and local service.

You can also save as much as 60% on tools and accessories.



**Get NuVision Family Eye Care at Savings-to-Member prices**

Farm Bureau families can save 20% on a complete pair of lenses and frames at all NuVision optical centers. Save, too, on both hard and soft contact lenses. To take advantage of this discount, use your Vision Family Plan card at any NuVision Center and present it when ordering glasses. Family Plan cards are available from your County Farm Bureau Secretary.

**Get Michigan's Farm-Best Foods at Direct-to-member SAVINGS!**

Farm Bureau members can purchase high quality Michigan cherries, blueberries, strawberries, peaches, fresh asparagus, hams, and more through four local county sales each year. In addition, special sale and shipment arrangements bring you fresh Florida citrus, juice concentrates and peanuts, Wisconsin cheeses, and pecans from New Mexico.



For more information about these Service Programs or other opportunities available to you through Michigan Farm Bureau, contact your County Farm Bureau Secretary.



Alcona	517-724-6715	Hiawathaland	906-446-3508	Monroe	313-269-3275
Allegan	616-673-6651	Hillsdale	517-437-2458	Montcalm	517-831-4094
Alpena	517-727-3047	Huron	517-269-9911	Montmorency	517-785-3017
Antrim	616-588-6348	Ingham	517-676-5578	Muskegon	616-744-1116
Arenac	517-654-3270	Ionia	616-527-3960	Newaygo	616-652-2923
Barry	616-945-3443	Iosco	517-756-5401	NW Michigan	616-947-2941
Bay	517-684-2772	Iron Range	906-542-9083	Oakland	313-681-6145
Benzie	616-352-4940	Isabella	517-772-0996	Oceana	616-861-5855
Berrien	616-473-4791	Jackson	517-784-9166	Ogemaw	517-345-1447
Branch	517-279-8091	Kalamazoo	616-342-0212	Osceola	616-832-9093
Calhoun	616-781-2849	Kalkaska	616-369-4123	Otsego	616-546-3255
Cass	616-445-3849	Kent	616-784-1092	Ottawa	616-895-4381
Charlevoix	616-588-6348	Lapeer	313-664-4551	Presque Isle	517-734-3803
Cheboygan	616-625-2239	Lenawee	517-265-5255	Saginaw	517-792-9687
Chippewa	906-478-3235	Livingston	517-546-4920	St. Clair	313-384-1381
Clare	517-386-7448	Mac-Luce	906-477-9929	St. Joseph	616-467-6308
Clinton	517-224-3255	Macomb	313-781-4241	Sanilac	313-648-2800
Copper Country	906-827-3978	Manistee	616-889-4472	Shiawassee	517-725-5174
Eaton	517-543-5565	Mason	616-462-3753	Tuscola	517-673-4155
Emmet	616-347-7252	Mecosta	616-796-1119	Van Buren	616-657-5561
Genesee	313-732-3770	Menominee	906-753-6639	Washtenaw	313-663-3141
Gladwin	517-435-9353	Midland	517-631-6222	Wayne	313-729-0799
Gratiot	517-875-4626	Missaukee	616-825-2892	Wexford	616-775-0126



## Washington

■ **Budget Freeze** — FB called for a freeze of federal spending for fiscal year 1988 at fiscal year 1987 levels. The FB proposal for a budget outlay freeze would have saved an estimated \$40-50 billion.

The savings would have been achievable because the freeze was to affect all budget categories.

Almost all of the discussion on cutting spending or freezing spending focused on the domestic discretionary spending category and about one-third of the defense budget that is considered discretionary. Various portions of those two categories are exempted.

Few people have proposed changes in the half of the budget that is in the domestic mandatory. This spending is mandatory only to the extent that the spending goes on unless Congress calls a halt to it.

■ **Farm Credit** — The Senate concluded work on S.1665, the Farm Credit Act. The final vote on passage was 87-6 in support of the legislation. Major provisions sought by FB are still in the bill, including financial assistance to the system at a minimal cost to the federal government, a secondary market provision, guarantee of the

value of existing borrower stock and incentives for restructuring agricultural loans.

A number of amendments were adopted, including setting criteria for determining the cost of foreclosure vs. restructuring; requiring repayment by the FCS for the cost incurred by the Treasury for interest on guaranteed bonds used to assist the system; requiring repayment only after the system is once again profitable; allowing state borrower protection laws to preempt federal borrower rights provisions when state provisions are more advantageous to the borrower.

The House passed its version of the legislation Oct. 6. The bill will now go to conference committee. □

## Lansing

As the 1987 session of the Legislature nears adjournment, the last minute action increases with many important bills being passed while others will automatically carry over into the 1988 legislative session. The following is an updated summary of some of the numerous issues of importance to agriculture and Farm Bureau members:

■ **Transportation** — After nearly two years and four ex-

tensions to the expiration dates of the highway formula, a package of six bills was finally passed increasing some revenues and including some important changes. The package maintains the same basic distribution formula (39.1% state, 39.1% counties, and 21.8% cities and villages). The concept of an "all season" county road network along with a new Transportation Economic Development Fund was passed. This includes a \$17 million rural category for counties less than 400,000 population, \$5 million of which will go to roads critical to forestry and also agriculture in the northern and U.P. counties. A special procedure is provided for distribution.

Revenues will increase \$109 million through updating various fees and licenses. For example, original and renewed drivers license fees will be \$12 (up from \$6 and \$7), chauffeur licenses increase from \$16 to \$20, a \$5 administrative fee on all registrations and \$8 for license plate transfers, truck and commercial registrations increase 15%.

Another new provision will allow counties, by vote of the people, to have an additional registration fee on all cars of up to \$25. This would be a user fee for county roads use.

One important last minute addition was a grant of \$100,000 for construction or addition of an ethanol plant in Michigan. While this is a small amount, it recognizes the importance of using Michigan produced corn in the production of ethanol and recognizes Sen. Cropsey's bill, S.B. 427, that passed the Senate and was tie-barred to the package of bills. While road needs are much greater than the available revenue, it is a good package including many provisions important to rural areas.

■ **Property Tax Reforms** — A 10-bill reform package will not receive any further consideration this year. Many of the provisions are in line with FB policy, but others are (continued on next page)

## AgriPac Shows Appreciation

Michigan Congressman Carl Pursell was presented with a "Friend of Agriculture" plaque during the AgriPac Breakfast fundraiser at the state annual meeting. The plaque was given in recognition of Pursell's 100% voting record in support of the AgriPac issues. Presenting the plaque is David Conklin, chairperson of the AgriPac Committee.



## Legislative Review

(continued from previous page)

of concern. Key provisions included: changing the tax calendars to allow for other changes; defining taxable real and personal property. (FB strongly opposed the inclusion of "unsevered trees and crops.")

Major assessment changes included creating county appraisal districts (supervisors would no longer be assessors and townships could not appoint assessors). FB supports continued local control with help from the Tax Commission on difficult assessing situations. "Appraisers' conferences" would be provided to work out valuation disagreements between the taxpayer and assessors with written decisions. Taxpayers would still be able to appeal to the tax tribunal and board of review.

There will now be time to work out needed assessing and other reforms for legislative consideration next year.

### ■ School Finance Reform —

Seven bills and a Constitutional resolution that were on the Senate floor regarding major reforms in the financing of schools were referred back to the Senate Finance Committee. School finance will now be a major issue in the 1988 session.

### ■ Corn Products and Ethanol —

H.B. 5205 (Van Regenmorter, R—Jenison) has introduced a new bill to ban salt for certain road de-icing uses and replace it with a less corrosive alternative. A new product resulting from corn research would be calcium magnesium acetate (CMA). Even the Federal Highway Administration and Environmental Protection Agency agree that the damage caused by road salt is 20 times its cost or about \$3 billion. CMA presently would be more expensive, but would not rust cars or damage cement or create environmental damage from run-off.

The recognition by the Legislature to put \$100,000 in the highway legislation for promotion of ethanol production in Michigan using

Michigan corn results from Sen. Cropsey's bill (S.B. 427) which passed the Senate again this year.

### ■ Right-to-Farm and Air Pollution —

S.B. 534 (Sen. Nick Smith, R—Addison) passed both houses and is on the governor's desk. This is a major victory in FB's effort to solve the environmental problems facing all farmers. The bill strengthens the present Right-to-Farm Act that has been very effective during the last five or six years.

The additions in S.B. 534 define generally accepted agricultural and management practices as those practices defined by the Commission of Agriculture with consideration for written recommendations received from the MSU Agriculture Experiment Station, and Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with ASCS, SCS, MDA and DNR. The commission will annually review and update the practices if necessary. Provision is made for a voluntary negotiation and mediation process.

H.B. 5143 (Rep. Hickner, D—Bay City) is another major victory. It has passed and is also on the governor's desk. It clarifies and expands the longstanding exemption for agriculture in the Air Pollution Control Act. This exemption extends only to those farmers who follow generally accepted agricultural and management practices as defined in the Right-to-Farm law.

The generally accepted agriculture and management practices are not mandated and are voluntary; however, if followed by a farmer, provide a strong measure of protection under both Right-to-Farm Act and the Air Pollution Control Act.

Both Sen. Smith and Rep. Hickner deserve a great deal of commendation for their leadership in getting this important legislation passed in near record time.

These bills are an essential beginning to the work that still needs to be done to resolve to the greatest extent possible the environmental attacks on all of agriculture.

This legislative activity results from MFB President Laurie's leadership in calling together a group of livestock industry leaders on Oct. 16. Those



Gov. Blanchard received a warm welcome from delegates as he prepared to speak at the Delegate's Luncheon. During his remarks, the governor thanked the MFB AgriPac for its endorsement and announced he has nominated MDA Director Paul Kindinger, MFB President Jack Laurie, Vivian Lott, Ingham County, and Paul Johnson, Mecosta County, to serve on the National Agricultural Policy Commission. The nominations were submitted to President Reagan, who is expected to approve the governor's choice.

leaders formed the Committee for Animal Agriculture. President Laurie was elected as chairperson.

### ■ Other legislation that will carry over to the 1988 legislative session includes:

S.B. 1 Inheritance tax amendments passed the Senate, now in the House; H.B. 4997 and 4205 provide for a referendum if farmers wish to create a fund to pay in the event of elevator/dealer bankruptcy; H.B. 4674 Pesticide Act changes passed House now in the Senate; S.B. 511 Animal Industry Act revisions passed Senate now in the House and many more. Rules are another area of concern, including migrant labor housing and the field sanitation issue. □

# PD Committee Volunteers Deserve Special Thanks!

The final policy recommendations presented to the county delegations at the MFB annual meeting were the result of many hours of study and discussion by the members of the state Policy Development Committee. Members of this committee deserve special recognition for their personal commitment to the organization.

Members of the 1987 MFB Policy Development Committee were Wayne Wood, Sanilac County, chairperson; George Brossman, Cass; Brenda Heisler, Calhoun; James Ackron, Wayne; John Finkbeiner, Kent; Sandra Hill, Genesee; David Milligan, Tuscola; Blaine Johnson, Newaygo; Roger Roslund, Gratiot; Joshua Wunsch, Northwest Michigan; Kevin Small, Alcona; Ed DeWitt, Chippewa; Alan Garner, Ingham; Dave Girton, St. Joseph; Tom Woelmer, Monroe; Alice Happel, St. Joseph; Cyndy Rathje, Huron; Gail Rubingh, Antrim; Jim Sayre, Wayne; and Mark Smuts, Eaton.

Subcommittees of the MFB Policy Development Committee were Bylaws and Internal Affairs; State Affairs; National and International Affairs; Taxation and Education; Commodities and Marketing; Health, Welfare and Safety; Transportation and Labor; and Natural Resources.

The following is the first installment of the final state policies approved of by the delegates at the state annual meeting. *Rural Living* will publish the remaining state policies in subsequent issues.

Official policy books will be available next month. This book contains all of the policy resolutions pertaining to Michigan Farm Bureau and state issues adopted during the annual meeting.

## MFB State Policies

**APPRECIATION** During the past year much legislation and rules consistent with Farm Bureau policies were passed, implemented or considered, including: no-interest loans for weather caused crop losses; Task Force on Revitalization of Agriculture Through Research and Education (Vo Ag, K-12, Ag Ed, etc.); agricultural representation on Great Lakes Water Resources Planning Commission; Export Trade Commission, Hong Kong Agricultural Trade Office, African and other foreign trade shows; health care costs limitation legislation; agricultural loans for distressed farmers; revised definitions of implements of husbandry; various agricultural legislation including apiaries, maple syrup, white bean standards, seed certification, buckwheat, flour, imitation cream, oleo margarine, milk, swine importation restrictions, State Soil Conservation Committee, extending the Gleaners Act, pesticide amendments, etc; new legislation on permissive grading of farmer products

with Department of Agriculture supervision; various labor issues including workers' compensation, confined space rules, right to know, etc; liability amendments—gleaning, U-pick, lease hunting; an agricultural property assessment study; use of land auctions for assessment purposes; major amendments to the Grain Dealers Act and pending insurance programs; major amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code; amendments to the Solid Waste Act; modification of rules and regulations affecting agriculture, labor, taxation, environment, etc; Great Lakes protection and creation of a Water Resource Planning Commission; job training and "workfare" program; appropriations for MSU Extension Service and agricultural research including funding EMAT teams, feed nutrition testing, and farmer job retraining programs; funding commitment for MSU Veterinary Science Building; major school finance proposals; proposed clarifying amendments to the Air Pollution and Right-To-Farm laws; liability limitations for



Nearly 500 delegates, representing county FBs around the state, debated and discussed over 150 proposed resolutions presented by the MFB Policy Development Committee. The resolutions were based on the 1200-plus resolutions submitted by county FBs this fall.

amendments to the Air Pollution and Right-To-Farm laws; liability limitations for volunteer Boards of Directors; and Animal Industry Act revisions.

We commend the governor, Legislature and various departments for the introduction, enactment and implementation of these and other measures which we have supported, that are consistent with our policies and are important to agriculture and the economy of the State of Michigan. We also appreciate the fact that much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture has been amended or has not been adopted.

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** The Michigan Department of Agriculture administers numerous programs which benefit the public in general and farmers specifically. Food inspection, weights and measures and quality standards are only a few of the vital programs assigned to the MDA.

Job descriptions should be written to adequately describe the unique requirements and responsibilities of the positions. Qualified people with ongoing evaluation and training are essential to protect the health, welfare, safety and confidence of all consumers.

We commend the Agriculture Commission, Director and staff for striving for efficiency and quality of service. We will support increased funding levels which allow the Department to provide services necessary to protect the health, welfare and safety of the people. The funding must be adequate to provide necessary testing and monitoring equipment operated by competent, properly trained personnel, with the highest degrees of professional ability. We appreciate the prompt and aggressive response by MDA staff to the numerous events during the year.

We encourage that MDA expand the activities of the Animal Industry Division as it relates to the dairy industry including production, processing and distribution.

**AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY COMMISSIONS** The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act (P.A. 232 of 1965) provides uniform procedures permitting producers of any commodity to establish a program for product promotion, market development, information, research, product standards and inspection, determination of surpluses and producer assessments. The producers of apples, asparagus, cherries, dairy products, onion, mint, plums and soybeans have adopted programs using one or more of the permitted provisions.

We continue to support the right of producers by petition of 200 or 25%, whichever is less, to initiate a referendum for adoption, amendment or termination of a program and the right of individual producers to vote in a referendum on initiation, amendment, termination and a five-year periodic review of any programs for a commodity which they produce, as provided by P.A. 232.

We believe that if producers, through a referendum, enact an industry program, all producers must abide by the majority and all contribute to the program. We believe that producers of any commodity wishing to promote their product should do so within the broad and uniform provisions of P.A. 232. We will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to ensure this enabling legislation continues to be available to producers wishing to establish such programs.

We support measures to defend P.A. 232 against efforts to weaken the law, especially the majority rule and mandatory assessment concepts. We urge other agricultural organizations to join in protecting Michigan commodity programs for production promotion, market development and research.

Any commission or body created under an agricultural commodity industry program must provide fair representation for producers and complete accountability of the expenditures of funds collected from producers required to contribute to the program. Funds released to any agricultural organization, public agency or private firm should be on a contractual basis solely for

the purposes stated in the law with complete accountability required.

Michigan Farm Bureau will not conduct any commodity promotion referendums, but will support commodity referendum efforts when they meet Farm Bureau policy.

We support only the mail-in ballot voting method for commodity referendums.

#### **LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY**

**HEALTH** We recognize the need for feed additives and medication in livestock feeds. We favor careful use and withdrawal restrictions of feed additives. We oppose the banning of such additives without adequate proof of danger. We urge thorough investigation of the accuracy of the tests used by government agencies to determine drug residues in livestock and products.

We urge stepped-up border control surveillance to prevent the illegal entry of livestock and avian species.

We support the USDA program to prevent the introduction of VVND (exotic Newcastle disease) into the United States from foreign countries. Firmer measures should be taken and more stringent penalties imposed to avoid the smuggling of pet birds into the country by requiring the banding of all imported birds during the time they are in commerce.

## Young Farmers Capture Titles

**T**hree young farmers captured titles and prizes in contests held in conjunction with the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Frank S. Engler of Mt. Pleasant, a dairy and cash crop farmer, was selected the organization's "Distinguished Young Farmer." The Michigan and American Farm Bureaus conduct the annual contest to recognize young farmers for the progress they have made since they began their careers in agricultural production. They are also judged for their involvement in FB, and for their community activities.

Runner-up in the Distinguished Young Farmer contest was Brian Brunink, who farms near McBain in Missaukee County. Brunink and his wife, Janice, are dairy farmers and also raise cash crops.

In the Outstanding Young Farm Woman contest, Cheryl Lynn Cargill of Hart in Oceana County was the winner. She and her husband, Rex, operate a fruit and vegetable farm and also have an open-air market.

Runner-up in the Outstanding Young Farm Woman contest was Lynette Miller of Elsie in Clinton County. Miller and her husband, Jon, operate a dairy and cash crop farm.

Gene Graham, a part-time swine and sheep farmer from Williamston, talked his way through the Discussion Meet preliminaries, semi-finals and finals competition to earn the title and the opportunity to compete in the national meet in New Orleans in January. He is a vocational agricultural instructor for the Laingsburg Community Schools.

The discussion topic for the finals, in which four young farmers earned the right to participate, was "What can farmers and ranchers do along with Farm Bureau to protect our nation's groundwater resources to guarantee a safe and abundant supply of water?"

Runner-up in the Discussion Meet was Mark Neitzke, a cash crop farmer from Wheeler in Gratiot County. □

We support the recommendation of the Michigan Pseudorabies Advisory Committee, for control and eventual eradication of pseudorabies from Michigan. The committee proposed a sow testing program for all feeder pig producers in Michigan. This type of program will allow Michigan feeder pigs to be sold and transported to neighboring states.

We recommend that MDA increase inspection requirements of breeding cattle and feeding heifers from Brucellosis class "B" and "C" states and follow federal guidelines for F branding for feeder heifers as to expedite the eradication of Brucellosis throughout the United States. Michigan is a Brucellosis free state and should not be subject to the possible chance of importation of Brucellosis contaminated cattle. This effort will help protect our investment of time and money in the eradication of the disease.

**EQUINE DISEASES** Outbreaks of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and Potomac Horse Fever are on the rise in Michigan. The spread and control of these diseases are not well understood. We support funding for an aggressive research and education program with emphasis on eradication of these diseases. We urge all equine owners to have their horses, ponies, and mules vaccinated yearly. We support legislation to require immunization before equine species can participate in races, shows, or sales.

**MICHIGAN HORSE INDUSTRY** Horse racing in Michigan annually produces over \$25 million in tax revenue. Horses, like other livestock, require on-farm inputs such as housing, feed and labor. The Michigan horse industry is an integral part of the overall agricultural economy of the state. Many important agricultural appropriations received from horse racing have been reduced in recent years as a direct result of the decline in the Michigan horse racing industry. These include fair premiums, commodity show funds and general fund revenues. Decreased breeders' awards discourage the preservation of the industry and negatively impact on the total agricultural economy and state revenues. Attractive breeders' awards and adequate facilities will enhance the image of the industry and strengthen the industry thus producing revenue to the state.

We support legislation that would eliminate the present practice of shifting racing revenues from agricultural appropriations to other uses. Such legislation should assure a set portion of all funds wagered would be returned to the racing tracks for capital improvements and operation. Additionally, funds should be allocated to agricultural and equine research; county, district and state fairs; commodity shows and breed associations; and local and county governments with horse racing facilities.

**MICHIGAN BEE INDUSTRY** Honey bees are an important resource to Michigan agriculture. One-third of agriculture de-

pends on bees for pollination of crops. Growing use of some slow-acting pesticides threaten the honey bee and can destroy whole colonies. Farmers and pesticide applicators need to know where hives are located in the area to be sprayed. Honey bees may fly three miles for pollen, nectar or water. Presently, there is a lack of communication between farmers, pesticide applicators and commercial beekeepers.

We commend beekeepers for their annual reporting to the MDA so that their hives can be inspected by the MDA. In addition, we urge that farmers and beekeepers report the location of bee hives to the County Cooperative Extension Agent for spraying purposes. The Extension Service should then make the information available through the County Agent and a central clearing system so farmers and pesticide applicators can access the information.

We urge the Cooperative Extension Service, the Michigan Beekeepers Association, the Michigan Aerial Applicators Association and the Michigan Pesticide Association to work together to develop a central clearing system and an educational program which will meet the needs of interested parties and help preserve the honey bees. Each of these segments of Michigan agriculture is essential and they must interact effectively and responsibly for the benefit of all.

**DRY BEANS** Due to the need for more timely volume and pricing information for dry bean growers, we support the following: paper traders of dry beans should be required by federal regulation to report their daily position in a similar way grain dealers are required by the Michigan Grain Dealer's Act; elevators should be required to report weekly farmer sales of dry beans to the Michigan Department of Agriculture Agricultural Reporting Service and this information should be released to the public on a weekly basis.

The recent revision to MDA Regulation 523 of Michigan Standards for Dry Edible Beans to allow additional grades to be shipped legally out of state will be helpful to the dry bean industry.

We support the concept of a minimum/maximum production contract on specified acres and that growers be encouraged to purchase Federal Crop Insurance as a risk management tool.

**FOREST PRODUCTS** Michigan forests contribute much to the northern economy with new industrial use of forest products.

We urge the Michigan Department of Transportation and County Road Commissions to use these Michigan grown and processed forest products in the construction of bridges, guard rails, sign posts and other uses on the roads and highways.

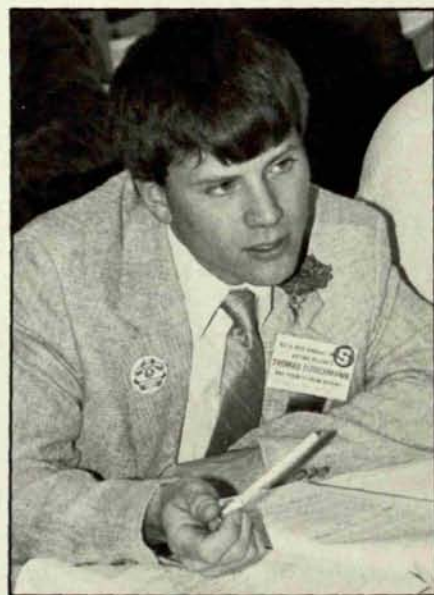
We further support a sales tax exemption on fire wood if other fuel utilities are exempt for any such purpose.

**FRUIT JUICES** Fruit juices have great marketing potential and consumer demand for these products is very evident. Michigan is one of the major producers of fruit and vegetable crops.

Inspection and grade specifications by government agencies on raw product for juice stocks must be reasonable so growers are able to market their crops affected by adverse weather conditions. Imported juices must be required to meet standards of the domestic market products. The rules must serve both growers and consumers to maximize the products marketed.

We continue to support the funding of research and extension activities to develop the best handling procedures, reasonable definitions and testing methods which will allow for maximum utilization of fruit crops and market expansion of these products.

We support labeling of food products that contain imported and/or imitation fruit juices so consumers are informed that the food products contain these types of ingredients.



**SOFT WHITE WHEAT** Soft white wheat is a major class of wheat produced in Michigan. It is made into a specialty flour that is used for pastries and cakes. It is the only class of wheat for which there is no provision for delivery against a futures contract. This would provide a price guarantee for soft white wheat. We urge continued efforts to establish delivery points for soft white wheat. The delivery points should be the same as for soft red wheat, namely, Toledo and/or Chicago.

**PROMPT PAYMENT** We deplore the practice of some processors and handlers of farm commodities of operating on producers' money due to delayed payment for commodities delivered. Sometimes this period extends as long as a year or more.

We, therefore, urge producers to develop firm business policies concerning contracts on overdue accounts including an appropriate interest charge to any account not paid in full after 30 days. We also urge producers to use existing state and federal legislation protecting growers from insolvency and bankruptcy cases.

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing farm commodities from producers to make full payment within 30 days of date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

We urge MACMA and Michigan Farm Bureau to develop and provide producers with a buy-sell agreement that would explain terms agreed upon.

**ANIMAL CARE** Family farming and the way farm animals are raised has changed significantly in the last 20 years. These changes result from the need to meet consumer demands, to respond to changing economic conditions and improve animal health. No one has greater concern for the care of farm animals than the farmer who raises them.

We urge Farm Bureau members to respond knowledgeably to misleading information on animal care. Members should continue to tell the success story of modern animal agriculture in the schools and to the consuming public, and utilize positive public relations techniques for mass media use.

We recommend that the Michigan Department of Agriculture maintain a high priority in its budget for animal health programs not only for the good of agriculture, but also for the consuming public.

We urge our land grant colleges and USDA to continue and initiate new research and develop programs which will enable farmers to improve the care and management of livestock and poultry.

A number of laws now exist for safeguarding the proper care of animals and if properly enforced, will provide the necessary protection animals need. We oppose any attempts to give animals legal or constitutional rights. We further oppose any regulatory actions that would restrict the farmer's ability to produce poultry and livestock at an economically feasible level.

Animal research is necessary to ensure more effective human and veterinary medical practices. Therefore, we oppose legislation which prohibits or unduly restricts the use of pound animals in research. If this practice were to be forbidden, research into prevention and treatment of many diseases, including cancer, would be greatly slowed and become more costly.

Michigan Farm Bureau should continue to communicate and provide leadership with state livestock, poultry and other groups to discuss and coordinate action on the animal care issue. It is essential that Farm Bureau members communicate with their elected officials on the animal care issue. Members should also take an active role in their local schools, humane societies, and other community organizations.

We should continue to develop programs that will create positive publicity for our industry.

**ALCOHOL FUEL** Ethanol is the best replacement for the required reduction of lead in fuel. It contributes to a clean and

safe environment through major reductions of the pollutants in carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. As a gasoline extender, it provides a higher quality octane booster. Ethanol alcohol processed from corn and other agricultural products has proven to be an excellent source of alternative energy.

We encourage additional research using ethanol as a blend in other fuels such as diesel, home heating, etc. This expansion using a product from a renewable resource is an important factor which reduces our dependence on foreign petroleum.

We strongly support the continued production of ethanol alcohol from farm products. We urge that every effort be made to provide economic incentives to encourage alcohol production facilities in Michigan. This effort will also contribute to additional jobs for both processing and transportation. The acceptance of ethanol enhanced fuel has also created a new 275 million bushel market for corn. This exceeds the amount exported to some of our major foreign buyers. One processing plant located in Michigan could use the production of corn from 40,000 acres and also create a new and better market for Michigan farmers, provide lower cost animal feed for Michigan's livestock farmers and provide jobs at many levels.

We feel there is a strong need to educate the public to the difference between beneficial ethanol and the detrimental effects of methanol on engines.

To do this we recommend that signs be placed on gas pumps that have ethanol, recognizing the benefits of ethanol and that Farm Bureau supports ethanol use.

We encourage the governor to issue an executive order that ethanol will be used in all state vehicles where ethanol is readily available.

**AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE** The agricultural industry has developed many mechanisms for reporting the size and progress of crops and other agricultural commodities. The system that has been most widely adopted by the industry is the Agricultural Statistics Service. To ensure the accuracy of their reports, farmers should give the Agricultural Statistics Service full cooperation. Farm Bureau will continue to work with the Agricultural Statistics Service to find ways to improve and simplify the gathering of information, reporting and other aspects presently criticized by farmers.

We are concerned about the elimination of crop reports for several fruit, vegetable and specialty crops. We feel that at least a post-harvest report should be reinstated for these crops. We also support the continuation of five-year survey reports for perennial crops including orchards, vineyards, brambles and asparagus.

We are also concerned about the elimination of farm retail price spread

## Braden Receives DSA Honor

**R**obert "Bob" Braden, Byron farmer and recently retired administrative director of the Michigan Farm Bureau, was honored with the organization's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award during the annual banquet.

In his presentation of the organization's highest honor to Braden, Jack Laurie, MFB president, praised him for being a pioneering supporter of agriculture.

"In 1961, Bob was chosen to head a fledgling commodity organization known as the Michigan Agricultural Commodity Marketing Association. His vision and strong leadership guided our new affiliate during its first 10 years and resulted in MACMA becoming the most successful Farm Bureau marketing association in the nation," said Laurie.

In 1971, the MFB Board of Directors chose Braden to be the organization's administrative director, a position he held until April of 1987, when he informed the board of his plans to retire to the farm where he was born and raised in Byron.

"It was under Bob's administration that Michigan Farm Bureau realized its all-time membership high and earned national recognition as the top state Farm Bureau in the federation for outstanding member programs," said Laurie. □

reports involving meat products and other food items, and support their reinstatement.

We recommend the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Agriculture adequately fund their full portion of this cost-share service. We are most concerned with the decline in state funding for this valuable service. Accurate and timely statistics are essential to further develop Michigan agriculture and find new markets as well as attract new processing facilities.

**LAND ACQUISITIONS BY GOVERNMENT** Projects are often proposed which require substantial acreage involved in production agriculture. These projects may have a favorable and positive economic and social impact on the entire community. They can create jobs, enhance research and transportation and may be good for the long-term business climate of the community. There can also be a direct conflict between these types of land acquisitions and the viability of agriculture in the local community.

When these projects are proposed, often with the potential for condemnation procedures, we urge that the agency involved negotiate in good faith with affected land owners. The many unique aspects of agriculture present situations which make it difficult for a farmer to relocate within a short period of time. Thus, the negotiations must recognize these unique aspects which include but are not limited to: value of the location and site with improvements—such as a combination of soil type, topography, access to water, etc.; loss of production during and after the transition and disruption of the farming operation; access to markets and support services; business interruption allowance; cost of relocating; and calculate real estate value on the basis of the higher of either current market value or the average value of real property in the area during the past 10 years.

We support the intent of P.A. 116 which is to preserve farm land. We recognize that some projects may be important to local, state or federal government and in the best interest of the general public. Every effort must be made to locate these projects away from productive farm land, and special efforts should be made to not locate on farms with a P.A. 116 agreement.

Planning for the project and any additional services is critical to minimize the disruption to farm land. Plans should include transportation, water, sewer, shopping, etc., and other services associated with the project. These plans and projections must make every effort to preserve and protect lands currently under the P.A. 116 agreement. Adequate planning by the appropriate jurisdictions will provide for maximum protection of existing farms while allowing non-farm expansion.

When large blocks of land are taken out of a tax base, we urge that provisions be made to supplement revenue for schools,

township, and county government. A formula must be devised to assist the local units of government during periods when there is a loss of revenue or increased demand for government services.

Often because of the magnitude of the project, local roads may be severely impacted and often need upgrading or additional maintenance. We urge that additional funds be allocated for this project.

Drainage, both surface and subsurface, is critical to the production of agricultural products. Recognition of this fact is important in any major project and must be taken into consideration during the planning of the project and negotiation with individual farmers.

Protection of the agricultural land base is important, however we also recognize the broad impact on the community and urge that an agricultural impact statement be completed before projects are initiated.

**BIOTECHNOLOGY** Biotechnology is broadly defined as the aspect of technology concerned with the application of biological and engineering data to problems relating to man and machine. Biotechnology encompasses such things as plant productivity, animal care, animal productivity, reproductive biology, and growth hormones. Increased biotechnology efforts are needed to increase the marketability of our products, to solve environmental concerns and to improve our productivity at a lower cost.

We support research into new uses for basic farm commodities as long as these new uses or technologies are an economic benefit to consumers. We urge state and national political leaders to develop a positive national strategy for the further development of biotechnology research.

**AGRICULTURAL TOURISM** Michigan's diversified agriculture offers many attractions for tourists. These range from the internationally famous Cherry Festival at Traverse City to numerous other successful festivals including sugar, strawberries, flowers, asparagus, apples, wine, beans, corn, potatoes, melons, maple syrup, blueberries, fairs, etc. Farm and processing plant tours and U-pick farm operations are also popular as recreational and educational activities, and provide quality Michigan products for visitors to purchase.

All of these agriculturally oriented tourist attractions enhance the "Yes Michigan" slogan.

The "Pick Michigan" model project was developed by several diverse organizations as a method of promoting agriculture and tourism, two of the largest industries in the state.

The Taste of Michigan Program at Welcome Centers is another excellent activity.

A major deterrent of further agricultural tourism progress is the lack of adequate "signage" along our roads to inform the traveling public of the many off-the-highway attractions. The problem is the

overly restrictive federal, state and local signing and zoning laws.

Some states, however, are taking advantage of a federal rule relaxation to permit "pilot programs" to help the tourist industry. We believe if any state is going to help its tourist industry with adequate information signs it should be Michigan. We will seek and support any necessary legislation or rule changes to aid agricultural-tourism in our state.

**JOINT STUDY COMMITTEES** We commend the current efforts of the joint study committees involving Michigan Farm Bureau and the potato and dry bean industries. Their purpose is to study various problems within each industry, examine changing market conditions, and propose recommendations to improve producer returns and market share for Michigan potatoes and dry edible beans. We look forward to their final reports in 1988.

**ANIMAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** Agriculture is an important contributor to Michigan's economy. The animal segment (livestock and poultry) has the potential to make an even larger contribution to our economy. Current environmental challenges regarding odor and water quality will have a damaging effect on all of agriculture.

The non-farm rural resident often fails to recognize that farmers have the most to gain or lose if the soil and water are affected. Farmers are stewards of the land, they recognize the importance of protecting those vital resources. The conflict between farmers and other rural residents must be resolved to the benefit of both parties.

Local zoning ordinances should recognize agriculture's contribution and needs, providing a regulatory setting which allows a farmer to modify the operations or expand if necessary. A realistic approach to protect the rights of both farmers and rural residents should be the goal of every local zoning ordinance.

Education is an important factor if farmers and rural residents are to successfully meet environmental challenges facing agriculture. Farmers must understand economics, marketing, environmental issues and have access to education on current management systems and regulations which protect and govern the environment. Rural residents need education to better understand the facts of food production. They must recognize that noise, odors and unusual working hours are part of agriculture.

We urge the MSU Cooperative Extension Service to develop an educational program to inform farmers and rural residents of environmental challenges. The program should include the sources of nitrates and how they can enter water. An accurate understanding of how nitrates are formed and their movement in soil will help bring about corrective actions and minimize the loss of plant nutrients.

Adequate research upon which to base recommendations and decisions is imperative. Research in water quality, minimizing odors, application of plant nutrients, and other environmental factors are important considerations.

Odors are a normal part of agricultural operations. Odors intensify and are influenced by many factors, including management, weather, type of system, and species of animal. An aggressive research effort must be conducted to assist farmers in minimizing odor.

Groundwater quality concerns are not unique to rural residents. Farmers also share that concern. Financial assistance may be needed to assist farmers in complying with stringent water quality standards.

Construction standards must be developed which are realistic and achievable and require a realistic level of management. If construction standards change, cost sharing must be made available to assist farmers in modifying those systems.

Defining generally accepted management practices should be the responsibility of Michigan State University with input from other agencies. The practices must be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

Farmers should be protected from liability and nuisance suits when complying with regulations and standards. Also, farmers cannot be expected to continue changing operations to respond to a series of changing standards. A standard must be set and a farmer must be protected for a period of time unless the farmer violates existing law.

We are opposed to additional taxes on farmers to pay for programs mandated by the public.

We continue to support revisions to the Right-to-Farm Act and the Air Pollution Act which clarify agriculture's rights and responsibilities. We are opposed to additional permits for agriculture.

We are opposed to a more stringent Michigan discharge standard than is in the Federal E.P.A. guidelines.

**WATER QUALITY** The pursuit of pollution abatement should be only one of the many factors considered in the development of national water policies. Other factors, including the cost of pollution abatement, the needs of agriculture, the needs for growth and the presence of naturally occurring pollutants, must also be considered.

We support the concept of cleaning up our nation's water, however, the goal of zero water pollution should be substantially modified.

The attainment of water quality standards established by federal action under the Clean Water Act should take into consideration the particular and difficult problems caused by the intrusion of naturally occurring pollutants. The solution of these difficult problems should not be at the expense of the established users of water, including agriculture.

We recommend that appropriated funds be used to correct water pollution problems on a "worst case first" basis.

We support legislation to remove farming operations from the jurisdiction of the regulations based on Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We recommend exemption from the requirements of Section 404 for normal repair and maintenance of agricultural waterways and protection of private land against erosion.

We recommend that no federal legislation be enacted which would place either civil or criminal liability on farmers and ranchers for following generally accepted agricultural practices.

We oppose state or federal legislation which would place a presumption of liability upon farmers or ranchers for pollution of public or private water supplies near agricultural operations.

We support the use of maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in establishing drinking water standards for pesticides and urge that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expedite the standard setting process. We further recommend that EPA set "action levels" for contaminants which will serve as a warning that the maximum allowable contamination level is being approached and that action should be taken to prevent irreversible contamination.

We recommend EPA work with appropriate federal and state agencies and institutions to best determine environmentally vulnerable areas when considering pesticide registration amendments and use prohibitions.

We recommend that state governments be given primary authority and responsibility to respond to agriculturally contaminated groundwater with site specific recommendations to the producer to mitigate contamination. Such a response should involve coordinating all appropriate and necessary resources available to the state to make the determination. The state Agriculture Departments, where possible, should serve as a lead agency.

We support EPA and state government authority to require chemical registrants to conduct groundwater monitoring programs in support of their products and as a condition for registration or reregistration. Monitoring must be tied to the development of groundwater standards.

We recommend chemical registrants, after conducting groundwater monitoring programs along with meeting EPA and state government authority requirements, should not be made liable for groundwater contamination due to violations of their recommended usage.

We recommend that emphasis be placed on the protection of current and potential potable groundwater. Recognition should be that all groundwater cannot be expected to be potable and should not be subject to the same degree of protection.

In order to reduce salt pollution, we support the replacement of salt as a deicer on roads, bridges and highways with the product calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) made from corn.

We support increased research by USDA, in the use of computer modeling, to predict pesticide migration. Cooperative Extension Service offices and Soil Conservation Service District offices should develop capability to assist agricultural producers in making site specific use decisions.

We oppose legislation which would regulate the sale and use of nitrogen fertilizers.

We recommend that liability for groundwater contamination caused by pesticides be based on levels supported by competent, scientific evidence that cause actual or threatened harm to human health.

Lacking complete protection from liability of groundwater contamination, we urge that the federal government underwrite groundwater liability insurance much in the same manner that they currently underwrite flood plain insurance.

**GROUND WATER QUALITY TESTING** Groundwater quality is a major concern of all rural residents, and of special importance to farmers. Farmers rely on groundwater for domestic use, livestock and irrigation. An adequate source of fresh water is essential to all rural residents.

We encourage County Farm Bureaus to promote and implement a program to test all drinking water on a regular and frequent basis. Educational programs should be initiated to inform citizens of the various sources of well contaminations and how to protect the wells.

**SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP** A farmer's most important natural resources are the soil and water. Most recognize this fact and try to be good stewards. We urge all farmers to utilize the best soil and water conservation practices available. Sod waterways, contouring farming, terracing, reduced tillage, no-till and wind breaks are among the practices that can help reduce soil loss.

Preventing soil loss and reducing other non-point pollution sources will benefit both farmers and the public. We support additional funding for soil and water conservation programs to develop, improve and provide technical assistance for reducing non-point source pollution.

We are opposed to the exploitation of fragile, highly erodible soils.

We encourage Farm Bureau members to support and become actively involved with local soil conservation districts.

**ACID RAIN** Strong action should be taken to reduce acid rain which may cause damage to crops, equipment, buildings, and water systems including lakes and streams.

We support research to identify the source and minimize the amounts and minimize the impact of acid rain on the environment.



**GREAT LAKES BASIN** We support legislation which would restrict Great Lakes water usage to the Great Lakes Basin, except as approved by all the Great Lakes states and the Great Lakes provinces. The water level of the Great Lakes should be allowed to maintain its natural level and not be manipulated by additional artificial methods.

**WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT** The interpretation and enforcement of the Wetlands Act by DNR has resulted in saving valuable wetlands, but has also placed a disproportionate burden on some citizens. We recommend the following: the wetlands' inventory must be completed and made available to the public; statewide standards for wetlands determination must be established to ensure uniform application in all locations; we urge these standards should follow USDA-SCS wetland type identification; rules must be developed to facilitate more reasonable and expeditious application of the Act; requests for permits must be handled promptly; where application of this Act results in a substantial or total loss of the value of the property, the State must compensate the property owner; property tax exempt status for wetlands.

**ANIMAL AND CROP PROTECTION MATERIALS** Modern agriculture cannot continue to provide sufficient quantities of high quality food and fiber to meet the nation's needs without the use of animal and crop protection materials. Any undue curtailment of the safe and appropriate usage of these products will result in lower quality food and fiber at higher costs to consumers.

We believe governmental agencies, research organizations and manufacturers of chemical products must continue comprehensive research studies about the life duration of the chemical and its effects on humans and the environment.

We urge that responsible agencies not issue scare warnings without complete and conclusive evidence to justify warnings. Scare warnings have been released on numerous occasions in the past and in most instances have harmed the market for some products of American agriculture.

In any evaluation of animal and crop protection materials, the possible detrimental effects must be considered in relation to the benefits derived. Only through a careful evaluation can a balance between environmental quality and chemical usage be effectively attained. Unless there is conclusive evidence to prove that a threat to public health exists, government agencies should not impose a zero tolerance or issue an RPAR for any chemical or drug.

A safe tolerance for additives and chemical residues in foods based on scientific research should be established. A risk-benefit ratio should also be developed to assist in determining whether an additive is unsafe.

We encourage all farmers to participate in educational programs on the use of

animal and crop protection materials and take the required tests for the purchase and application of restricted use products. All persons using chemicals and drugs should read and follow precisely the label instructions. Such adherence to label instructions can help avoid government actions to cancel the use of essential materials. We recommend that pesticide dealers carry safety equipment for purchase by applicators as required on pesticide labels or be able to suggest a source where the equipment can be obtained on a timely basis.

Farmers are concerned about the proper storage and disposal of pesticide containers. We encourage chemical companies to continue to develop and use handling and packaging methods that maximize the safety of handling and minimize the disposal of pesticide containers.

Farmers should be protected from liability claims if they have followed federally approved label instructions. We are opposed to regulation of pesticides by local units of government.

When allegations of improper use not in accordance with the label are brought against a farmer, the party bringing the charges should be required to submit adequate documentation of violation, thus the burden of proof is with the plaintiff, not the defendant. The plaintiff should be required to pay all costs if the allegations are not substantiated.

We encourage farmers to keep records of chemical application in event of a legal challenge.

We urge that an amendment of the patent laws be made so that a patent holder failing to supply a chemical for which there was no reasonable substitute would forego his exclusion control of the manufacture of the chemical.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY** Daily we generate vast quantities of all types of waste material. We must reduce solid waste through a comprehensive plan. To accomplish this objective, we believe: waste material should be separated at the source and recycled; the concept of bulk merchandising of consumer goods should be used whenever possible rather than individual packaging; incentives should be provided and realistic regulations promulgated to encourage utilizing waste to generate energy; local government should have the responsibility to provide for the disposal of solid waste through its own facilities, joint ventures with other units of government or through private contractors; land disposal of waste is a temporary solution and the burying of waste should be minimized. Prior to site selection Agricultural, Environmental and Economic Impact Statements must be filed and considered; agriculture should be represented on all Solid Waste Advisory Committees required under Public Act 641 of 1978, the Solid Waste Management Act; solid waste sites should not become toxic waste sites; all citizens should cooperate with the new

Michigan used oil recycling program; research should be conducted and action taken to encourage the reuse of containers whenever possible; chemically tested and approved uncontaminated waste or sludge should be allowed for use on agricultural land.

State government must provide leadership for adequately funded research in self supporting resource recovery. We will support a strategy which includes: waste reduction, recycling, composting, incineration with energy recovery, and incineration without energy recovery.

We support research and aggressive action to reduce waste by using reusable and recyclable containers and the development of biodegradable containers produced from starch-based packaging materials.

**NUCLEAR AND OTHER HAZARDOUS WASTE** The management of hazardous waste including nuclear, industrial, agricultural and household compounds is a growing problem. An aggressive research and management effort must be undertaken to reduce and/or neutralize hazardous waste. We urge Michigan to continue working with other states and the U.S. government to coordinate and facilitate hazardous waste management.

We favor special collection sites for the disposal of toxic household and agricultural compounds and containers.

Because of the valuable fresh water resources in the Great Lakes region, extreme care must be taken when disposing of hazardous waste. Many areas throughout the Great Lakes Basin and specific areas in Michigan are uniquely sensitive areas and should not be considered as a disposal site because of the proximity to fresh water, wildlife habitat, and the potential of risk with the additional transportation required. We recommend that these wastes be recycled or disposed of at or close to the site where they are generated.

**ZONING** Local zoning can be a powerful tool to balance the rights of farmers and rural residents. We urge members to become actively involved in land use planning and zoning. For a realistic zoning ordinance the plan must be both visionary and comprehensive protecting current farming enterprises against encroachment from expanding communities.

**SUBDIVISION CONTROL ACT** The present Subdivision Control Act permits a tract of land to be divided into more than four parcels of 10 acres or less without platting. However, many instances of circumventing the platting of land have been observed through the selling of land in parcels of 10.1 acres or greater. This practice has led to several areas of unplanned developments which can be costly to the community.

We will support legislation to eliminate the inadequacies of the present Act, require the platting of all subdivisions, and streamline the procedures.

**WILDLIFE CROP DAMAGE** Damage to growing crops by wildlife, both game and non-game species, continues. The economic damage suffered by farmers in many areas continues to increase and is reaching levels which farmers can no longer tolerate. Damage by deer, elk, sandhill cranes, seagulls, turkeys, and geese, and other protected varieties is widespread. We recognize the economic benefits of wildlife to sportsmen, tourists, and local businesses, but feel that the economic impact on farmers is disproportionate. Crop damage includes field crops, fruits and vegetables, nursery stock, and hay.

Areas which have an overpopulation of wildlife must be identified and managed to reduce the population to an acceptable level for all concerned. We will work for and support efforts to reduce populations which minimize crop losses to acceptable economic levels.

We commend the DNR for the steps taken during 1987. The appointment of a Wildlife Task Force and the implementation of ideas to allow for additional harvest are important. Expanding the landowner preference, allowing the taking of a second deer, encouraging increased numbers of hunter preference permits, and increasing the number of areas open to hunter's choice will assist in reducing the deer population.

We encourage the task force to continue working aggressively to address this serious problem.

### County FB Input Guides Language for Land Acquisition Policy

Language regarding land acquisition by government (see page 15) was developed with input from FB members in the southeastern Michigan counties likely to be affected by the proposed Superconducting Spher Collider.

FB members in Jackson, Ingham, Lenawee and Monroe counties seek to have these concerns addressed: County FBs oppose "eminent domain" under the current definition; oppose "cut and cover method of building SSC; there should be no P.A. 116 penalties on property owners; home or business valuation formulas to include insured value, market value, or documented investment; special income and capital gains tax considerations; if project land becomes available for agriculture, the right of first refusal should be to the farmer who owned or operated it at the time of condemnation; crops planted on project land must be eligible for government programs; compensate the local tax base; during tunnel construction, adequate fresh drinking water must be supplied for humans and livestock; if yield losses result due to the "dewatering," the farmer must be compensated; if tile lines are disturbed, they must be restored or replaced at no cost to the farmer; when the project requires the majority of a land parcel, the owner has the option of selling the entire parcel or the portion required; property owners retain mineral rights; property suited for agricultural purposes should be developed into a research farm operated by MSU. □

We encourage further study of compensation to farmers who have suffered a severe loss. Compensation may be in the form of contracting with farmers to develop wildlife habitat, allowing DNR to fence areas where there is substantial crop damage, or direct compensation for damage to the farmer with documented losses.

We will continue to work with DNR staff to resolve the wildlife crop damage problem.

**BUSINESS CLIMATE** We believe that efficient, economical administrative procedures such as competitive bids for government purchases, careful evaluation of the needs of Michigan and the development of stringent budgets to carry out appropriate programs to meet those particular needs, is a necessity for economic growth.

We support continued efforts to cut unnecessary costs in State government in order to help stop inflation and added taxation.

While much progress has been achieved by the Governor and Legislature, continued priority should be given to: further elimination of unnecessary rules and regulations affecting the business climate; keeping Michigan's business climate competitive with other states; encouraging the use and sale of Michigan products; keeping Michigan business in Michigan; encouraging out-of-state business to come to our state; being competitive with other states for federal contracts; encouraging and improving educational programs; development of markets for Michigan agricultural products.

This will provide needed jobs and thus reduce the cost of social programs. Real "money-in-the-pocket" jobs is a clear demonstration that our State government is worthy of continued support.

### FARMLAND PRESERVATION P.A.

**116** The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, P.A. 116, has proven to be an effective voluntary method of preserving essential farmland while giving farmers needed property tax relief. We continue to support and promote P.A. 116. We vigorously oppose measures which will dilute its effectiveness.

**MOBILE HOME TAXATION** The current \$3 per month fee, in lieu of taxes, for "mobile homes" in parks has not changed since 1959. During those 28 years such manufactured housing has changed dramatically. A recent study shows that less than 4% are ever moved from their original location.

While the \$3 per month fee has remained the same, average property tax rates have increased from 35 mills to 54 mills and the median value of single family housing has increased 325%. Michigan has one of the lowest tax rates for manufactured homes in the nation and at the same time one of the highest property tax burdens.

We will support legislation to tax mobile homes located in mobile home parks at a value comparable to mobile homes on real property. □

## Management Series Offered

**F**arm Credit Services, in conjunction with the Cooperative Extension Service, has business management programs available to farmers.

"Business Management in Agriculture" (BMIA) is a program specifically designed to assist farmers in identifying their goals for becoming a stronger, more stable business.

BMIA shows you the values of goal setting, the bonds between farm and family goals and how to use them, and who needs to be involved in the goal setting process. BMIA will teach you how goals are identified and how to deal with conflicts of goals.

Your seminar facilitator will show you how to prepare your own financial records (i.e. income statement, balance sheet, cash flow), and introduce you to ways in which professional records management can profit your agricultural operations.

The seminar series also offers agricultural marketing seminars, and seminars on agricultural credit.

The seminars will be offered during January and February and limited dates in March. For more information contact the CES office in your area or area Farm Credit Service office. Listed below are various seminars dates:

**Business Management in Agriculture Seminars:**  
**Shiawassee County**—Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, 18, Mar. 3; **Montcalm, Mecosta, Isabella Counties**—Feb. 11, 18;  
**Gratiot County**—Not yet determined (NYD); **Clinton County**—NYD; **Ingham County**—NYD; **Eaton County**—NYD; **Ionia County**—NYD; **Macomb, Lapeer, Genesee, Oakland & St. Clair Counties (Romeo Location)**—Jan. 8, 15, 22, 25 and Feb. 5; **Lapeer Location**—Feb. 11, 18, 22, Mar. 3, 10 (Deadline for registration: 01/26/88).

**Agricultural Marketing Seminars:**  
**Cass County**—Jan. 19, 26; **St. Joseph County**—Feb. 2, 9; **Van Buren and Berrien Counties (Skill Center—Lawrence)** Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar. 2.

**Obtaining and Using Farm Credit Seminar:**  
**Allegan County**—Feb. 16 and Mar. 1. Farm Financial Planning Program (Fin-pack) Seminars:  
**Eaton County**—Jan. 19, Feb. 2, 16, and Mar. 1; **Shiawassee County**—Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, 18, and Mar. 3; **Barry County**—Jan. 13, 27, Feb. 10, 24, and Mar. 9; **Gratiot County**—Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; **Ionia County**—NYD. □

Better Profits  
For You with . . .



## CROP PROFIT ANALYSIS

That's what it's all about!

After years of careful research and planning, Countrymark, Inc. is proud to present this new state-of-the-art *Crop Profit Analysis* program.

Your participating Countrymark member cooperative has this exciting new tool available right now and is ready to work with you by gathering information about your farm; maps, aerial photos, and crop histories. All fields will be soil tested and analysis reports generated. After all pertinent data is gathered, the planning and specific recommendations begin for each field. Complete seed, fertilizer and chemicals are planned for implementation on your farm.

Get the whole story. Your Countrymark outlet will be happy to give you a demonstration of the new Countrymax Profit Analysis computer system. You owe it to yourself to maximize your profit potential.

Ask about all of these Countrymax Programs too! Count on Countrymark for your entire farm operation.

**CROP PROFIT ANALYSIS**

**BEEF PROFITABILITY PROJECTION**

**DAIRY RATION ANALYSIS**

**HORSE RATION FORMULATION**

**SWINE PROFIT ANALYSIS**

**LAYER FORMULATION ANALYSIS**

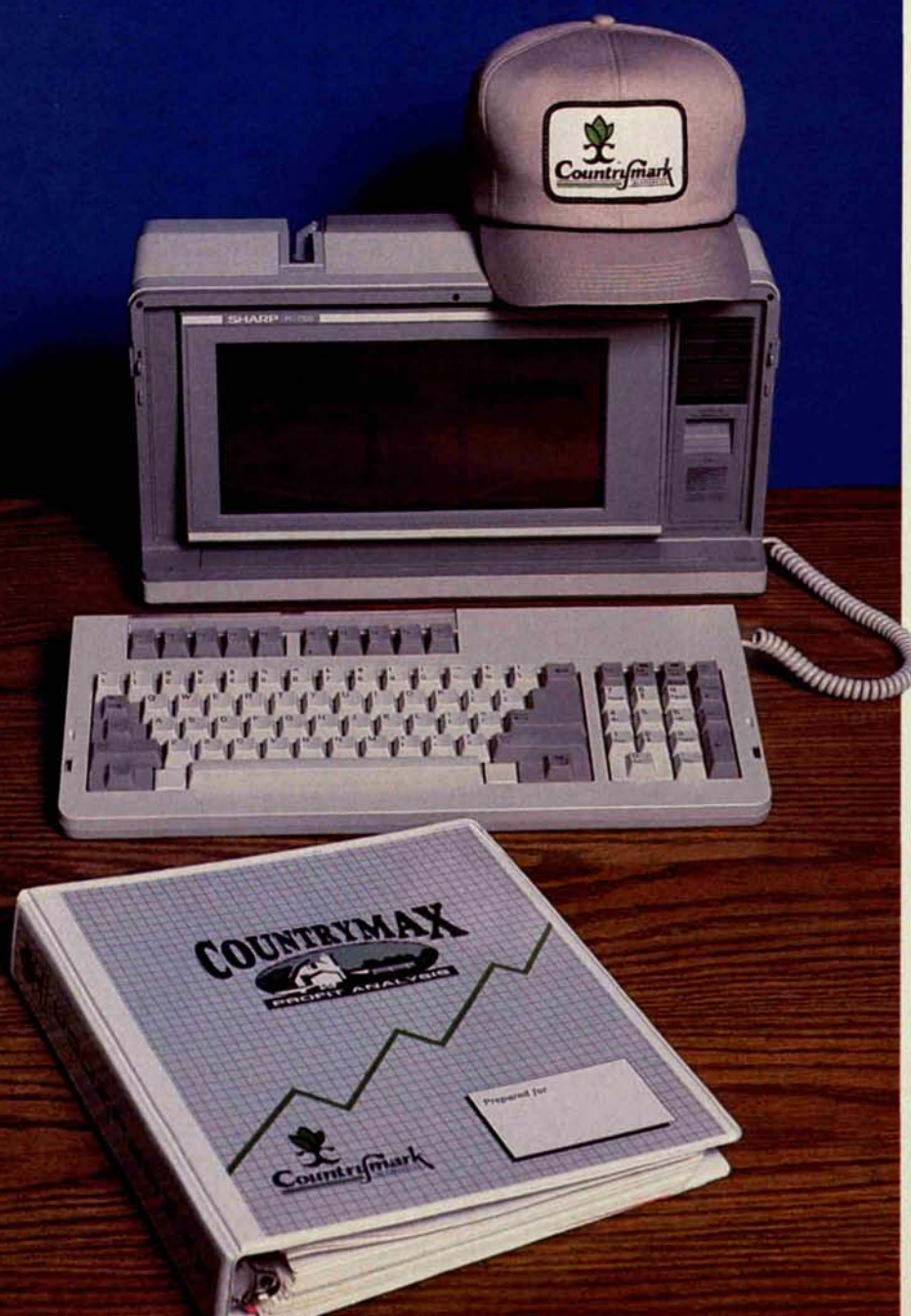
Count On . . .

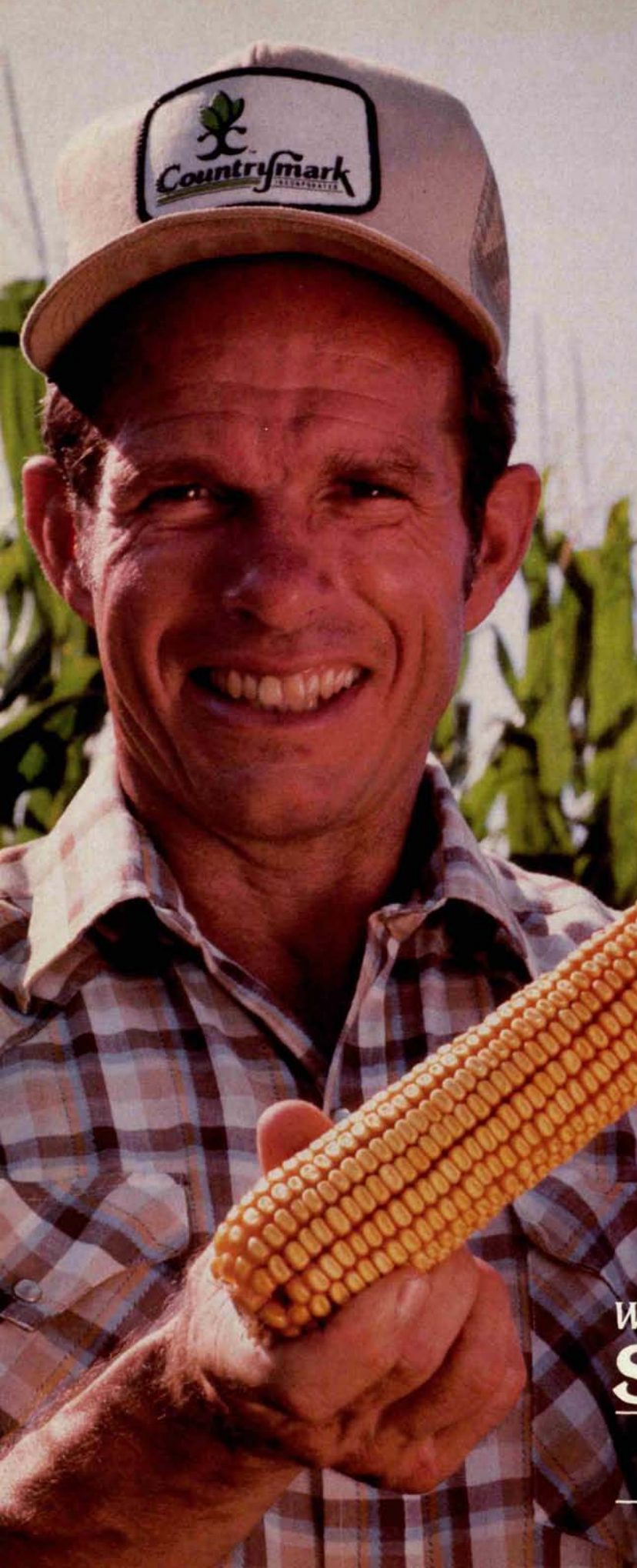


4565 Columbus Pike • Delaware, OH 43015

©1988, Countrymark, Inc.

CM-8711-1





**“Countrymark  
custom seed corn  
hybrids maximize  
your yield...  
to maximize  
your profit.”**

—Ed Johnson AgriBroadcasting Network

“To be successful, seed corn hybrids have to be developed under the proper conditions... the same climate and soil conditions that you face each year.

“That’s why Countrymark seed corn hybrids are proven right here in the tri-state area... not some far-off facility. Using the latest technology, Countrymark has developed the best hybrids in the country through their national breeding program. Then they thoroughly test each hybrid locally. So you can be sure Countrymark has a hybrid tailored to your fields, whether you plant no-till, conventional till, silage, early or late hybrids.

“Years of research and field-testing have gone into developing Countrymark strong-standing and disease resistant hybrids. See your Countrymark Member Association early to assure the sizes you want. And see what

Countrymark custom hybrids can do for your bottom line.”

**Count on  
Countrymark**

  
Countrymark  
INCORPORATED

4565 Columbus Pike Delaware, Ohio 430

Watch For The Countrymark  
**SEED CORN**  
*Sweepstakes*

## First Year Beef and Pork Promotion

■ The Food Security Act of 1985, approved Dec. 23, 1985, authorized the establishment of a Beef Promotion and Research Board and a Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Board. The purpose of these boards is to oversee the collection and disbursement of the check-off funds.

Beef check-off observed its anniversary Oct. 1, the date all beef producers, dairymen, veal growers and importers began investing \$1-per-head in an expanded promotion and research program. Over \$73.5 million was collected during the program's first 10-1/2 months. The share going to the beef board strictly for national programs was approximately \$42.3 million. Funds retained by the 41 states with beef councils totaled \$31.2 million. States with qualified state beef councils retain 50 cents of each dollar for in-state promotion programs and for support of national programs through the Beef Industry Council.

The beef board approved 25 research projects in the areas of diet/health, product development and market research. In the area of diet/health, individual projects include the study of dietary cholesterol and heart disease, a comparison of iron status between regular users of red meat and regular users of fish, and a study which assesses the nutritional knowledge and attitudes of medical students.

In product development, individual research projects include a study of nutritional and management strategies for lowering the cholesterol content of beef, researching the possibility of extending the shelf life of vacuum-packaged, refrigerated beef by biological means, and a study of the beef forequarter.

In market research, individual projects include evaluating the mature (senior citizen) market to establish a baseline on attitudes toward the use of beef, and evaluating Hispanic consumers to establish a baseline on attitudes toward, and use of, beef.

---

### *The (media) campaign message will stress the benefits of white meat and pork's unique taste appeal*

---

The beef board approved funding for consumer information projects in three general areas: beef and veal public relations, education, and health-care information and advertising.

The pork check-off is nearing the completion of its first year. The check-off rate is a universal rate at 0.25 of 1% of gross value, i.e. 25 cents per \$100, for all segments; seedstock animals, market hogs, feeder pigs and imports. Voluntary programs in the past netted about \$10 million, but the new check-off program will net in excess of \$25 million. The Michigan Pork Producers Association should realize about \$130,000 for promotion within the state. The law allows a refund provision up until the referendum. Presently, less than 5% of the check-off is refunded.

The money will be spent in the general areas of pork promotion, research and education, with specific project funding to be determined by the pork board. Advertising, food service, and retail merchandising are the key promotion areas targeted with check-off funds. Efforts are placed in these areas to increase consumer preference for pork. An increase in food service promotion is expected to have a positive effect on the distribution of pork. Work is being done with schools and hospitals

to encourage new preparation ideas and to include pork in the menus. Retail merchandising will increase the image of pork at the meat counter through on-site recipes and nutritional information, as well as enticing photographs of pork dishes.

The pork board is heavily targeting the television and magazine media to reach consumers. The campaign message will stress the benefits of white meat and pork's unique taste appeal.

Another significant benefit is in extending all usable product and consumer research findings to the pork industry. The pork board will provide assistance, guidance, materials development, and model programs development so that pork producers will have up-to-date research information to remain competitive.

All of the efforts put forth by the beef board and the pork board will benefit their respective industries. Other industries proved that consumer marketing efforts make an impact on consumer attitudes. It may take a year or two to know if a marketing program is really on track.

The beef referendum is scheduled to take place sometime before May 1988. The pork referendum is likely to be in late 1988 or early 1989. These dates will be issued by the secretary of agriculture sometime in the near future. □

---

*Agrinomic Update is prepared monthly by the MFB Commodity Activities and Research Department. This month's topic was prepared by Kevin Kirk, MFB commodity specialist.*

---

# Grassroots Perspective

## Discussion Topic

### **Animal Agriculture Update: General Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices**

■ The intense debate and controversy surrounding the issue of application of manure to farm lands is one of vital concern to all farmers and rural residents. Farm Bureau has been a leader in addressing this controversy (See this month's Presidents Column and the "Lansing Update" in the December issue of the *Michigan Farmer*.)

But the issue is much broader than just the impact of odor on rural neighbors. It affects the application of all plant nutrients (including manure and commercial fertilizer); water quality; and the overall profitability of agriculture.

It's important to note that the existing Right-to-Farm law, as recently amended by the Michigan Legislature, does not give a license to farm. It does not provide protection from violations of other existing laws such as the pollution of water from manure run-off. The farmer still has a responsibility to protect ground and surface water from the over-application of any plant nutrient. The Right-to-Farm law only addresses situations where there is a dispute between a farmer and another rural resident.

Right-to-Farm offers a measure of protection to a farmer who is following non-mandatory "generally accepted agricultural management practices." The question then becomes: What are generally accepted agricultural management practices?

As this goes to press, the practices are being reviewed by the Michigan Agriculture Commission and will be released in the first quarter of the year.

In general, the list of practices will cover these general areas: minimizing manure run off; operation of a farm in way so as to lessen odors; storage and possible treatment of manure; different types of storage facilities; general application of manure and plant nutrients; and consideration of other activities such as grain drying and general field work to minimize the impact on surrounding neighbors.

The generally accepted agricultural management practices are to be reviewed annually by the Agriculture Commission. The commission will determine whether the practices are, in fact, the most current reasonable and economic ones available, while taking into account new practices which may be developed.

Local zoning is also a vital ingredient in ensuring harmony between production agriculture and rural residents. It is the responsibility of every farmer and local planning official to evaluate the social and economic interests in their area, and develop zoning ordinances which benefit everyone.

From the farm perspective, economics plays an extremely important role in this entire discussion. The efficient application of manure and other plant nutrients will result in the most effective use of resources, with the ideal being the optimum input of nutrients resulting in maximum crop production and minimum impact on the environment.

Finding the right balance will not only save money for a farmer, but also have a major and favorable impact on the rural environment including both ground and surface water. Application of plant nutrients in excess of what the plant needs results in the run off or leaching into ground water of nitrogen, and to some extent, potassium and phosphorus. This run off is an economic loss to the farmer and a detriment to the environment.

Amidst the talk of specific "generally accepted agricultural management practices," it is important to remember that one of the best practices to follow is simply a good neighbor policy. That is...treat others with respect and don't pursue agricultural activities which will unnecessarily irritate your neighbor.

This good neighbor policy may include investigating some of the products which are now available which may reduce or minimize the odor from manure.

The scattered pattern of rural development in Michigan means that the co-existence of farmers and rural residents is a fact of life. It is likely that the current expansion of rural communities of all sizes will continue. So, it is a responsibility of all citizens to develop a relationship which enhances the quality of life of all involved. □

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- What can I do to enhance the relationship between agriculture and rural residents in my community?
- If zoning exists, what does my zoning ordinance control, regulate, or require for agricultural operations?
- Are there any restrictions on the building of rural residences in production agricultural areas?
- What is the single most effective public relations effort that I have used to create a favorable relationship between my farm and my neighbor?

## **In February**

### **Ground Water Quality Control**

*This topic will provide Community Action Group members an opportunity to consider how their own farming operations have an impact on the quality of groundwater and the total environment. Members can start thinking about how their health and net income will benefit by reducing and preventing potential contamination.*

# 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.

All ads must be pre-paid and may be pre-paid up to one year in advance.

It is the responsibility of the advertiser to re-insert the ad on a month-by-month or year-by-year basis.

The publisher has the right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

No ads will be taken over the phone.

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:

Rural Living  
P.O. Box 30960  
Lansing, Mich. 48909

## LIVESTOCK

**REGISTERED ANGUS BREEDING STOCK:** For sale at all times. Bordner Angus Farms, 68730 County Farm Road, Sturgis, MI 49091. Phone 616-651-8353. (4-12t-20p)

**BABY CHICKS** — March through June. No price increase. Free price list. Shephard Hatchery, Route 1, Deot, MI, Cannelton, IN 47520. (1-2t-20p-ts)

## NURSERY STOCK

**BERRY PLANTS** — Raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, currants, gooseberries, others. Free catalog. Makielski Berry Nursery, 7130 Platt Road, Dept. RL, Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197. Phone 313-434-3673. (11-12t-22p)

**HARDY NORTHERN GROWN STRAWBERRY AND ASPARAGUS PLANTS** — Free Brochure. Krohne Plant Farms, Rt. 6, Box 586 RL, Dowagiac, Mich. 49047. (11-13t-21p)

**HYBRID POPLAR** — 12 cents, American Chestnut, other trees and wildlife shrubs. Cold Stream Farm, 2030T Freesoil Road, Freesoil, Mich. 49411. Phone 616-464-5809. (11-6t-19p)

**FOR SALE** — Blackberries, Raspberries, Boysenberries, Strawberries, Grapes. Over 25 different varieties of tame bramble plants. Send \$1.00 for below wholesale catalog. \$1.00 refunded on 1st order. Bill's Berry Farm, Rt. 5, Box 212, Clarksville, TN 37042, 615-648-4030. (12-2t-37p-ts)

## MISCELLANEOUS

**FOR SALE:** 1,000 solid core exterior doors. 1-3/4 x 36" x 80" to 84". 10 for \$100. Jerry Flynn, 1106 E. Carleton Road, Adrian. Phone 517-263-4972. (10-4t-20p)

**FOR SALE: PUMP, SUBMERSIBLE JACUZZI** — 5 h.p. Franklin motor 230 volts. Used two months; can document. Call Nomad Mobilehome Park 616-739-9282. (1-20p)

**OLD TIME FIDDLE MUSIC ON SIXTY MINUTE CASSETTES.** #325 Twelve Michigan Fiddlers, #326 Twelve Canadian Fiddlers, #327 Waltzes to Remember, and #328 Hornpipes, Reels-Jigs Polkas. \$4.50 each. Fiddle Music, Kinde, MI 48445. 1-2t-32p

**NEED COLLEGE MONEY?** Billions available now! Scholarships, grants, loans. Guarantee you qualify for 5 financial sources! Most applying receive over 20! Send \$3 for brochure, instructions, short questionnaire. (REFUNDABLE) Nationwide Scholarship Finders, Box 2257, Lynchburg, VA 24501-0257. (1-2t-37p-ts)

**PRETTY PUNCH EMBROIDERY** — Exciting hobby. FAST-FUN-EASY. For all ages 8 to 80. Fantastic gifts. Kits, yarns, designs, laces, hoops, material, Looney Tune kits, NFL/AFL designs. SAVE-DISCOUNTS. Catalog \$2.00 (refundable). Free price list SASE. Punch-N-Stuff, 49985 Wear, Belleville, MI 48111. (1-2t-44p)

**WRITE YOUR OWN WILL:** It's legal. Save money. 4-Forms fill out. \$3.50 prepaid. Fast service. Pick's, Dept. RL, Tompkinsville, KY 42167. (7/8-6t-19p-ts)

## MISCELLANEOUS

**REGISTERED NURSES:** Employment opportunities exist in our Skilled Nursing Facility located 10 miles from Lake Michigan. If you want to see the results of your nursing planning and care, if you want to practice in a challenging environment, call or write: Beatie Long-Koolovitz, DON, Sherman Oaks Care Center, 1380 East Sherman Boulevard, Muskegon, MI 49444. Phone 616-733-2578. E.O.E. (1-60p-ts)

**ATTORNEY:** Farm born and raised. Engaged in General Practice at Law. Particular emphasis on financial problems, bankruptcy, negligence, contracts, land, estates and planning. Particular knowledge of agricultural problems. Call or write Thomas J. Budzynski, 43777 Groesbeck, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043. Phone 313-463-5253. (1-6t-40p)

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**FOR SALE: 550 P.S.I./2 G.P.M. PRESSURE WASHER 6 GALLON SOAP TANK** — 35' hose; 5 way mix valve, \$395. UPS COD. Groesser Equipment. Phone 616-942-4241. (1-3t-20p)

## REAL ESTATE

**CONDO AT NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLA., FOR RENT.** Completely furnished, two bedrooms, two baths, ocean view from the fourth floor. Tastefully decorated. Phone 517-669-8252. (1-21p)

Farm Bureau members pay 25 cents per word for all classified advertisements.

## Advertisers' Index

Rural Living would like to thank these advertisers for their support:

Blue Cross Blue Shield ..... 2  
Countrymark, Inc. .... 3, 19, 20

Farm Bureau Insurance Group ..... 24

---

# YOUR IRA...

**AFTER  
THE NEW  
TAX LAW,  
JUST AS  
VALUABLE  
AS EVER.**

**Making your future  
a little more predictable**

**FARM BUREAU  
INSURANCE  
GROUP**

FARM BUREAU MUTUAL • FARM BUREAU LIFE • FARM BUREAU GENERAL • FB ANNUITY

If you are not covered by a company pension plan — and most farmers aren't — the new tax law still allows all the IRA advantages you had before.

That means you can still deposit up to \$2,000 each year into your Individual Retirement Account (or \$2,250 if your spouse is not employed) and deduct the entire amount from your taxable income.

Not everybody can do that under the new law, so the time has never been better for you to open an IRA with FB Annuity Company. Not only are your deposits tax deductible, but all your interest earnings accumulate tax-deferred, protected from taxes until you take your money out. And, of course, you'll earn a high rate of interest on your IRA deposits.

FB Annuity offers another big advantage — our IRA guarantees you a lifetime retirement income. When you start an IRA with us, you're starting something that will pay you back for the rest of your life.

Remember, farmers can especially benefit from an IRA, since they usually are not covered by company pension plans and therefore are permitted the full IRA tax deduction under the new law. Remember, too, that you have until you file your 1987 tax return (up to April 15, 1988) to make deposits into your IRA and still deduct them from your 1987 taxable income.

An IRA from FB Annuity Company is more important than ever to your successful financial future. Call your Farm Bureau Insurance agent today to open your own IRA... and look forward to years of tax savings, high interest, and a lifetime retirement income.

---

Michigan Farm Bureau  
Rural Living Magazine  
P.O. Box 30960  
7373 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 380