

RuralLiving

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



New Look, An Old Tradition July/August '88

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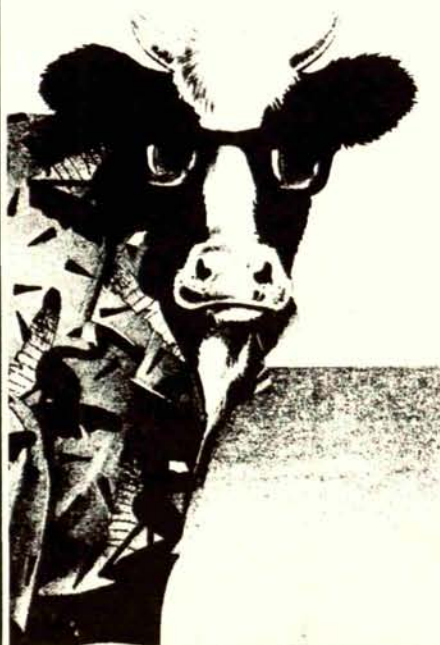
IT'S TIME FOR
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See Page 11

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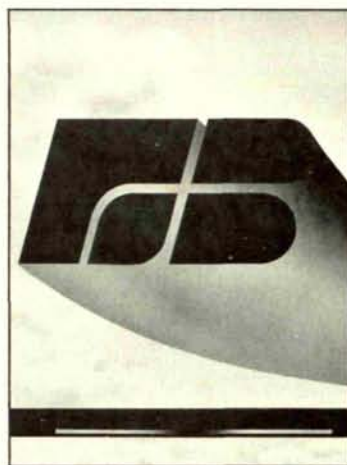
Rural Living

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau

About the Cover

Michigan Farm Bureau's new stylized logo symbol will soon appear on business correspondence, specialty clothing, and signage. The American Farm Bureau Federation and many state Farm Bureaus nationwide adopted the logo this year.



In This Issue

Seminar Students Hold Conservative Views

Students attending the 25th anniversary Young People's Citizenship Seminar, June 20-24, exhibited conservative views on education, drug testing, driving laws, and penalties for drunk driving.

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Conference Calling Keeps Drought Information Line Open

Conference calls involving 22 county Farm Bureau presidents is keeping MFB leadership in Lansing informed about local conditions as agriculture attempts to cope with the 1988 drought.

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Committee Calls 92 Candidates "Friends of Agriculture"

MFB AgriPac spokesperson Dave Conklin announced the political action committee's primary election endorsements July 15.

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

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

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Seeds

- MFB President Jack Laurie joined other state, federal, and agricultural leaders in Frankenmuth, July 1, for an emergency drought meeting.
- Laurie addressed the July 7 reporting meeting of the MFB State Study Committee which is charged with looking at organization growth and needs for the future.
- President Laurie welcomed representatives of Michigan commodity organizations to FB Center, July 8, to discuss cooperative strategies to assist drought stricken farmers.
- President Laurie was among the guests at Ag Expo's annual VIP Breakfast, July 19. During Expo week, President Laurie also welcomed FB members from around the state to the second annual Summerfest on the FB Center grounds, July 20.
- Sanilac County was among the first to conduct a 1988 Probable Issues Meeting in preparation for FB policy development. President Laurie attended the meeting and discussion session on July 25.

New Spirit of Unity and Cooperation Apparent

Summerfest '88, held on July 20 at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing, brought together hundreds of Farm Bureau members from across the state for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. It was an opportunity for us to forget the drought for a few hours and enjoy some good times, good food and, good Farm Bureau friends. (Watch for photo coverage of Summerfest '88 in the September issue of the new *Rural Leader* newsletter.)

An event like Summerfest '88 and the implementation of the new logo for our family of companies (see article on page 16) indicate a new spirit in our organization...a spirit of unity and cooperation that will benefit Farm Bureau and all of agriculture. This attitude is especially important as we draw together to meet the challenge of the worst drought in this century.

Politicians will be tempted in this election year to develop short term solutions to the drought that could hurt agriculture in the long run. At a meeting July 1 with Governor Blanchard, Sen. Don Riegle, Rep. Bill Schuette, Rep. Bob Traxler and other agricultural leaders, I communicated the message of our county presidents that we need to focus assistance specifically at the problem of the drought...and not develop responses that spill over to affect current farm policy.

At the time of this meeting we had already had two statewide conference calls with county Farm Bureau presidents to assess the impact of the drought in various parts of the state. This information, direct from the farmers involved, gave our organization added credibility on this issue. (See article on page 9.)

It's no exaggeration to say that the drought is very serious. There are farmers who are going to be really hurt, and Farm Bureau is working to make sure they are the focus of a carefully targeted package of assistance.

As detailed in this issue of *Rural Living*, Farm Bureau has presented Gov. Blanchard with a specific 10 point plan of drought relief measures. We have also cooperated with Michigan State University on a service to help farmers locate hay for their livestock. We assisted MSU and the Cooperative Extension Service in publishing and distributing (through county Farm Bureau offices) a special publication that advises farmers on how to cope with the drought.

We will continue to suggest appropriate legislative and regulatory responses to the drought as the impact of this disaster becomes more apparent. But it's important to also emphasize that we must not develop short term solutions that wreck what we've worked so hard to develop, moving agriculture toward a more market oriented system.

That's a thought to keep in mind as we pull together to develop policy for 1989, and as we cooperate to overcome this latest challenge from Mother Nature.

Jack Laurie

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

Drought Assistance Legislation Introduced

Washington

Drought Disaster Assistance: Michigan Congressmen Traxler, Pursell, and Schuette, and Senators Levin and Riegle have introduced drought assistance legislation patterned after the flood disaster assistance legislation of 1986. As in the 1986 legislation, eligible producers of program and non-program crops will be those who experience more than a 50% yield loss per crop. The bills, H.R. 4896 and S. 2555, provide emergency assistance including FmHA debt restructuring; payment in Payment-in-Kind (PIK) certificates, not to exceed \$100,000 in value per individual, for crops which cannot be harvested or which could not be planted due to drought conditions.

For drought information updates, call the Michigan Department of Agriculture toll free number 1-800-346-FARM. The U.S. Department of Agriculture hotline number is 1-800-541-3375. Use the American Farm Bureau Federation Capital Hotline for daily updates on legislation and regulatory issues. Call 202-554-0510; available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Diesel Fuel Excise Tax: The House Ways and Means Committee adjourned for the July 4th recess before completing mark up of the technical corrections tax

bill which includes a provision to repeal the excise tax on diesel fuel used in off-highway vehicles.

Congress is looking at measures to help drought stricken farmers, which makes repeal of the tax more certain. If Congress acts on the technical corrections bill, the diesel tax repeal will definitely be a part of it. Unfortunately there is very little time left for Congress to take action.

Meanwhile farmers and other non-highway diesel fuel users who have paid more than \$1,000 in taxes (6,667 gallons of diesel purchased) during the first quarter of the tax year are eligible for a refund. The claim must be filed within 90 days following the end of the quarter. If the refund claim is late, an immediate refund will not be made and the individual must file a claim for credit against his year-ending income taxes.

IRS form 843 should be used for claiming a direct refund. IRS form 4136 must accompany the individual's income tax return for a tax credit.

Country of Origin Labeling: Starting in June 1989, processors must begin country of origin labeling of fruit juices. Under the rule, processors may use the "major supplier" marking method, which means if a processor obtains 75% or more of its imported concentrate from a single source country, only that country must be shown on the label. Otherwise, all foreign sources must be listed.

In addition, because of public health concerns regarding pesticides which are banned in the United States, but used on foreign fruit, a proposed rule is under consideration that will require all fruit juices made from foreign concentrate be labeled to indicate all actual sources.

Anhydrous Ammonia Re-classification: The House Appropriations Committee recommended against the reclassification of anhydrous ammonia as a poisonous gas. The committee included the recommendation to retain the current classification in its report on the Department of Transportation funding bill.

Lansing

P.A. 116 Tax Refunds: Legislation to assure farmers the right to carry forward losses on their P.A. 116 tax refunds has finally passed. Farm Bureau promoted and strongly supported this legislation.

The problem was created by a multi-provision bill passed at the last minute Dec. 27, 1988, and effective Jan. 1, 1988. It prohibited the "carry backs or carry forwards" of farm net losses. The tax forms did not reflect this change and farmers received only a fraction of their expected P.A. 116 tax refund.

FB called this serious situation to the attention of legislators in both houses. Sen. Shinkle, R-Lambertville, and seven other legislators introduced S. 785 to amend the legislation. It passed the Senate and went to the House.

Rep. Niederstadt, D-Saginaw, and 40 cosponsors introduced H.B. 5585. It passed the House and was sent to the Senate.

S. 785 was released by the House and the Senate will release other bills in a similar situation. The final version of S. 785 is better than either of the two previous bills.

All bills were retroactive. This means farmers that had the carry forward loss problem can expect (continued on page 21)

Seminar Students Hold Conservative Views

By Kimberly Marshall

There was a conservative group of over 220 students at the 1988 Young People's Citizenship Seminar, June 20-24, at Olivet College. The group passed a ballot proposal requiring drug testing for all state government employees by 89%, and 71% said no to a proposed moratorium on the further building of nuclear power plants.

And, since it is an election year for the nation's highest office, students cast a straw vote, selecting Bush over Dukakis, 60% to 40%.

As candidates made their campaign speeches, it also became evident that today's young people are deeply concerned about such serious social issues as: stiffer drunk driving laws/penalties, AIDS education, school reform and finance, and teacher competency testing.

Scott Manning, Montcalm County, was eventually elected to the position of state senator. During his campaign speech,



John Ryder, Sagniw County, makes the campaign speech which helped him win election to the position of state representative.

Scott said Michigan's citizens need caring people to represent them in the Legislature.

"I care about quality education. My stand in Lansing would be to get equal funding for every school system. For every student in every school, an equal amount of

money should be distributed. I believe that's equal school funding," said Scott.

"I believe our teachers should be required to take competency tests," he said. "We don't want somebody who doesn't know what they are talking about teaching us what we're supposed to be learning. We have a future and we want to be able to do it properly and in the best way we can, so we need good teachers."

Scott also supported the ballot proposal requiring drug testing of state government employees.

"If elected, I would proudly be the first one to step in line to take the test to make sure that I don't have drugs in my system, because I am drug-free."

Shannon Hunt, Huron County, tied for the position of prosecuting attorney with Bill Mitchell, Mecosta County. And, like in the real world of politics, the winner was determined by the toss of the coin -- with Bill coming up as the winner.

In her campaign speech, Shannon called for stiffer drunk driving laws and an effort to stop repeat offenders.

"During the time that we have spent here at Young People's Citizenship Seminar, 830 alcohol-related deaths have taken place. Something needs to be done, we're wasting lives, young lives," Shannon said. "If we are the leaders of tomorrow, what we need to do is make sure we survive until tomorrow."

During his campaign speech, Scott Piggott, Clinton County, said nuclear arms were wrong and that there should be disarmament. But, he opposed the ballot proposal calling for a moratorium on the building of nuclear power plants.

"Nuclear power is the thing of the future. Rather than put it away, I would rather see it advance and have certain, set limits



Political party rallies helped develop party unity and were a popular part of the seminar program

on it so it would be safer," said Scott, who was later elected to a position on the state Supreme Court.

Every year, Dr. John Furbay, is one of the most popular speakers at the seminar. He is an internationally-known lecturer, author, and radio personality and has become one of America's most dynamic and inspirational interpreters of our changing world. Furbay had these words to say to the young people to encourage them to keep trying to achieve success:

"To be successful, to feel successful, you need to commit yourself beyond what you can already see. Reach for what you think is unreachable. Never give up," Furbay said. "Don't run away from a challenge, or you'll be more scared to try the next time a challenge comes up."

Election Results:

- State Sen. Scott Manning, Montcalm County
- State Rep. John Ryder, Saginaw
- State Supreme Court Justices Karen Wahl, Muskegon and Scott Piggott, Clinton.
- Sheriff Randy Nixon, Chippewa
- Prosecuting Attorney Bill Mitchell, Mecosta
- Treasurer Penny Nichols, Tuscola
- County Clerk Donna Rottier, Newaygo
- Drain Commissioner Michael "David" Clark, Allegan
- Register of Deeds Angie Bahs, Barry
- Party Chairpersons Denise Kutchev, St. Clair and Timeen Wegmeyer, Alpena
- Precinct Delegates: Dennis Anderson, Mecosta; Shelley Armour, Wexford; Lori Cook, Calhoun; Raegan Fisher, Muskegon; Madora Garn, Eaton; Carla Little, Clare; Amy Marsico, Alpena; Annette Mauricio, Lapeer; Dan Peterson, Calhoun; Michael Pickett, Iosco; Aron Rados, Midland; Kami Rathje, Huron; Jenny Smith, Tuscola; Jeremy Strouse, Isabella; Shannon Tucker, St. Joseph; Catherine Wright, Clinton

America & Me Essay Winner Selected

The America & Me Essay Contest was founded by Farm Bureau Insurance Group in 1968 to encourage Michigan youth to explore their roles in America's future. The 1987-88 top ten winners competed against more than 6,000 other students from nearly 500 Michigan junior high and middle schools to win their top positions. The student essays for this, the 19th annual, contest were based on the topic "What The Future Of America Holds For Me." The final ranking of the top ten winners was determined by a panel of judges, including: Gov. James Blanchard, Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths, U.S. Rep. Bob Carr, and Lansing-area broadcast personality Howard Lancour.

The top ten winners from this contest are (in consecutive winning order): Kevin Bai, Grosse Pointe Woods; Jon Ziegler, Monroe; Lisa Nocerini, Crystal Falls; Tran Trinh, Parchment; Timothy Godek, Frankenmuth; Tim Sznewajs, East Lansing; Gretchen Hoffmeyer, Grosse Pointe Woods; Emily Malcoun, Grosse Pointe Woods; Christy Petroff, Detroit; and Jennifer Kotwicki, Sterling Heights.

Winning essay by Kevin Bai:

When I was five years old, my nursery school visited our local zoo's aviary, where I saw my first bald eagle. It was a young bird with a hint of white feathers beginning to replace the dark ones on its head. It had broken its wing and was brought to the zoo for rehabilitation. The zoo offered it protection until its wing healed, when it would be reintroduced into the wilds of northern Michigan. The zoo-keepers were teaching it to hunt for food, a skill it would need to survive.

Returning to the zoo several months later, I was amazed to see a fully white-headed, majestic bird. Its manner was confident and proud, and it appeared eager to be set free to face the challenge of life on its own. I marvelled at this, our national bird. For several weeks, I pretended to be that bald eagle, at first mimicking its behavior by flapping one arm and later spreading both out wide, attempting to soar on make-believe air currents far above the earth.

Looking back, I realize now that we, the youth of America, resemble that bald eagle. Immature, we have first been protected and then carefully prepared to take our place in America's future. As adolescents on the threshold of adulthood, we are confident and eager to step out, unafraid, into the world and test our own ability. Like the eagle, we welcome the challenge of responsibility and self-reliance.

We are proud to be Americans and realize how fortunate we are to be born here. Our forefathers have built and preserved for us a land based on liberty, justice, and equality. Although we are all different, we are free to pursue our goals with the knowledge that we possess a solid foundation. There is nothing that we, the youth of America, cannot accomplish through hard work and determination. America's future rests on our shoulders.

America is a caring land that helps the handicapped and underprivileged. Like the zoo-keeper who rehabilitated the young eagle, America offers protection, assistance, and training to help all people reach their potential. Just as the eagle was taught survival skills, so too can the handicapped or culturally disadvantaged be trained to lead productive lives.

This is where I can contribute to America's future. When I grow up, I would like to be a physical therapist, working with handicapped children. Many children are born with disabilities or receive injuries in sports or automobile accidents. These children deserve a place in America's future, too. My contribution to America's future would be to help them get it. At four, I pretended to be a bald eagle. Today, I want to help handicapped, rehabilitating and establishing them as successful, contributing Americans who can soar like eagles.

The 1988 Discussion Meet Contest is About to Set Sail!

All Aboard!

If you're between the ages of 18 to 30, a regular member and you can talk ... you should be a part of the Young Farmer Discussion Meet Contest.

This year's state winner will receive a cruise for 2 aboard the world famous Pacific Princess.

Compliments of:
Farm Bureau Travel

1988 Discussion Meet Topics

- Who will set the agenda for the 1990 farm bill? How can Farm Bureau have a major impact on the farm bill debate? What aspects of the farm bill should Farm Bureau work to develop?
- Social Security - friend or foe?
- What is the potential for the development of new products made from agricultural commodities; and is there a market available for them?
- How will increasing regulation of agricultural chemical use affect production agriculture? What are the implications for the international competitiveness of U.S. farmers?



To find out when your district contest is, contact your county Farm Bureau.



County FB Presidents Describe Local Drought Conditions

By Connie Turbin

In a telephone conference call from the Lansing office of Michigan Farm Bureau President Jack Laurie, 22 county FB presidents reported the June 30 conditions in their local area. The conference was a follow-up to a June 13 call to the county leaders to obtain information on the drought severity and receive farmers' recommendations for MFB action. The following are excerpts from the county presidents reports:

Branch -- Had rain. Situation not desperate but seeing signs of stress. Stick with Great Lakes Basin policy. Work on deficiency payment. Farmers need current information on water rights.

Monroe -- Situation is critical. Corn beyond saving: 70% very poor, 30% poor. Water issue is gaining impetus. Hay listing service is a help. Cost of straw shooting up.

Genesee -- Situation desperate. Some wells are dry. Still trying to save blueberries; cherries are shot. Trees are not budding properly which means about a quarter crop next year. Livestock people are thankful for hay listing. Farmers need direct assistance, loans won't help after three years of disaster. Debt management problem is critical.

Chippewa -- One inch rain since last conference call (June 13). Area needs feed grain; got about a half crop of hay. Oats and barley haven't gotten out of the ground.

Oceana -- Irrigators are having a hard time keeping up with evaporation. Non-irrigated pickle and carrot crops are doing nothing. Young fruit trees very stressed. Growers are watering 4-5 year old trees. Christmas trees damaged by late freeze don't have the moisture to combat this stress.

Eaton -- Corn rolling bad and firing up in the sandy spots. Little hay growing for second cutting. Navy beans are not in; farmers waiting for some rain. Drought really taking its toll now.

St. Joseph -- Corn is thigh high and rolled tight until nightfall. No idea if rain would help. Soybeans yellow and wilting; stopped growing. Getting 25-30 bales to acre of good quality hay, but yield varies relative to when first cutting was made. Wheat is yielding 40 bu/acre and 59-60 bu/acre in low places. Quantity and quality are better than expected. Forage and feed is really critical.

Bay -- Some measurable rain 3/4" to 1" in north part of county. Seventy to 80% of beans planted. Planting methods are real inventive -- some fields look more like potato fields. Beans are yellow and wilting. Waist high corn is doing best. Some dairy people are cutting oats as green chop.

10-Point Plan Offered

"The key word at this stage is alternatives," Laurie told the FB presidents. "Whether we're talking about feeding livestock, irrigating, debt management, or market commitments, the full gamut of activities will be affected by these weeks of drought."

"That's why we have cooperated with MSU to produce and distribute a special drought information publication, and why we are aggressively supporting legislative responses to the drought situation, both in Lansing and Washington," he said.

Laurie told the county leaders that he would share their comments with the governor, state and Extension officials, and Michigan congressional

representatives at a drought emergency meeting called by the governor July 1 at Frankenmuth.

At that meeting, Laurie read from the comments of county FB presidents and offered the MFB 10-point plan for drought assistance. The plan called for legislation to extend the low interest loans of those farmers who are already in the state qualified agricultural loan program; and help for livestock producers in locating new sources of roughage, such as sugar beet pulp and potato by-products.

On the federal level, suggestions included excusing wheat and feedgrain producers from repayment of advance deficiency payments; including in any drought legislation the consideration of the special factors involved with losses of perennial crops such as apples, cherries, plums, and asparagus; and making sure that minor production losses in one enterprise do not disqualify a producer from being eligible for help in another crop area that experienced a major loss.

FB Insurance Offers Special Premium Plan

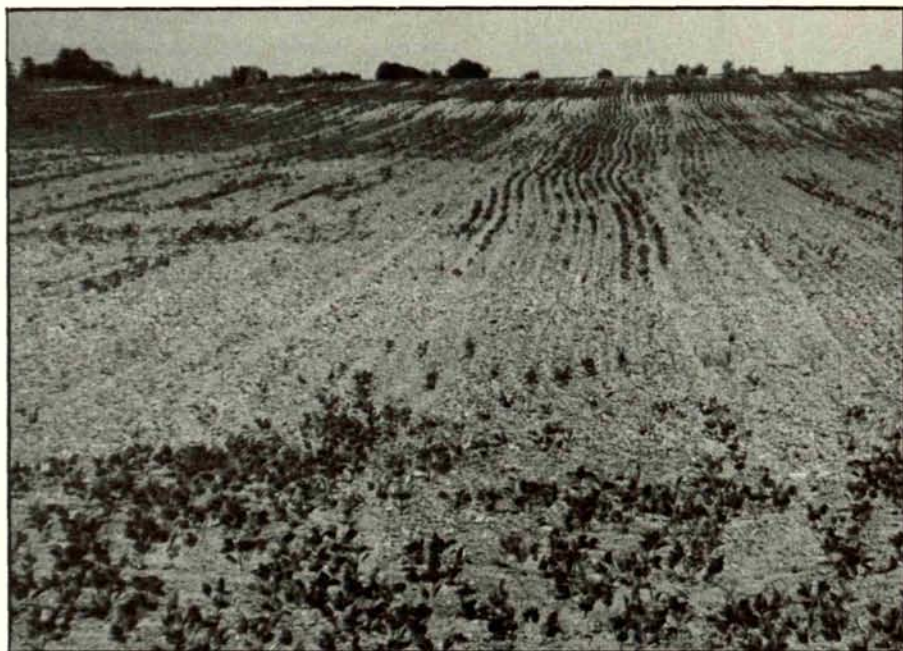
Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, the state's largest farm insurer, introduced an alternative premium plan to help Michigan farmers who are experiencing cash flow difficulties as the result of crop losses caused by the drought conditions.

Under the plan, farmers who have their farms insured through FB Mutual may elect quarterly term payments for their new and renewal Farmowners policy. FB Mutual also announced that requirements for interest-free financing of these premiums will be liberalized.

The alternative premium plan applies to farmers throughout the state and will remain in effect from July 1 - Dec. 31, 1988.

MFB's Ten-Point Plan For Drought Assistance

- Drought is not selective and affects program crops, non-program crops, livestock, and forestry. All drought legislation and/or programs must extend assistance to each commodity in an equitable manner.
- Legislation/programs to provide drought assistance should be carefully written to ensure implementation as intended by the appropriate legislative body. Regulatory agencies designated to implement the legislation/programs should not be given latitude to circumvent the intent of the legislative body.
- Special factors regarding losses of perennial crops must be included in legislation/programs to provide drought assistance. Perennial crops such as apples, cherries, plums, and asparagus are setting buds now for 1989, therefore, the legislation/programs must also recognize 1988 crop losses caused by the inability of perennial crops to produce buds while under this year's drought stress conditions.
- Drought legislation/programs must be computed on the basis of individual crop or enterprise losses rather than total farm losses. Minor production losses in one enterprise should not disqualify a producer from being eligible for assistance in another enterprise experiencing major losses from drought.
- New costs of delivering water from existing water systems to farm enterprises affected by the drought, i.e., deepening wells or installing a pipeline to new water sources, should be eligible for cost-share assistance.
- Assistance in helping livestock producers locate and obtain delivery of new sources of roughage. New sources may include sugar beet pulp, potato by-products, etc.
- Wheat and feed grain producers should be excused from repayment of advance deficiency payments.
- Export bonus programs should continue to be adequately funded to maintain export of agricultural commodities at the highest possible level.
- The state of Michigan should utilize all resources possible to prevent the diversion of Great Lakes water.
- The Michigan Legislature should extend the June 30, 1988 expiration date of the low interest loan program to prevent the interest rate on the outstanding loan from being increased by 4.5% for Tier IV loans and 5.6% for Tier V loans.



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Also Microwave Popcorn (3.4 oz. bag)	\$.39
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**ORDER DEADLINE -- WEDNESDAY,
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Why More New Car

This is the second in a series dedicated to providing helpful information about leasing. Over the next several months, Farm Bureau Leasing Service, will provide in-depth answers to some of the most common questions about leasing. If you have additional questions, or wish to make an appointment for your free analysis, call us at 1-800-544-4819.

PRICE

Monthly payments on a lease can be much lower than monthly payments on a finance purchase. If you financed the Ford Taurus shown above for 48 months, your monthly payment would be \$314.36.* If you leased the same car, your payments would be only \$193.41.** Over 48 months, you could realize a net savings of \$1,555.44.***

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When you lease there is no down payment. You make your

48 Month Finance Purchase



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first payment, leave a fully refundable security deposit, pay license and title charges (usually less than \$100.00) and that's it. Why tie up a big chunk of cash in a down payment when you could use that money for something really important? Like a vacation. Of course you could also invest that money and let it work for you instead of you working for it.

Why use up your valuable cash on something that depreciates as fast as an automobile? If you need money for home improvements, the kids' education, an emergency, or any other good reason, you won't have to worry about having your dollars tied up in your car.

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Everyone likes to drive a new car, but with average new car prices nearing \$14,000.00, most people simply can't afford to buy a new car every few years. If you finance a car and then try to trade it in after a couple of years, you may find you owe more than the car is worth. With leasing, you decide how often you'd like a new car. Lease terms are available from 24 to 60 months, so whether you want the luxury of a new car every two years or the low payments of a 60 month lease, it's up to you.

CONVENIENCE

When you lease, you go to one place for any make or model. You don't have to run from dealer to dealer to compare

FACTS ABOUT LEASING

Buyers Are Leasing

prices. And at the end of the term there is no used car to get rid of. You simply bring the car back or you can buy it at fair market value. Never again will you have to worry about getting a fair trade-in from a fast talking car dealer or go through the hassle of trying to sell the car yourself. After all, if you wanted to be a used car salesman, you'd do it for a living.

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\$193.41 per month**

Farm Bureau Leasing



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With the strength and reputation of Michigan Farm Bureau behind us, Farm Bureau Leasing enjoys the kind of credibility and reputation no one else can match. We intend to carry on the high level of service and quality that the Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies has always stood for.

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* \$11,806 base MSRP x 4% sales tax = \$12,278.24 at 10.5% apr. over 48 months = \$314.36 per month for a total of \$15,089.28.

** Price calculated 2/88 based on '88 model factory order. Manufacturer has ended '88 production. '89 prices unavailable at time of printing. No mileage charge up to 60,000 miles. Additional mileage calculated at .08¢ per mile. Option to purchase after 12 months. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear. 48 month closed end lease to qualified applicants total of payments equal \$9,283.68 plus 4% use tax. \$500 refundable security deposit, license registration and first month rental required at lease signing. Illustration may or may not reflect actual equipment. Prior leases excluded.

*** Difference in cash outlay of \$5,805.60 minus projected residual value of \$4,250.16 equals projected net savings of \$1,366.

FACTS ABOUT LEASING

Friends of Agriculture Announced

By Donna Wilber

Eight farmer members of AgriPac, MFB's political action committee, spent nearly nine hours at FB Center in Lansing on July 11 laboring over endorsement decisions for the August 2 primary election. With recommendations from county FB Candidate Evaluation Committees as the key factor in their decision-making process, the committee designated 92 candidates as "Friends of Agriculture."

"The committee endorsed 48 Republicans and 38 Democrats for U.S. Senate, U.S. and state House seats and six candidates for the Michigan Court of Ap-

peals. AgriPac did not endorse a candidate for the 11th District U.S. House of Representatives. That endorsement will be made after the primary election is held and additional input from county FB Candidate Evaluation Committees is obtained.

AgriPac Chairperson David Conklin of Shiawassee County praised the county committees for their role in evaluating and recommending candidates.

"Their recommendations were vitally important to us. They know the candidates, they know the attitudes of Farm Bureau members in their county toward the candidates, and they know whether the candidates recog-

nize the importance of agriculture in the areas they will represent," Conklin said.

"We stressed to the committees that they must set aside partisan politics and be completely objective in their evaluations and I think they took that charge very seriously. They recognize that AgriPac does not allow its endorsements to be influenced by which political party a candidate is affiliated with," he said.

County Candidate Evaluation Committees interviewed candidates, studied voting records, and gained input from members before making their recommendations to AgriPac. Other criteria used by county committees and



U.S. SENATE		% FB POLICY SUPPORT	DISTRICT	% FB POLICY SUPPORT	
	Donald Riegler (D-Flint)	70%	18	Sidney Ouwinga (R-Marion)	80%
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES					
DISTRICT					
2	Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth)	100%	25	Dennis Dutko (D-Warren)	90%
3	Howard Wolpe (D-Lansing)	50%	26	William Browne (D-Utica)	90%
4	Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph)	100%	27	Vincent Porreca (D-Trenton)	80%
5	Paul Henry (R-Grand Rapids)	80%	36	Gerald Law (R-Plymouth)	100%
6	Bob Carr (D-East Lansing)	60%	37	James Kosteva (D-Canton)	90%
8	Bob Traxler (D-Bay City)	50%	38	Justine Barns (D-Westland)	80%
9	Guy Vander Jagt (R-Luther)	70%	39	Jerry Bartnik (D-Temperance)	100%
10	Bill Schuette (R-Sanford)	80%	40	Timothy Walberg (R-Tipton)	80%
18	William Broomfield (R-Birmingham)	80%	41	Michael Nye (R-Litchfield)	80%
STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES					
5	Teola Hunter (D-Detroit)	70%	46	Randy Mason (R-Kalamazoo)	Non-incumbent
6	Morris Hood (D-Detroit)	60%	47	Paul Wartner (R-Portage)	100%
8	Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-Detroit)	90%	48	Donald Gilmer (R-Augusta)	90%
11	Stanley Stopczynski (D-Detroit)	70%	49	Bill Martin (R-Battle Creek)	80%
12	Curtis Hertel (D-Detroit)	90%	50	Michael Griffin (D-Jackson)	80%
13	William Bryant, Jr. (R-Grosse Pointe Farms)	70%	51	Susan Munsell (R-Fowlerville)	100%
15	Joe Young, Jr. (D-Detroit)	90%	52	Margaret O'Connor (R-Ann Arbor)	80%
17	Raymond Murphy (D-Detroit)	80%	54	Paul Hillegonds (R-Holland)	100%
			55	William VanRegenmorter (R-Jenison)	90%

AgriPac for incumbents included the degree of special efforts to introduce, support or oppose legislation in line with FB policy; communications with farmer constituents; and involvement of farmers in the election campaign.

The listing of AgriPac endorsed "Friends of Agriculture" below indicates the percentage of votes cast by the incumbent candidates in accordance with FB's policy position on key legislative issues.

For the U.S. Senate key votes included the Fiscal Year (FY) 1984 budget bill, 1981 farm bill amendments, vehicle record-keeping requirements, deficit reduction, cargo preference, mandatory production controls, 1985 farm bill, farm disaster aid, Farm Credit Act, and the Trade Reform Act.

Key votes in the U.S. Senate included farm disaster assistance, trade retaliation, FY 1988 budget resolution, textile imports, oc-

cupational disease notification act, FY 1988 budget reconciliation, cargo preference, alternative motor fuels, Farm Credit Act, and Trade Reform Act.

In the Michigan House of Representatives, the key votes considered by AgriPac members included the Michigan agriculture loan program, farm operations liability, farm vehicles movement, youth employment in corn detassling, FY 1988 agriculture budget, grain check-off, agricultural odors, Right to Farm Act, P.A. 116 refunds, and P.A. 116 carry forward and carry back provisions.

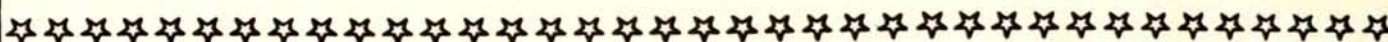
For non-incumbents, criteria included the candidates' positions on agricultural issues and possible solutions, recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economy, and involvement of farm people in the election campaign.

AgriPac was formed as a result of unanimous approval by voting

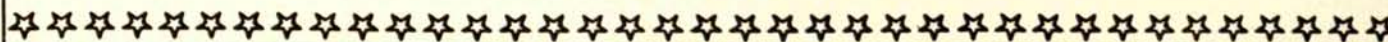
delegates at the 1977 MFB annual meeting to develop a political action program with designated "Friends of Agriculture" receiving active support in the 1978 elections. Up until that time, with the exceptions of 1974 and 1976 when the organization worked to get a farmer on the MSU Board of Trustees, MFB had historically maintained its non-partisan position at election time. It was time, the delegates decided, to beef up agriculture's political muscle.

AgriPac's "success record" since that time averages out to 88% of designated "Friends of Agriculture" winning in the 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, and 1986 general elections.

All FB members are urged to give their full support to the endorsed candidates and help elect these "Friends of Agriculture."



<u>DISTRICT</u>		<u>% FB POLICY SUPPORT</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>		<u>% FB POLICY SUPPORT</u>
56	Frank Fitzgerald (R-Grand Ledge)	100%	97	Debbie Farhat (D-Muskegon)	100%
58	Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)	90%	98	Ed Giese (R-Manistee)	100%
60	Willis Bullard, Jr. (R-Milford)	90%	99	Joanne Emmons (R-Big Rapids)	100%
61	Mat Dunaskiss (R-Lake Orion)	80%	100	Roland Niederstadt (D-Saginaw)	100%
62	Charlie Harrison (D-Pontiac)	80%	101	Tom Hickner (D-Bay City)	100%
64	Maxine Berman (D-Southfield)	90%	102	David Camp (R-Midland)	Non-incumbent
70	Lloyd Weeks (D-Warren)	90%	103	Ralph Ostling (R-Roscommon)	90%
71	Sal Rocca (D-Sterling Heights)	90%	104	Thomas Power (R-Traverse City)	80%
74	John Maynard (D-St. Clair Shores)	100%	105	Thomas Alley (D-West Branch)	90%
75	Ken DeBeaussaert (D-New Baltimore)	100%	106	John Pridnia (R-Harrisville)	90%
76	James Docherty (D-Port Huron)	100%	107	Pat Gagliardi (D-Drummond Island)	100%
77	Dick Allen (R-Caro)	100%	109	Jim Connors (R-Iron Mountain)	80%
78	Keith Muxlow (R-Brown City)	90%	110	Richard Sofio (D-Bessemer)	90%
83	Kay Hart (D-Swartz Creek)	90%			
84	John Strand (R-Lapeer)	100%			
85	James O'Neill (D-Saginaw)	70%			
86	Lewis Dodak (D-Montrose)	80%			
87	Francis Spaniola (D-Corunna)	90%			
88	Robert Bender (R-Middleville)	90%			
89	Gary Randall (R-Elwell)	90%			
90	Victor Krause (R-Rockford)	90%			
91	Walter DeLange (R-Kentwood)	80%			
92	Thomas Mathieu (D-Grand Rapids)	100%			
93	Richard Bandstra (R-Grand Rapids)	80%			
94	Ken Sikkema (R-Grandville)	80%			
95	Alvin Hoekman (R-Holland)	100%			
96	Mickey Knight (R-Muskegon)	90%			
				<u>STATE COURT OF APPEALS</u>	
				<u>DISTRICT</u>	
			1st	Patrick Conlin	
			1st	Maureen Reilly	
			2nd	Richard Knoblock	
			2nd	Richard Kuhn	
			3rd	Richard Griffin	
			3rd	Tom Koernke	



A New Look! An Old Tradition!

Bold! Contemporary!
Dynamic! More than describes the Farm Bureau organization's new graphic symbol. The words describe, too, the Farm Bureau of the future that is progressive, imaginative, and aggressive in serving the many needs of farmers.

That was the message given by MFB President Jack Laurie when he announced that the Family of Companies selected a new logo symbol as its collective membership mark, trademark, and service mark.

"The contemporary lettering FB stands for Farm Bureau and the red leaf symbolizes agriculture and life itself -- the growing process involved in farming. The color red was chosen because it communicates the vitality of the organization," he said.

Laurie chose the annual Summerfest Celebration, July 20 at FB Center, for the new logo presentation. Nearly 1,500 FB members were on hand for an afternoon of food, special events, games, and fellowship when Laurie unveiled an artist's sketch of the new 16 foot brick and aluminum sign that will mark the Lansing address of Farm Bureau Center on Saginaw Highway.

The stylized FB now becomes the official logo symbol of the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliated companies, and will be used on business letters, printed materials, signage, and specialty clothing items. And for the first time in the organization's history



all companies will have a common symbol. The symbol is also being used by the American Farm Bureau Federation and many other state Farm Bureau companies.

In coming months, a line of specially designed FB casual clothing including hats, jackets, knit shirts, and sweaters will be made available to FB members in Michigan.

"The attractiveness of the logo symbol and the logo colors of

black and warm red on a white or light grey background really are good looking in this line of clothing and specialty items which will be available to members in the near future," reported Mike Kovacic, Director of the MFB Information and Public Relations Division, who is coordinating the new logo introduction and use.

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Take Proper Action to Protect Grain, Beans

By Robert Craig, Manager MFB Commodity Activities and Research Department

During the 1980s at least 20 Michigan grain dealers declared bankruptcy or insolvency. The resultant cost to farmers and other grain depositors has been \$4.4 million of net losses. Farmer losses ranged from no payment to payment representing a few cents on the dollar of value. Yet in recent bankruptcy cases, some farmers received full payment through the courts.

You say there ought to be a law...? There is, but it needs some strengthening!

The value of using existing protections set out in legislative changes to the Uniform Commercial Code and the Michigan Grain Dealers Act was clearly the lesson for a group of mid-Michigan farmers seeking settle-

ment from the Westmac Grain Elevator insolvency. In June of this year, farmers who held warehouse receipts from the Clinton County elevator received full payment of their claims. Those who did not have warehouse receipts, or were in possession of scale tickets, received only 21 cents on the dollar, pointing to the need for changes to the existing legislation in order to cover cash sales.

Changes to provide fair and equitable legal protections for farmers had the support and involvement of the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Grain and AgriDealers Association. Provisions in the Uniform Commercial Code make available liens that farmers can take against an elevator in the amount of the commodity delivered. Stipulations in the Michigan Grain Dealers Act require that

producers delivering grain to elevators, and not making a cash sale, must be offered a warehouse storage receipt on a price later agreement.

New Proposals Seek to Extend Protections

Legislation has been introduced in the Michigan Legislature, entitled, Commodity Insurance (H.B. 4997), sponsored by Reps. Spaniola and Randall.

The bill passed the House and is now in the Senate Ag Committee.

The bill amends the Grain Dealers Act to provide for a state insurance fund generated by the collection of 1/10 of a cent per dollar value on specific grains and beans. It also contains provision for a grower referendum.

FB supports the referendum provision.

The fund would be designed to reimburse all farmers for approximately 80% of their losses due to an elevator bankruptcy/insolvency.

If a grain dealer goes broke, payments could be made to producers very quickly, rather than having to wait out the long and often complex bankruptcy proceedings.

FB also supports amending the Michigan Grain Dealers Act to provide protection to producers who have delivered grain and beans to a grain dealer on a forward contract, basis contract, or a cash sale, but have not yet been paid.

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MiFB 788

Red Tart Cherry Industry Responds to National Survey

Michigan's red tart cherry industry, which is the nation's production leader, has suffered a year of low prices and burdensome supplies of cherries relative to demand.

The supply-price equation was worsened by the two years absence of the red tart cherry federal marketing order, an industry-designed, self-help program.

According to a study prepared by the Department of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University, the cost to Michigan growers alone has been over \$40 million during the past 12-14 months.

Growers and Processors Surveyed

Growers and processors are now involved in taking action to restore the market stability provided by the federal marketing order system.

A nationwide survey of over 2,500 growers and processors this past winter resulted in very favorable results in most areas.

A total of 708 responses was received. Distribution of responses was: 66% from Michigan, 11% from New York, 2% from Pennsylvania, 9% from Wisconsin, 7% from Utah, and 5% from Oregon.

The following is a summary of the responses:

Do you favor all cherry states being included in a federal marketing order? 86.8% Yes; 13.2% No

Should the federal marketing order have a provision to provide for market development as needs are identified? 86.2% Yes; 13.8% No

Should this include an emphasis on the export market? 84.4% Yes; 15.6% No

Should a federal marketing order have provisions for promotion? 84.4% Yes; 15.6% No

Should a federal marketing order have a provision for new product development? 81.0% Yes; 19.0% No

Should a provision for research be included in a federal marketing order? 77.8% Yes; 22.2% No

Would you favor regulating the surplus cherries to more closely align supply with demand? 79.2% Yes; 20.8% No

Should the federal marketing order include provisions for a surplus pool even though it is not likely to be used in the near future? 56.8% Yes; 43.2% No

Would you favor the federal marketing order having provisions for an assessment of all growers to finance a one-time tree removal program utilized on a voluntary basis by growers? 38.4% Yes; 61.6% No

Market Allocation Proposal

Based on these results, industry leaders, including the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association and Michigan Farm Bureau staff, held meetings

in Detroit and Chicago during March, 1988. They developed a new "market allocation" concept federal marketing order proposal.

Eight major objectives are a part of this proposal and they are as follows:

- Increase cherry industry income compared to recent very low levels.
- Raise prices by tailoring supplies in primary markets to slow growing (inelastic) demand.
- Encourage demand expansion as much as possible.
- Provide a wide degree of flexibility to processor handlers.
- Provide substantial flexibility to growers while also raising their prices and incomes.
- Have a program which is politically acceptable within the cherry industry, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and to the wider public.
- Be as equitable as possible to various growers and processors recognizing the diversity within the cherry industry.
- Improve the quality of cherries that are marketed.

This month's Agronomic Update was written by Robert G. Craig, Manager, MFB Commodity Activities and Research Department.

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Getting Together

County FBs around the state are getting charged up to achieve the 1987-88 goal of organizing two new Community Action Groups in each FB county. The following counties have reported newly organized CAGs:

- Alcona - Alcona #1
- Arenac - Arenac's Melting Pot, Lady Farmers
- Chippewa - Former Corktown
- Copper Country - Keweenaw AgriBusiness
- Eaton - Eaton #2
- Genesee - Genesee #1, Genesee #2
- Ingham - Swine and Dandies
- Macomb - Local Ladies, Good Growers
- Mason - Meet If We Can
- Monroe - Monroe #1, Young & Restless
- Otsego - Wait Til Next Month
- Presque Isle - Country Folks, Presque Isle #3
- St. Clair - St. Clair #2
- St. Joseph - Prairie River
- Shiawassee - Midnight Farmers
- Tuscola - Tuscola #2

These new CAG members are weekly finalists from May 2 through July 13 who will be eligible for the Paradise Vacation Grand Prize Drawing at Summerfest, July 20:

- Jackson - Joann Baum, Country Lovers
- Cass - Vicki Brossman, Pick of the Litter
- Alpena - DeLynn Timm, Holcomb Creek
- Ottawa - Terry Preston and Mike Gunckel, Bill's Bunch
- Bay - Kathy Wackerle, Bay County Young Farmers
- Presque Isle - Esther Schaefer, Country Folk
- Mecosta - Larry Hatfield, East Side Stoney Hills
- Arenac - Sandra Schwab, Arenac's Melting Pot

Discussion Topic

Zoning For Agriculture

Fresh country air. Open spaces for living and recreation. Traditional rural values. Sound ideal? For living, raising a family, or retiring, Michigan's countryside is viewed as just such a place. This vision of country living prompts city dwellers and residential developers to bid on rural property. Rural areas are also coveted for other uses such as shopping centers, airports, and even state-owned facilities such as prisons.

As a result, farmland continues to be developed at a rapid pace. According to the American Farmland Trust, between 1977 and 1982, 600,000 acres of prime and unique farmland were converted to non-farm uses; an annual loss of 120,000 acres. The organization concluded that "although some conversion is essential for economic progress, too often it is the best land which is pulled or pushed out of production, with little thought to the consequent environmental, economic and social impacts."

Throughout rural America, residential development has led to complaints by non-farm neighbors about the dust, noise, odors, and possible groundwater contamination associated with agricultural activities. These complaints generally revolve around normal and traditional farming practices. While many of the concerns focus on the disposal of livestock manure, complaints have also included the "unpleasant" odor of new mown hay!

Clearly farmers, residential and business developers, and local government have much to gain through proper and appropriate use of the rural land resource. The social and environmental issues facing many local communities today are the result of earlier haphazard and ill-conceived rural, non-farm development, or because little thought was given to the preservation of natural resources such as lakes, streams, forests, and prime or unique farmland. In recent years, concern over the irrevocable loss of these natural resources, led to the use of local zoning as a tool for communities to plan for their future.

Zoning is regulation of the use of land. MFB members support this process through current policy, which states: "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."

With proper local zoning, communities can ensure that productive agricultural lands will not be inappropriately converted to non-farm uses. The majority of the 1,242 townships in the state have some form of zoning ordinances as governed by state law. Also, the vast number of Michigan's 83 counties have some zoning or countywide plans in effect.

Township zoning ordinances are under the scrutiny of the township zoning board consisting of residents appointed by the elected township board. When there is a zoning change request, application for special use permit, or ordinance change proposal, specific procedures must be followed before the request may be granted or denied.

The proposal must be submitted in writing by an individual, group, or by the zoning board. Residents must be given the opportunity to express their opinions at a public hearing. The zoning board must submit their recommendation for approval or denial to the county planning commission, unless the county board of commissioners passed a resolution waiving county right of review. After 30 days, the proposed change, with the

summary of public comments from the hearing, is submitted to the township board regardless of whether the zoning board and county recommend adoption or denial of the proposed amendment. The township board may accept the recommendation, in which case it goes into effect. If the township board rejects the recommendation, it is then sent back to the zoning board for further consideration.

How can FB members become active in the zoning process? One way is to seek election to your township board or seek appointment to your zoning board. Another way is to closely monitor the activities of your local township and offer input into zoning changes that affect agriculture.

Many townships develop long-range master plans. County FBs and Community Action Groups have a vital role to play in offering information and opinions to help shape these plans.

A community development plan, which acknowledges that farm-land conversion will occur, and implements a sound zoning ordinance to direct non-farm development to areas least suited to agricultural production, will help assure the protection of quality farmland for all of our futures.

For further information on various types of zoning, read *Planning and Zoning for Farmland Protection: A Community Based Approach*, by the American Farmland Trust.

Discussion Questions:

- Is 25% or more of the total tax assessed valuation in your community classified as agriculture?
- Have the total number of residential parcels in your community increased significantly in the last five years?
- Is agriculture represented on either your local zoning board, township board or your county planning commission?

Prepared by Becky Jeppesen, manager, Michigan Farm Bureau Community Activities Department

Lansing

(continued from page 5)

to receive the part of their P.A. 116 tax refund previously denied by the Treasury Department.

All legislators voting for this legislation are to be commended for their willingness to correct the serious financial problem created for many farmers.

P.A. 116 Late Penalty Charge: H.B. 4918, introduced by Rep. Niederstadt, permits local governments to exempt P.A. 116 property taxes from a late penalty charge of 3% if the taxes are paid after Feb. 15 and before March 1. This provides more time for the farmer to receive a refund before paying the taxes. It is especially important because of the permitted deferral of summer taxes. It has passed the House, and the Senate is expected to pass the bill in September in time for 1988 taxes.

P.A. 116 and Trusts: The U.S. Treasury Department made several administrative changes creating a problem for farms that have a revocable living trust, and are also enrolled in P.A. 116. The new regulations require these farms to file as a corporation under the Single Business Tax (SBT) provision. FB believes this is unfair. A 1982 Treasury Department memo states that the grantor of a revocable trust should file as an individual. The IRS also takes a similar position for federal tax purposes. The department's sudden change to prohibit this filing status for revocable trusts is expected to extend to partnerships next year.

Truck Bills: The House Transportation Committee considered a package of 17 bills in addition to three Senate bills dealing with commercial truck regulation.

The series of bills is based on proposed federal regulations which would make major changes to the Commercial Truck Act including increased enforcement, additional revenue for enforcement, and added safety regulations.

FB was successful in obtaining several amendments including an exemption from the covered load requirement for farm trucks hauling seasonal products. Amendments to the "Bumper Bill" would enforce the federal regulations when they are finalized.

The bills have been passed on the House floor. Because of summer recess, they will not be considered in the Senate before the fall session.

Low Interest Loans: H.B. 5515 and S. 808 would extend the June 30, 1988, deadline on the state's low interest loan program. The Senate passed S. 808, but it was never considered by the House. Farmers in the low interest loan program will begin paying approximately 4% additional interest because of the expiration of the program.

Pesticide Bill: H.B. 4674 remains in the Senate Agricultural Committee where work on the bill will be continued for committee consideration in the fall. Sen. Smith, R-Addison, is considering language similar to that in the U-Pick and Right-to-Farm laws, which gives legislative assurances that if a farmer followed both the pesticide label directions and generally accepted agricultural and management practices, he would be exempted or protected from liability for alleged groundwater contamination by pesticides.

MDA Budget: H.B. 5452 is the budget bill for fiscal year 1988-89 for the Department of Agriculture. A major concern is the governor's hiring freeze, often referred to as the "three for one Executive Order," and adequate funding for fruit and vegetable inspection and food inspection. The Senate Appropriations Committee restored what appears to be adequate funding for these vital inspection services. FB worked to restore both the staff positions and funding.

Lansing legislative topics are reviewed by the Michigan Farm Bureau Public Affairs Division.

In 1948, Norman Rockwell honored 4-H in an illustration. Today you can honor 4-H with this set of limited collector's plates.

Back in 1948, Norman Rockwell traveled around Jay County, Indiana, with Herald K. Rippey, county agent. The results of his experience became a wonderful painting and a two-page illustration in the Saturday Evening Post. This is the only painting Mr. Rockwell ever made depicting 4-H. Today the original art is hanging in the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Many things may have changed since 1948, but the dedicated tradition of 4-H members remains.

Today MFB Young Farmers and the Michigan 4-H Foundation are cooperating to offer these collector's plates. The first issue, on the left, shows Mr. Rippey examining a livestock entry for the coming county fair while the father of the 4-H member looks on. The second issue, on the right, shows the 4-H members waiting for their entries to be pre-judged. Together, you experience the long tradition of 4-H that has benefited so many young people through the years.

To preserve the color and detail of the original, the creators chose an 8-1/2", fine porcelain plate with a rich border of 23K gold. Great care has been taken in preparing special ceramic trans-



fers to assure the best color balance and detail. These full color transfers are hand applied to the plate and "fired" in a special kiln at very high temperatures, permanently fusing the color to the plate. Each plate will be individually hand numbered on a special backstamp and accompanied by a matching numbered certificate, affirming the plates status as part of this historic limited edition.

"The County Agent" pair of collector's plates were created exclusively for 4-H. They are offered as a set or individually for only \$29.97 each plus shipping and handling. The proceeds of your purchase will help to support the Michigan 4-H dairy program. Add these beautifully crafted collector's plates to your collection or home and help young people continue the tradition of 4-H as they learn by doing.

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