

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



October 15, 1991



Fire Blight Plagues Michigan Fruit Producers

Photo: Courtesy MSU

Michigan fruit growers have been hammered by the worst outbreak of fire blight infection in 25 years. The bacterial disease, which severely damages woody plant parts, blossoms, stems and leaves, has been most virulent in southwest and west Michigan. However, experts said the disease has affected farmers to some extent all across the state.

To address the problem, Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) on Sept. 20 sponsored a meeting with Robert Gast, director of the Agriculture Experiment Station (AES), and his staff. They reviewed AES activities as well as possible options for future fire blight research. Farm Bureau requested assistance on short term cultural practices, control recommendations and emergency funding. Over the long term, help was requested in resistance management, new control product registration, economic models to assist growers in determining the viability of severely infected blocks of trees and economic loss projections to assist in potential emergency funding programs for growers.

"Fire blight commonly affects only Jonathan and Ida Red varieties of apples, but this outbreak has affected every apple variety," said Craig Anderson, assistant manager of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division of MACMA. "Of particular concern to fruit producers is that fire blight has the potential this year to affect other fruit crops, not just apples. It could even impact the nursery industry."

This concern was echoed by Charles Kesner, Northwest district horticulture and marketing agent. He indicated that many other fruit crops in addition to apples are susceptible to bacterial diseases. Research into control measures of bacterial diseases in general would be very beneficial to growers of pears, plums, apricots and sweet cherries, according to Kesner.

The Cooperative Extension Service estimates the disease will cost apple growers in southwest Michigan over \$3.8 million this year. That includes yield loss on

producing trees, future yield and crop loss, a loss of 33,000 trees killed by the disease and additional spray and pruning costs to farmers, according to Mike Thomas, district horticulture and marketing agent. He indicated that farmers are also concerned that fire blight may kill additional trees as it attacks the roots, and that some trees may not make it through the winter.

Eighty percent of fruit growers in the central or "ridge" area of west Michigan have some fire blight damage, with ten percent of the farmers experiencing spots of severe damage, according to Phil Schwallier, District Extension Horticulture and Marketing Agent. He said the disease caused over \$1 million in damage to this year's and next year's apple crop. "If we have a normal cold winter, that will help reduce the overwintering bacteria. Such a winter would go a long way toward reducing the bacteria population for next year and help control the disease," he said. "On the other hand, if we have a mild winter, we could have more damage next year than we had this year."

Industry experts said conditions were nearly perfect for a severe outbreak of fire blight this year. Fog and rain, combined with temperatures in the mid-80s, were ideal for bacterial growth and infection late in the bloom period on apples. An extended bloom period, possibly associated with an early freeze that weakened flower buds, ex-



Adverse weather provided ideal conditions for a severe fire blight outbreak this past season.

tended the period that trees were vulnerable to infection.

Streptomycin is the treatment of choice for fire blight, according to Alan L. Jones, a Cooperative Extension Service and Botany & Plant Pathology Department fruit disease expert. However, because streptomycin-

resistant fire blight strains have been found in some orchards, the fruit industry was granted a temporary emergency exemption by the Environmental Protection Agency to use Mycoshield Agricultural Teramycin in 1991.

See "Fireblight" cont. on page 12

Wetlands Manual Revisions – Agricultural Support Critical

Strong opposition against wetland delineation manual revisions, as announced by Pres. Bush is being organized by the government agencies responsible for regulating wetlands and by environmental groups, according to MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy.

Large volumes of mail have been arriving in Washington, D.C., opposing the wetland manual revisions, and Almy says the final outcome will be won or lost based on public response to the proposed manual.

"Without a strong showing of support for the revisions to the manual, they will be withdrawn," said Almy. "Such a withdrawal will likely mean that thousands of acres of farmland once again will be identified as wetlands subject to federal regulations."

The revisions, if successful, are seen as a major step forward in protecting further erosion of private property rights and establishes wetlands identification guidelines that all enforcing agencies would be required to follow. The proposed manual revisions include the following:

To be a wetland, the area must have standing water for 15 consecutive days or the soil surface must be saturated for 21 consecutive days during the growing season (see definition of growing season below).

Three specific wetland criteria must all be present. The criteria are (1) hydric soils, (2) vegetation that grows in water-saturated soil, and (3) the presence of water.

Hydric soils must be identified by field visits of agency personnel rather than office interpretation of soil maps.

The presence of water stained leaves, trunks and stems will no longer be used to determine if an area is a wetland.

Growing season is the period 3 weeks before the last killing frost in the spring until 3 weeks after the first killing frost in the fall. Local weather records will determine these dates.

Manmade wetlands such as irrigation ponds and livestock ponds will not be considered wetlands.

A system to classify wetlands based on their function, value, and scarcity or abundance will be developed.

According to Almy, Farm Bureau is encouraging support of the proposed definition of a wetland, which includes the requirement of standing water for 15 consecu-

tive days or saturation at the surface for 21 consecutive days during the growing season.

Farm Bureau is also supporting the requirement that hydric soils, water loving plants and water must all be present for an area to be a wetland, as well as the requirement of agency personnel visits instead of relying on soil maps for determinations.

One major area of contention, according to Almy, is the definition of a growing season. "The growing season should be limited to the frost-free period for each county determined by local weather records," he said.

Where to Write

At press time, American Farm Bureau received word that the comment period has been extended beyond the original Oct. 15 deadline.

There's still time to direct your comments regarding wetlands delineation manual revisions to:

**Mr. Gregory Peck
Wetlands and Aquatic
Resources Regulatory
Branch
Mail Code (A-104F)
EPA
401 M. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460**

A Publication of Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30960, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909

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

2



Meaningful Insurance Reform — It Needs More Than a Band-aid Approach

It is important that the Michigan Legislature take prompt action to reform Michigan's No-Fault Automobile Insurance Law. As an important first step, the Essential Insurance sunset provisions must be repealed. If these provisions are allowed to expire on December 31, 1991, it will re-enact territory restrictions, causing rural and suburban drivers insurance costs to increase and will subsidize urban drivers. Imposing territorial rating constraints, regardless of shape or form, does not in any way deal with the problems which are causing automobile insurance costs to rise. And, it will not produce overall cost savings for Michigan insurance consumers.

Michigan Farm Bureau continues to support reforms which will reduce the cost of automobile insurance, and we stand firmly opposed to rate subsidies and premium rollbacks. Farm Bureau believes insurance consumers will benefit most from a free and open market place, where insurer competition controls prices. Premium rollbacks are an ineffective, temporary "band-aid" approach to the problem.

Michigan Farm Bureau is interested in improving the no-fault system and controlling insurance costs. We've actively participated in the legislative efforts to reform no-fault and have closely examined proposals from all interested parties. Many of these proposals only mask the problem, while we believe our Michigan Farm Bureau policy gets to the source of the real cost issue.

Under Michigan's Automobile No-Fault Law, insurance companies pay high medical and wage loss expenses, regardless of who caused the accident, in exchange for limiting the right to sue. The objective of the system is to eliminate the delays and costs of lawsuits, make more prompt claim payment and return a larger percentage of premium dollars to injured persons. The law which restricts lawsuits has been greatly diluted, causing insurance companies to not only pay high medical benefits, but also continue to deal with lawsuits.

We believe the following improvements to the no-fault law need to be adopted:

- 1) Allow drivers to select medical coverage limits they need and can afford. Under the present no-fault law, all drivers are required to carry unlimited medical coverage on each insured vehicle. This mandated coverage has proven to be very costly and is not always needed. Many drivers have other health care protection which supplements their auto medical protection. Other drivers simply cannot afford this unlimited protection. There is evidence that these drivers are, in many cases, driving without any insurance coverage.
- 2) Reverse the DiFranco court decision to allow a judge, not a jury, to determine whether a case is serious enough to require a lawsuit.
- 3) Adopt a modified comparative negligence law, which disallows a lawsuit when the plaintiff is 50 percent or more at fault.
- 4) Adopt cost containment measures which would control medical expenses. Today auto insurers pay more for the same medical service than is paid by Medicare, Medicaid and health insurers.

If allowed to operate properly, Michigan's no-fault system can continue to provide Michigan consumers with extensive benefits at reasonable cost. But the Legislature must enact these critically important reforms, and it must enact them soon.

Jack Laurie
Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

Doug Ewald Appointed to Public Affairs Division

Doug Ewald, regional representative for the Southwest Region for the past five years, has been selected for the position of Legislative Research Communications Specialist in the Public Affairs Division, effective Oct. 14.

Doug will be responsible for research on legislative issues, reports on legislative developments, assisting with the legal defense fund, and maintain voting records of public officials for use by AgriPAC and county Farm Bureau Candidate Evaluation Committees.



U.P. Potato Show - Oct. 30

Potatoes, potatoes, potatoes...that's what the 62nd annual U.P. Potato Show is all about. On Oct. 30, U.P. potato growers will gather in Escanaba at the Ruth Butler Building located on the U.P. State Fairgrounds for the one-day event.

The show gets underway at 1:00 p.m. with potato and machinery exhibits as well as commercial displays of products and services. The U.P. Potato Growers Association and the Michigan Potato Commission will be holding meetings also, according to Delta County CES Agent Warren Schauer. The event concludes with a banquet that evening at 6:15. For more information, contact your local county CES office or the Delta County CES office at (906) 786-3032.

In Brief...

USDA Announces a 5 Percent ARP

Corn farmers will be required to idle 5 percent of their acres in 1992 to qualify for government farm program payments, down from 7.5 percent for this year's crop and the lowest level in a decade, according to the USDA.

A 5 percent acreage reduction program (ARP) was announced for corn, grain sorghum and barley. The oats acreage reduction program was set a zero percent as required by the 1990 farm law for 1991-95. USDA did not announce loan rates for 1992 crop feed grains at this time.

The announcement follows weeks of industry debate over the appropriate size of the 1992 set-aside program. The National Corn Growers Association had called for a 7.5 percent set-aside, but major grain firms, fearing inadequate export supplies, urged a zero percent set-aside. In announcing the set-aside, USDA Secretary Edward Madigan emphasized that the department could later revise the program if conditions warrant. USDA has until Nov. 15 to announce any changes.

"World and U.S. 1991 - 92 ending stocks of feed grains are historically low, which makes the initial ARP announcement subject to adjustment, particularly in light of uncertainties around the world," Madigan said.

September Farm Prices Same as a Year Ago

The index of prices received by U.S. farmers for their products in September was up .07 percent from the August level, but unchanged from last year, according to Knight Ridder News. Higher prices in September for oranges, wheat, milk and apples were partially offset by decreases in hog, cattle, and grapefruit prices, USDA said in its monthly Agricultural Prices report.

Prices for all meat animals, except sheep, declined from a month earlier, with hog prices showing the largest decline. Feed and food grain prices all increased, while oilseed prices were mixed.

Sheep Producers Approve Continuation of Checkoff

All 48 contiguous states have passed the 1991 sheep industry referendum by both total producer votes and sheep numbers, according to USDA's release of the results, providing continuation of the checkoff program through 1997.

Of voting producers, 70.4 percent owning 74.6 percent of sheep in the U.S. voted yes in the referendum conducted Aug. 19-30. In Michigan, 371 producers, representing approximately 72 percent of the growers and 67.5 percent of total sheep production, voted yes in the referendum. A total of 142 Michigan producers voted against the measure.

In approving the referendum, sheep producers will continue deductions from their wool incentive payments to support national promotions for lamb and wool. The deductions, currently at 6 cents per pound of wool, could be increased to 7 cents per pound for the 1991 marketing year if producer leaders and USDA secretary decide the increase is warranted. During the life of the program, increases cannot exceed one cent per year or ever total more than 11 cents per pound of wool.

During 1990, the American Sheep Industry Association spent approximately \$6.4 million on promotional and educational programs and has budgeted \$6.9 million for its 1991 program. The promotions include advertising, merchandising and education, with a majority of lamb promotions conducted in high lamb-consuming areas.

AgriPac Endorses Gernaat for House Seat

AgriPAC, the political action arm of the Michigan Farm Bureau, has endorsed John Gernaat of McBain to fill the 18th District seat of recently-deceased Rep. Sidney Ouwinga. According to Faye Adam of Snover, who chairs the nine-member bi-partisan committee, AgriPAC's endorsement of Gernaat was based upon the recommendations of the county Farm Bureau Candidate Evaluation Committees in the 18th District, his position on key agricultural issues, and his strong agriculture background.

Gernaat is a lifetime dairy, beef and cash crop farmer, with 15 years experience in agricultural farm machinery sales, 10 years as a bank loan officer and director, and was on the Michigan Bankers Agriculture Committee for five years. He served as treasurer of Ouwinga's campaign committee and also was a member of Congressman Dave Camp's and former Congressman Bill Schuette's agriculture committees.

Adam said that all Farm Bureau members in the 18th District will be urged to give their full support to Gernaat's campaign. Other members of AgriPAC are David Allabaugh, Calhoun County; Ed Cagney, Kalamazoo County; Bruce Carey, Mecosta; Tom Guthrie, Barry; Sally Knopf, Presque Isle; John Kronmeyer, Chippewa; William Miller, Ottawa; and Jim Sayre, Wayne. Ex officio members (without votes) are MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy, who serves as secretary, and MFB Administrative Director Charles Burkett, who serves as treasurer.

Michigan Farm News is Published 20 times annually. By the Michigan Farm Bureau Information and Public Relations Division. Publication and editorial offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48917, Post Office Box 30960 (zip 48909); phone 1-517-323-7000.

Michigan Farm News is provided as a service to regular members as part of their annual dues. Publication No. 345040. Established Jan. 13, 1923, as Michigan Farm News, reestablished October 15, 1990. Third-class postage paid at Lansing, Michigan and at additional mailing offices.

Editorial: Dennis Rudat, Editor and Business 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, Tom Guthrie, Delton; District 5, Mark Smuts, Charlotte; District 6, Wayne Wood, Marlette; District 7, Larry Snider, Hart; District 8, Richard Leach, Saginaw; District 9, Joshua Wunsch, Traverse City; District 10, Margaret Kartes, West Branch; District 11, Robert Wahmhoff, Baraga. At-Large: Douglas Darling, Maybee; Jack Laurie, Cass City; Faye Adam, Snover; Jan Vosburg, Climax. Promotion and Education, Holly Porter, Manchester. Young Farmers, Steven Gonyea, Spruce.



Saginaw Bay National Watershed Initiative Pilot Program

Status: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have announced a National Watershed Protection Initiative Program, modeled after the National Estuary Program, has been approved for the Saginaw Bay Watershed.

The Saginaw project provides for the formation of a management conference composed of representatives from industry, agriculture, government, academia and other resources of the 22 county area within the Saginaw Bay watershed. Subcommittees will deal with various technical aspects of developing implementation strategies and public educational activities to heighten awareness of environmental issues in the region.

Congressman Bob Traxler (D-Bay City) chairs the appropriations subcommittee that allocated funding for this project, which was requested earlier this year by Gov. John Engler to protect and restore the Saginaw Bay.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau is working to ensure adequate agricultural representation on the management conference as well as the subcommittees in developing implementation strategies for the watershed project.

Farm Bureau Contact: Vicki Pontz, Extension 2046

Local Wetlands Ordinances

Status: Senator Paul Wartner (R-Portage) is sponsoring legislation designed to prohibit local units of government from enacting or enforcing any ordinance relating to the development or use of wetlands. The bill recognizes the need for uniformity and certainty in the regulation of wetlands, and a need to ensure that wetlands regulations don't unreasonably restrict private property rights.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau policy supports uniform statewide standards for wetlands determination and regulation.

Farm Bureau Contact: Vicki Pontz, Extension 2046

MIOSHA

Status: Senate Bill 459, now P.A. 105 cleared both the House and the Senate and was signed by Governor Engler. Michigan will retain its MIOSHA program and enforcement of federal regulations. In addition, future state regulations can't exceed federal regulations unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Approval will be needed by either the director of the department of labor and/or health, and at least one of three MIOSHA commissions.

Unfortunately, agricultural field sanitation standards are stricter than those faced in other industries, and applies to employers with one or more employees. However, the language makes the standards easier to comply with including a requirement that all employers must provide, at no cost, water at a location that is available to all employees and that a toilet and handwashing facility is either provided or available.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau is generally supportive of the measure with the exception of the stricter field sanitation standards. Maintaining MIOSHA will allow employers to work with Michigan regulators and enforcement personnel.

Farm Bureau Contact: Howard Kelly, Extension 2044

P.A. 116 Funding

Status: Legislation providing funding for the administration of Public Act 116, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, has cleared both houses and is awaiting the governor's signature. The bill was required to amend P.A. 116 to allow the accumulated funds to be used for the administration of the program. Originally, the fund was to be used to finance the purchase of unique or critical land areas which should be preserved in their natural state by the state land agency.

Two important elements in the bill include a floor of \$2 million. If the fund is drawn down to a level of \$2 million, then the cost would be paid through the general fund. Additionally, the annual withdrawal or the amount used to administer the program shall not exceed \$600,000 in any fiscal year. Additional program expenses over \$600,000 will come from the general fund.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supported the bill with the amendments to protect both the administration of the program and the depletion of the fund. Farm Bureau's position was also based on the extremely tight budget and the need to reduce reliance on the general fund for a variety of programs.

Farm Bureau Contact: Ron Nelson, Extension 2043

Agricultural Budget

Status: Senate Bill 212, sponsored by Sen. George McManus, provides funding for the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Following a very lengthy budget session and a last minute decision, the Legislature approved the budget for the Department of Agriculture and other departments of state. The \$28.3 million budget is down from previous years and is a compromise between House, Senate and the governor's recommendations. The bill is on the the Governor's desk and may be subject to select line item veto.

Because of reduced revenues, coupled with expanding costs of financing existing programs, the budget decisions were an agonizing process. The total budget is approximately \$200 million over current projected revenues and will be adjusted through line item vetoes from the governor who has two weeks to sign the budget after the bills are presented to him.

Farm Bureau Position: Support.

Farm Bureau Contact: Ron Nelson, Extension 2043

General Budget Comments: The \$7.7 billion budget, which was approved by the Legislature three days before the start of the 1991-92 fiscal year, exceeds revenue by an estimated \$200 million. In addition, there are program areas which may need an additional amount of funding bringing the total in a range of \$250 million. The \$7.7 billion budget apparently will have to be reduced to take care of the overspending and the need for the additional supplementals.

During this year, revenue projections have generally been higher than revenue received. Unless there is strength in the economy, it is possible that additional executive order cuts may be required in the current budget year. Some financial analysts have predicted a difficult economy for the next two to three years.

The impact on the budget will be felt directly in the possible delay in property tax reform, reduced spending for programs such as law enforcement, downsizing of corrections, grants to agricultural programs and impact on those in need without jobs.

From MFB's Public Affairs Division, (517) 323-7000

Irish Professionals Studying U.S. Agri-Business Via MSU

A delegation of 16 professionals in education and the agricultural industry in Ireland are participating in a 10-week work-study tour of the Midwest.

The project, the Ireland-United States Agribusiness Enterprise Development Programme, is co-sponsored by the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education (AEE) at Michigan State University.

Other co-sponsors include Teagasc (the Irish equivalent of the U.S. Cooperative Extension Service), the Agricultural and Food Development Authority of the Republic of Ireland, and the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.

The observation and sometimes "hands-on" program will run through the end of November. The participants have been in the United States since Sept. 21.

The students are adult professionals who work in some aspect of food marketing or processing, rural economic development or agricultural education in Ireland, explains Frank Brewer, AEE project coordinator.

Each of the participants will split his/her time between MSU and private industry to learn more about the technology or marketing practices associated with his/her particular interest in U.S. agribusiness.

One of the participants, Patrick McGinn with the Macra na feirme, an organization similar to Farm

Bureau, will be spending two weeks at Michigan Farm Bureau learning more about the Young Farmer program's activities, structure, and objectives, as well as developing an overall understanding of the organization.

Dennis Quigley, assistant manager of Dooley's Agricultural Merchants, will work with the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative in Lansing and Select Sires in Columbus, Ohio.

He will also spend a week with the Clinton County Cooperative Extension Service, talking with farmers and participating in Extension education activities.

Sonia Dickson, a food technologist with the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, will focus her visit to the U.S. on food quality standards at the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Milk Producers' Association at Novi and Michigan Dairies at Livonia.

Other professionals will be studying and working with businesses in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Zeeland, Bay City, and Frankenmuth, and in Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Arkansas and Indiana, or with scientists and educators at MSU.

Brewer says the aim of the project is to introduce the participants to technology that may not be available in Ireland and to augment what is hoped will be a national development plan for all of Ireland.



MACMA General Manager Randy Harmson, at left, and Seamus Bergin of Ireland share thoughts during a reception at the Michigan Farm Bureau Center. Bergin, who works in rural development for the Northwestern Cattle Breeding Society, will be studying electronic marketing and computer applications. In addition, he'll spend two weeks at MACMA with managers of the Feeder Pig, Asparagus, Apple, Plum, and Onion Divisions, as well as three days on the road with MACMA Area Representative Jerry Campbell.

4

**Michigan and Major Commodity Area
Extended Weather Outlook**

T - Temp.	10/15... 10/31	10/15... 12/31
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	B.....N	A.....N
W. Corn Belt	B.....N	N.....N
E. Corn Belt	B.....N	N.....N
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....B	B.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	N.....N	N.....N
Pac. NW Wheat	A.....B	N.....N
Delta	N.....N	N.....A
Southeast	N.....N	A.....N
West Texas	N.....N	B.....A
San Joaquin	N.....N	A.....N

A-Above Average, B-Below Average, N-Normal, MA-Much Above, MB-Much Below, NP-No Precip. Source: National Weather Office

For 9/1/91 to 9/30/91	Temperature		Accum. Grow. Degree Days*	Dev. From Norm. GDD*	Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal			Actual (inch.)	Dev. From Norm. (inch.)
Alpena	56.5	-0.7	2048	+371	3.70	-0.49
Bad Axe	58.3	-2.7	2622	+289	1.07	-1.60
Escanaba	57.4	+0.5	2072	+570	5.21	+2.14
Grand Rapids	60.6	-1.3	3054	+441	2.93	-0.31
Imlay City	60.0	-3.6	2809	+235	0.87	-1.94
Lansing	59.2	-2.3	2915	+387	1.05	-1.49
Ludington	59.1	-1.1	2606	+409	3.53	+0.28
Marquette	53.5	0.0	2048	+371	3.70	-0.49
Sault Ste. Marie	54.6	-0.1	2026	+524	6.46	+2.56
Standish	56.8	-2.3	2466	+133	1.18	-1.81
Tipton	59.6	-4.0	2883	+309	1.88	-0.93
Traverse City	59.3	0.0	2780	+821	3.74	+0.14
Watervliet	60.7	-2.6	2967	+354	3.33	-0.36

* Growing Degree Days are based on B.E. Base 50F method and are accumulated from April 1 through September 30, 1991.

90 and 30-Day Forecasts

Michigan accelerated drydown of most summer crops and allowed a record pace of harvest through month's end. The dryness did slow planting of winter wheat, however, due to hard soils and the absence of sufficient topsoil moisture for germination.

The latest Climate Analysis Center long range outlooks continue to forecast changeable weather for Michigan during the next 30 days. The below normal temperatures of late September are expected to continue for much of October statewide. Precipitation is expected to continue for much of October statewide. Precipitation is expected to be near normal, ranging from less than 2.5 inches in the eastern Lower and western Upper Peninsulas to just over 3 inches in the western Lower and eastern Upper Peninsulas. Combined with cooler than normal temperatures, a significant portion of that precipitation could be in the form of snow in northern sections.

On the longer term, the 90-day outlook calls for somewhat of a reversal during the late fall, with temperatures for the period expected to be near to above normal. Precipitation is forecast to continue near normal.

Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

Weather

Weather in Michigan during September could best be described as highly variable. The month began with above normal temperatures and high humidities which persisted through the 16th. A major change in the jet stream brought much cooler Canadian air into the state for much of the second half of the month, bringing average mean temperatures to normal to below normal values for the first time in many months. The outbreak of cooler air also brought most interior sections of the Lower Peninsula the first freezing temperatures of the fall season, generally from 1 to 3 weeks earlier than the normal dates of first freeze.

Following the lead of temperature, precipitation was also highly variable, ranging from over 150 percent of normal in the Upper Peninsula to less than half of normal in the central and southern Lower Peninsula. The below normal temperatures late in the month caused some of the precipitation to fall as light snow or flurries in the Upper and northern Lower Peninsulas, although amounts were generally negligible. Persistent dry weather in southern

FREE RX CATALOG

SAVE UP TO 50%

Michigan Farm Bureau's Mail Service Pharmacy Program

Offered by Feld Prescription Service 5023 Grover St. Omaha Nebraska 68106

Most Commonly Prescribed Prescription Medications

Call 1-800-228-3353 if you don't see yours.

Product Name	Strength	Quantity	Brand	Feld Price	Generic	Product Name	Strength	Quantity	Brand	Feld Price	Generic
Calan Tabs	80 mg	100's		36.75	12.95	Micro-K Extencaps	8 mEq	100's		12.50	
	120 mg	100's		49.50	15.95		10 mEq	100's		13.50	7.95
Clinoril Tabs	150 mg	100's		73.50	49.95	Motrin Tabs	400 mg	100's		15.50	7.95
	200 mg	100's		89.25	59.95		600 mg	100's		20.25	10.95
Coumadin Tabs	2 mg	100's		39.95			800 mg	100's		24.75	15.95
	2.5 mg	100's		41.25		Ortho-Novum Tabs	1-35	21 or 28		19.50	8.95
	5 mg	100's		41.75			1-50	21 or 28		19.50	8.95
	7.5 mg	100's		63.75		Persantine Tabs	25 mg	100's		25.95	5.95
	10 mg	100's		65.75			50 mg	100's		39.25	7.95
E.E.S. Tabs	400 mg	100's		19.95	15.25		75 mg	100's		51.95	9.95
Entex LA Tabs		100's		49.95	12.95	Premarin Tabs	0.3 mg	100's		20.25	10.95
Eryc Caps	250 mg	100's		28.50	16.95		0.625mg	100's		26.95	13.95
Flexeril Tabs	10 mg	100's		74.25	50.95		1.25 mg	100's		35.75	15.95
Inderal Tabs	10 mg	100's		20.75	5.95		2.5 mg	100's		61.95	29.95
	20 mg	100's		28.25	6.95	Proventil Tabs	2 mg	100's		30.75	10.95
	40 mg	100's		35.95	7.95		4 mg	100's		43.25	15.95
	60 mg	100's		47.75	9.95	Provera Tabs	10 mg	100's		46.75	16.95
	80 mg	100's		53.75	10.95	Slow-K Tabs		100's		16.75	8.95
Isoptin Tabs	80 mg	100's		37.25	12.95	Synthroid Tabs	0.025 mg	100's		13.25	6.95
	120 mg	100's		48.75	15.95		0.05 mg	100's		14.50	7.95
Lanoxin Tabs	0.125mg	100's		9.75	2.95		0.1 mg	100's		16.25	3.95
	0.25mg	100's		9.75	2.95		0.15 mg	100's		18.95	4.95
Lasix Tabs	20 mg	100's		13.75	5.95		0.2 mg	100's		21.75	5.50
	40 mg	100's		17.75	6.95		0.3 mg	100's		28.50	5.95
	80 mg	100's		28.50	11.95	Tegretol Tabs	200 mg	100's		29.95	13.95
Maxzide Tabs		100's		55.95	10.95	Theo-Dur SA Tabs	100 mg	100's		14.50	8.95
							200 mg	100's		19.25	10.95

All your non-prescription vitamin and pain relief products are also available at a savings!

Michigan Farm Bureau FREE BIC PEN

Return this coupon with any order and receive a Free Bic Pen compliments of Feld Prescription Service. Call 1-800-228-3353 for instructions on how to order. Offer expires June 30, 1992.

Michigan Farm Bureau FREE CATALOG

Simply call Feld at 1-800-228-3353 and receive your catalog detailing savings on over 5000 health care items. Included will be a \$3 coupon good on your first prescription order.

CROP PROGRESS REPORT
Week Ending 10/6/91

	This Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Corn Silage Harvested	90%	55%	65%
Drybeans Harvested	95%	80%	40%
Hay Third Cut	90%	85%	75%
Soys Harvested	30%	5%	10%
Sugar Beets Harv.	15%	10	5%
Corn Harvested	20%	4%	5%
Wheat Planted	65%	55%	45%

- Michigan Crop Condition -
Percent of Acreage

	Good/		
	Excellent	Fair	Poor
Corn	25%	70%	5%
Soybeans	30%	65%	5%
Dry Beans	45%	50%	5%
All Hay	25%	70%	5%

Source: Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service

WATERSTOVES

The safest, most efficient wood heat system on the market, the TAYLOR waterstove sits outside and heats your home and 100% of household hot water.

- UL listed
- Thermostatic control
- 12 to 24 hour burn time



TAYLOR MANUFACTURING, INC.
PO Box 518, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
Call 1-800-545-2293 for more details.

Lower Set-Aside Means Higher Incomes Under New ARP

5

Editors Note: This article was written by David Miller, director of the AFBF Feed Grains, Soybeans and Wheat Department.

The 1990 farm act changed the calculation formula of set-aside acres from a percentage of planted acres to a percentage of the crop acreage base. This subtle change produces surprising impacts. Consider a 20 percent APR on a farm with 100 base acres under the old rules and the new rules.

Under the old method of calculating set-aside requirements (prior to 1991), allowable planted acres were calculated by multiplying the base acres times a set-aside factor (one divided by one plus the ARP percentage). Using that pre-1991 formula, a farm with 100 base acres and a 20 percent ARP would actually have 83.33 planted acres (1 divided by 1.20 = .8333 x 100 = 83.33 acres). The set-aside acres were calculated by multiplying the planted acres by the ARP percentage (83.33 acres x 20 percent), which equals 16.67 acres of set-aside requirement.

The new rules do away with the set-aside factor and simply calculate set-aside acres by multiplying the ARP percentage times the crop acreage base. Thus, today, a 20 percent ARP applied to a farm with 100 base acres requires 20 acres of set-aside (100 x .20 = 20 acres), and only the remaining 80 acres can be planted.

The bottom line is, today, the same ARP percentage results in more land out of production when compared to calculation methods used before 1991.

A second factor creating the new economics of set-aside acres is "flex acres." This farm program provision, which removes 15 percent of your crop acreage base from deficiency payment eligibility, multiplies the effect of increases or

decreases in ARP percentages on net farm profits.

It does so by changing pay acres (those acres eligible for deficiency payments) by a higher percentage than the stated change in the ARP percentage.

For example on 100 base acres, an ARP of 5 percent results in 80 pay acres (100 base acres - 5 ACR acres - 15 flex acres). If the ARP is increased to 15 percent, the "pay acres" drop to 70 acres (100 base acres - 15 ACR - 15 flex acres).

The principle of today's set-aside analysis is that a farmer's financial bottom line is bigger when the ARP is lower. This is illustrated by comparing the effects on net farm income for 100 base acres under 5 percent, 10 percent and 20 percent ARPs.

With a 5 percent ARP, net farm profit (income over direct costs) is \$18,225 per 100 base acres. As the ARP percentage increases to 10 percent, the net profit drops to \$17,473, a decline of \$7.52 per acre. An

ARP of 20 percent causes projected net profit to drop to \$15,923 per 100 acres, a decline of nearly \$23.03 per acre compared to the 5 percent ARP situation.

The profit declines result because as ARP increases, revenue generated from crop sales and deficiency payments drop faster than crop expenses.

For a farm with 500 base acres of corn, USDA's setting the ARP at 5 percent would mean \$3,760 more profit than if the ARP is set at 10 percent.

Similar results are seen when analyzing grain sorghum, barley and wheat programs. On a national basis, the impacts are quite impressive. A 10 percent decline in the wheat ARP means nearly \$650 million more net farm profit for wheat farmers.

The choice of a 5 percent ARP for feed grains, rather than a 7.5 percent ARP, should result in nearly \$300 million more net farm profit for feedgrain producers nationwide.

Impact of ARP percentage on net farm income of 100 base-acre CORN FARM

	5% ARP	10% ARP	20% ARP
Planted acreage	95	90	80
Production bushels	11,400	10,800	9,600
Crop price \$/bushel	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.45	\$ 2.65
Crop revenue \$	\$26,790	\$26,460	\$25,440
ASCS pay acres	80	75	65
Target price	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75
Deficiency payment rate	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.10
Deficiency payment	\$ 3,360	\$ 2,363	\$ 683
Total income	\$30,150	\$28,823	\$26,123
Total expenses	\$11,925	\$11,350	\$10,200
Net income/100 acres	\$18,225	\$17,473	\$15,923

Vosburgs Recognized - "Good Earth Families"

Jan and Nellie Lou Vosburg of Kalamazoo County have been recognized by the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation as one of the top 10 "Good Earth Families" in national competition with the other 50 state winners.

The Good Earth Families are recognized for their innovative and effective ways of protecting the environment while producing safe food and fibre, according to Emmett Barker, chairman of the endowment.

"All of the farmers and ranchers who won statewide awards are excellent operators," said Barker. "The national finalists are those who our panel of judges felt had a special knack for making good stewardship good business."

The Vosburgs farm 1500 acres near Climax, Mich., in a family farm operation, with nearly 400 acres under irrigation. In addition to raising corn, seed corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa, the Vosburgs also market 1,000 head of finished beef and another 4,500 fat hogs from their farrow-to-finish operation.

Considered innovators of no-till in Kalamazoo County, the Vosburgs were the first to try no-tilling alfalfa in 1986. They followed that successful project up by being the first to use zone-till in commercial seed corn production in 1989, after having converted the entire planting operation over to no-till the previous year.

"The no-till concept increases water infiltration rates, helps immensely in stopping erosion, and utilizes a higher percentage of available water and it improves overall soil structure," said Jan. They currently use row-zone tillage with the no-till planter for corn and a no-till drill for soybeans and wheat, which is drilled into soybean stubble immediately after harvest.

Crop rotation plays an important role on the operation as well, with 2 years of corn, followed by a year of soybeans, and then wheat on dryland, according to Jan. "This rotation gives us better weed and insect control and higher yields," he said.

Currently, the Vosburgs are working with Pioneer Seed Corn testing various rates of nitrogen application, and subsequent impact to yields. Soil testing is done every other year, and manure is tested for nutrient analysis as well.

Manure management programs and application procedures, as well as irrigation scheduling, were also cited by contest judges as critical conservation techniques implemented by the Vosburg farm.

All manure is knifed in to reduce odor and control nitrogen loss and run-off. Irrigation scheduling helps control nutrient leaching and yet provides adequate amounts of water.



Jan Vosburg, a member of the MFB Board of Directors and his wife Nellie Lou of Climax, were among 10 national finalists selected from a field of 50 state winners in the Good Earth Family Awards Program. They were honored in Washington, D.C., Oct. 1. Pictured on the steps of the U.S. Capitol are (left to right): Gary Tessitore, executive vice president, Case IH, sponsors of the program; Jan and Nellie Lou Vosburg; and Emmett Barker, chairman of the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation that formed the Good Earth Council in 1990.

GOLDEN 90'S Expositions

SHERIDAN COMMUNITY CENTER
12111 Pardee
Taylor, Michigan
OCTOBER 18, 19 & 20
Friday - 4 to 9
Saturday & Sunday - 10 to 5

McMORRAN PAVILION
710 McMorrans Boulevard
Port Huron, Michigan
NOVEMBER 1, 2, 3
Friday - 4 to 9
Sat. & Sun. - 10 to 5

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2900 Featherstone Road
Auburn Hills, Michigan
NOVEMBER 15 & 16
Friday - 4 to 9
Saturday - 10 to 5

MEADOW BROOK'S SHOTWELL PAVILION
Adams at Walton Boulevard
Rochester, Michigan
NOVEMBER 29, 30
Friday - 12 to 8
Saturday - 10 to 6

GOURMET FOODS - COUNTRY FOLK ART
HOLIDAY GIFTS - "OVER 100 EXHIBITS"
313-754-3461

5 REASONS TO APPLY AGRI-SC THIS FALL!

- 1. RETAIN MORE MOISTURE** through fall and winter months.
- 2. IMPROVED DRAINAGE & AERATION** could help you get to the fields sooner this spring.
- 3. YOUR FIELD IS TREATED FOR SPRING**--for easier tillage, resulting in savings on fuel costs. Also, less wear and tear on equipment.
- 4. GOOD SOIL TILTH & AERATION** can reduce chemical carry-over.
- 5. COST EFFECTIVE:** take advantage of fall discounts and save money!

FOUR STAR SERVICES, INC.
2275 NORTH STATE ROAD ONE
PO BOX 463, BLUFFTON, INDIANA 46714

For more information call **800-384-2608**

Agri-SC FIGHTS COMPACTION!



6 Market Outlook

Dr. Jim Hilker, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends (long term)

Wheat	↑
Corn	↑
Soybeans	↑
Hogs	↓ ?
Cattle	↑ ?

Index: ↑ = Higher Prices; ↓ = Lower Prices;
TP = Topping; BT = Bottoming; ? = Unsure

Corn

The Sept. 1 USDA Grains Stocks Report, released Sept. 30, showed 1990-91 ending stocks as 1.521 billion bushels. This was in the low range of expectations and slightly less than the 1.530 figure in the September Supply/Demand Report. This number confirms that about 4.7 billion bushels of corn were fed in 1990-91, which, given the expected increase in livestock numbers for 1991-92, indicates that the September USDA estimate of 4.725 billion bushels of corn being fed in 1991-92, is too low.

Look for a change in the feed use number

Wheat

Wheat stocks one quarter into the wheat marketing year were lower than expected, indicating that summer wheat feeding was quite heavy. The question of the Soviet Union's expected purchases continues to be one of the biggest market factors. **While there is still room for price improve-**

Cattle

Total cattle slaughter is expected to be down slightly in the fourth quarter from last year, but fed slaughter is expected to be up. This, along with heavier cattle, means total production will be the same or higher. This, along with more competition from other

Hogs

The Sept. 1 Hogs and Pigs Report, released Sept. 27, confirmed the June report that expansion is well underway and is expected to continue. The total inventory of hogs and pigs was 106 percent of a year ago, and those kept for market were also up 6 percent. This indicates that hog slaughter will run 6 percent above last year through the winter. On top of that, the survey showed

Table Egg Market Conditions

Table egg prices at the end of September were about 12 cents a dozen below year ago levels. Egg prices have been flat since early August when they declined contra-seasonally into the mid 75 cent range (Grade A, white, cartoned, to volume buyers in New York). Layer feed costs are about a cent per dozen higher as both corn and soybean meal prices have increased relative to year ago levels. The feed ingredient and export situation is unclear.

Egg prices should increase seasonally into December, but the advances will be moderate. Prices are expected to average 80 cents per dozen, well below the 88.5 cents realized during this time period last year.

Mulholland Appointed to FCIC Board

Montcalm county farmer L. Charles Mulholland of Coral, Mich., was appointed by USDA Secretary Edward Madigan to the six-member board of directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. In addition to Mulholland, Aram Kinoshian, a Californian farmer, and Hal Mander, an Iowa farmer, were also appointed. By law, the FCIC board must consist of six: three active farmers, one person experienced in the crop insurance business, the under secretary of agriculture for small business and rural development and the FCIC manager.

Soybeans

The soybean stocks number of 329 million bushels was slightly above expectations, but within the range. While this is a substantial carryin, when added to a smaller crop this year, our total supply would only be termed as adequate relative to anticipated demand. Check the October Crop Report, released Oct. 10, for surprises. Were yields in the eastern Corn Belt better or worse than expected? Was the Iowa-Minnesota frost damage near expectations?

While the fundamentals are not as strong for soys as corn, the odds are that on-farm storage of soybeans will pay. And, if the rumors out of South America that acreage will be down again in Brazil and up less than previously expected in Argentina due to better expected returns from other crops, storage will definitely pay. **Consider carrying some of your soybean crop into the winter and perhaps into the spring. However, watch for earlier than expected rallies and basis tightening.**

in the Oct. 10 corn Supply/Demand Report. Lower beginning stocks and higher feed use could bring estimated 1991-92 ending stocks to just over 1 billion bushels, if the production estimate is not raised. This does not even include the possibility of stronger than expected exports, as stories continue to come out of the Soviet Union that their crop is worse than previously expected. **The above situation accounts for my continued bullishness for on-farm stored corn. The fundamentals suggest that it will pay to store corn on-farm in anticipation of price increases.**

ment, be ready to pull the trigger. Although U.S. stocks are fairly low, Canada is coming off its second record crop in a row and Europe has more than enough. Much of the wheat price story will depend on how much export subsidies are used.

meats, will keep prices below last year's fall prices. However, prices should continue to improve from their September levels before topping out in the mid 70's in December. **Consider lining up much of your future feed needs during the harvest period.**

that farrowing intentions through February would be 7-8 percent above last year. This would indicate an average price this fourth quarter in the mid 40's and around the same this winter. **Next spring prices could dip below \$40/cwt. Consider locking in prices on portions of your expected production over the next year on rallies for risk management considerations.**

The nation's table egg laying flock on Sept. 1 was 1 percent above last year and egg production during August was up 1.5 percent because the flock is also slightly more productive. Advanced chick hatches and low spent hen slaughter rates suggest that the flock size this fall and early winter will increase more than a year ago. Table egg supplies during the first quarter of 1992 are likely to be around 1 percent greater and prices 8-10 cents lower than those realized early this year. Higher feed ingredient prices at this time could quickly erode any remaining profit opportunities.

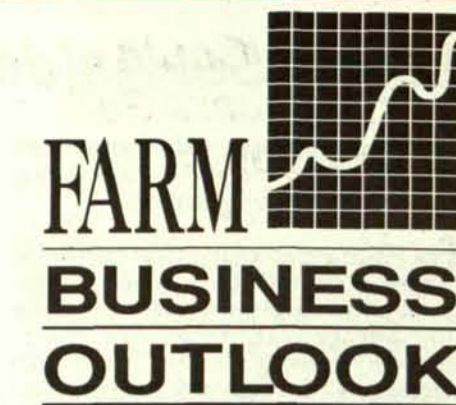
Allen Rahn and Henry Larzelere
MSU Dept. of Agricultural Economics

St. Paul/St. Louis Farm Credit Banks Agree, In Principle, to Merge

Directors of the Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul, Minn., and St. Louis, Mo., announced that they have agreed in principle to merge on or before July 1, 1992. The merger is dependent upon an affirmative vote by stockholders of the two banks as well as necessary regulatory approval.

C.T. Frederickson, who now serves as president of the St. Louis Farm Credit Bank, has been designated as CEO of the new lending institution by an interim board, consisting of the present boards of directors from the two merging banks.

The new bank, to be located in St. Paul, Minn., will provide loan funds to Farm Credit Service and other Farm Credit associations in the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Together these local associations serve more than 130,000 farmers and rural residents in the seven-state region. The combined assets of the



new bank and existing associations will total \$10.6 billion.

Bruce Bohnsack, chairman of the board of Farm Credit Bank of St. Paul, pointed out that the new bank should enhance the effectiveness of the current credit delivery system in the combined district. "At the local level, our customers will be able to rely on their Farm Credit Services as they always have," said Bohnsack. "We believe the merger will allow us to provide a Farm Credit Services with improved loan products and bank services."

Farmer Mac Takes "Major" Step to Secondary Market

The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corp., also known as Farmer Mac, has announced "major" steps toward creation of a secondary market for U.S. agricultural loans. Prudential Agricultural Credit, Inc., an insurance-company affiliate with an active agricultural-lending program, has been certified to "pool" both its own and others' agricultural loans and then issue securities backed by those loans.

"The certification of Pru Ag, the first insurance-company affiliate to seek Farmer Mac pooler status, represents a significant step forward," said Farmer Mac President Henry Edelman in a statement. The action "dramatically increases the prospects for the formation of the first Farmer Mac I pool."

The firm is the third "pooler" to be certified for the secondary-market program. Once operational, Farmer Mac will guarantee the timely payment of principal and interest on senior securities backed by the pools.

EC Farm Ministers Stumble on Overproduction Cures

EC farm ministers took a "businesslike" and "realistic" approach to discussing proposed farm reforms during two days of recent talks, according to EC Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry. "The need for fundamental reform has been agreed by all delegations," he said after the meeting ended. "They all also agreed that (farm) output has to be reduced."

MacSharry said farm ministers took a constructive tone toward the plan. They are next scheduled to consider the package Oct. 22-23 in Luxembourg. The most opposition to MacSharry's reforms were against proposed changes to the EC's cereals and beef regime, EC officials said.

In both cases, France, backed up by other countries, argued that proposed cuts in guaranteed commodity prices over three years in return for direct income support for farmers, were too much, too fast to ask farmers to accept, EC officials said. Under MacSharry's plan, the EC would move away from its surplus-producing system of guaranteed prices toward a system of income support paid on a per-hectare basis.

Under the scheme, guaranteed cereals prices would fall 35 percent over three years, beef prices would fall 15 percent, milk prices would drop 10 percent and milk quotas 4 percent.

Dry Bean Commission Seeks Assessment Increase

At an Oct. 2 meeting in Bay City, the Michigan Bean Commission decided to ask dry bean growers to increase the dry bean assessment from the current \$.05 per hundredweight to \$.10 per hundred. "This revenue will primarily be used to expand our international marketing program," said Kendall English, a Gratiot County farmer and chair of the commission.

In the past, the commission has worked with the Bean Shippers Association, National Dry Bean Council and United States Department of Agriculture's Market Promotion Program and Targeted Export Assistant efforts. "Unfortunately, these programs involve every production area in the country," English continued, "We have the ability to tap these markets and help Michigan growers compete more aggressively in the world market."

English pointed out that the commission has already sponsored several independent international activities, including a special dry bean quality conference in the United Kingdom, an Eastern European trade team visit, and later this month will meet with every major canner in the U.K.

"Even though most of the new program efforts will be directed at developing new markets, we cannot overlook existing customers, such as those in the U.K.," said English. "As an example of the effectiveness of these market development programs, after our delegation visited the five Eastern European nations, Michigan produced beans were sold to companies in these countries that we didn't know even existed before this visit."

The proposed increase would raise an estimated \$225,000 which would all be dedicated to fund the new program. "None would be used for administration or overhead," stated English. The commission last attempted to increase the assessment to \$.25 per hundredweight in 1989. "That was much too large an increase, and growers didn't receive enough information on the proposal," said English. "We will make sure they hear about this effort!"

The commission will ask MDA to conduct a referendum on the proposed increase during the first two weeks of March of 1992. "We want to make sure that every grower has a chance to learn about this proposal, and decide how they want to vote. This is a very important step," English concluded.

Software Could Help Grocers Sell More Beef

New computer software, developed at Texas A&M University for the National Cattlemen Association (NCA), could ultimately help retailers market beef more profitably, more finely define meat grades and sell more beef to consumers.

The computer program, developed with beef checkoff money, is being made available free to retailers by the NCA. The program is expected to stimulate demand for more closely trimmed boxed beef from the packers by revealing the cost of packer trimming compared with retailer trimming. It enables retailers to specify grade, yield-grade, fat trim level and price to packers.

The program also could encourage packers and feeders to work out a standard way of paying for each carcass, based on the most desirable characteristics from the retailers' standpoint, according to Jeff Savell of Texas A&M's Department of Animal Sciences. Once the current system is changed, increased demand could translate into more cattle being fed and more beef moving through the pipeline.

John Story, meat buyer for Fairway Foods, Inc., said he was enthusiastic about the program because it allows buyers to work on cutting expenses while offering consumers a product that more closely matches their desires. It also allows more exact dialogue between meat buyers and store management and with the packer.

Eventually, it could change the genetic makeup of cattle being fed for slaughter. As feeders try to feed for a more precise carcass type, they could alter their buying patterns toward cattle that have a higher chance of meeting those goals.

Beef Checkoff Supports Exports and Price

Export markets for U.S. beef products in 1990 accounted for \$87.35 per head, or more than 10 percent of the animal's total value at slaughter, according to a recent study by CF Resources, Inc., Englewood, Colorado.

Of this amount, the study attributed \$47.28 per head to beef and variety meat exports. It credited the remaining \$40.59 per head to hide exports.

Comparisons with 1989 data are difficult to make due to overstated numbers in USDA export statistics for that year. The study noted, however, the equivalent value of beef exports per head in 1990 was up 72 percent compared to 1988 export figures.

The study defined equivalent value as the percent of total U.S. production sold in foreign markets multiplied by the average value of that product in 1990. Beef exports in 1990 were 4.4 percent of total production, and beef variety meat exports accounted for 40.0 percent of total U.S. production.

Excluding beef variety meats, beef exports in 1990 reached a record \$1.6 billion. This was equivalent to 1,477 million cattle slaughtered, the study points out. Given production levels and demand for beef in the U.S. in 1990, CF Resources estimated the impact of exports on fed cattle prices was \$4.76/cwt in 1990. A similar calculation for 700-pound yearling feeder steers was \$7.09/cwt and \$10.13 for 450-pound calves.

Managed by the U.S. Meat Export Federation, checkoff-funded activities are underway in more than 20 different foreign countries to stimulate demand for U.S. beef and veal. In the first half of 1991, U.S. beef and veal exports, including variety meats, were up 21 percent in volume over the same period in 1991 and were valued at \$1.06 billion.

New Two-Drill Hitch Available

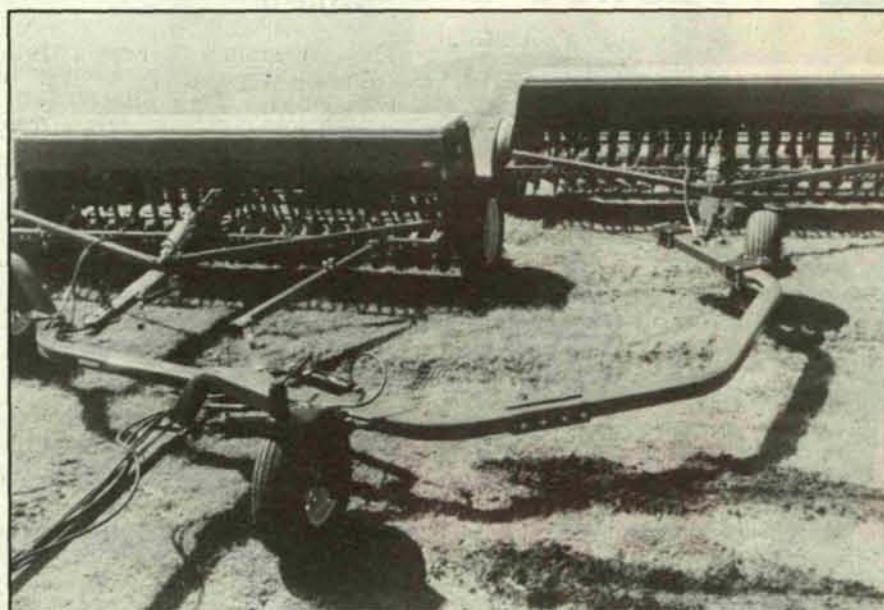
A new easy-to-use two-drill hitch – the 2000 series – is now available from Baker Mfg. of Alva, Okla.

The unit operates from road to field position in seconds by using a single tractor hydraulic lever to control dual cylinders from the tractor cab. No ropes or pins are used. When in the field, the design of the Baker 2200 hitch allows the tractor to pull from the center, reducing the effects of drafting. The center pull design also gives producers the option of drilling in clockwise or counter-clockwise direction.

The Baker 2200 Two-Drill Hitch uses a unique 4" by 6", 3/8"-wall tube frame design. An exclusive tube-bending processing eliminates numerous welds which could develop stress lines. The 2200 hitch also incorporates a closed hydraulic cylinder system, giving maximum strength when the hitch's cylinders are fully closed in the field position. Tires are 11L x 15, 6-bolt. All hitches are equipped with a stabilizer bar to eliminate sway and side draft for superior field and road stability.

The Baker 2000 series two-drill hitch was originally designed and manufactured for farm

New Product Profile



operators using end-wheel drills. Now, other drill designs are adaptable.

For more information on the Baker 2200 series drill hitch or any other Baker equipment, contact Baker Mfg., Inc., 625 Linden Ave., Alva, OK 73701. Phone 405-327-0234.



While you're busy farming, Farm Bureau is on the job in Lansing and Washington, D.C. protecting your interests. Our experienced and highly respected team of lobbyists are there working for you.

With the thousands of bills introduced on the state and federal level, Farm Bureau lobbyists work full-time aggressively supporting legislation that benefits farm families while seeking to defeat measures detrimental to agriculture.

In the halls of Congress and in the Michigan Legislature, Farm Bureau is respected as the voice of agriculture. It's a grassroots organization with responsible legislative clout, powered by its members and guided by its farmer-developed policies. With over seven decades of experience in the legislative and regulatory arenas, you can count on Farm Bureau to get results!

Farm Bureau member benefits include:

- Educational and leadership opportunities
- Health care insurance
- Travel program
- Discount prescription drugs
- No fee VISA card
- Farm, auto and life insurance

What concerns you concerns us.

For your nearest Farm Bureau office call 1(800) 292-2680 extension 3237

Farm Bureau – always there and proven effective...



8 Practice Grain Storage Safety On Your Farm



The potential for serious accidents around grain storage facilities on the farm has increased significantly in recent years. There are several reasons, including:

- An increase in shelled corn harvesting and handling.
- Larger amounts of grain in storage six to eight months of the year or more.
- Mechanization means more operators are working alone.
- Misconceptions of how grain flows.

Metal storage bins account for nearly 43 percent of grain flow entrapments and suffocations. Overhead bins and silos account for another 16 percent, according to studies.

Grain flow accidents happen when a person enters a bin that is being unloaded and becomes trapped in the flow of grain. A person may also become trapped or buried in a bin by falling through a crust of spoiled grain or the collapse of a large vertical column of moldy grain.

Another type of storage bin accident occurs when someone slips and falls from the bin roof or ladder, especially when mud, ice, and snow create poor conditions.



From Farm Bureau Insurance

Here are recommendations for bin safety:

- Follow manufacturers' instructions and observe safety signs on the equipment.
- If you must enter a bin, stop the flow and shut off all automatic equipment and the electricity.
- If you get trapped, but not buried, stay near the outside wall and walk around the bin as the grain moves downward.
- Don't enter a bin without telling someone what you're doing.
- Make sure all storage bins are equipped with interior ladders. Ropes, chains, and pipe ladders suspended from the bin roof may also prove helpful.
- When entering a bin, have two people standing by on the outside if possible--one to go for help and one to help you in case of emergency.
- Use caution when attempting to rescue someone. Don't become a victim yourself.
- Stay clear of molded vertical piles of grain.
- When working in a storage bin, make sure it is well ventilated.
- Lock out the power supply when recommended by the manufacturer for servicing, inspection, or repair.
- Repair loose, worn, or otherwise damaged rungs and handrails on storage bin ladders. Keep bin ladders free of mud, ice, snow, and other debris that could make climbing hazardous.
- Discuss safety with your employees, your family, and your neighbors. Keep children away from grain centers.

Life Insurance is more than just a nice touch . . .



It's a basic of life

When it comes to protecting your family, life insurance is a necessity . . . the best way to provide for your family's future needs and ensure peace of mind.

You can feel especially confident when you choose a life insurance plan from Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan. Our professional agents will review your needs and help you determine the best plan for you.

Farm Bureau Life is backed by 40 years of financial stability and quality

investments, so you know your future is safe with us.

So see your Farm Bureau Insurance agent about your life insurance needs today. It's not one of the nice things you do for your family . . . it's one of the necessary things.

Making your future more predictable



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

Dry Bean Stocks Up

Commercial elevators in Michigan held 660,000 hundredweight (cwt.) of dry beans in storage as of Aug. 31, according to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics. The year's carryover is the highest at this time of the year since 1988, when 1,450,000 cwt. was in storage. Carry-over stocks account for all beans in commercial off-farm storage and included a small portion of non-Michigan grown product. The quantity on hand included 500,000 cwt. of navy beans, and 160,000 cwt. of all other classes. Stocks on hand August of 1990 totaled 150,000 cwt. and included 125,000 cwt. of navy beans and 25,000 cwt. of all other classes.

Ending stocks were high in 1988 due in part to price speculation caused by a drought induced short crop. However, in 1991, we're entering the marketing season with above average supplies, and just completed a near-record harvest. This combination has pressured prices lower. On a positive note, this year's abundant crop will provide opportunities for new long-term market development.

Grower bids for navies are ranging \$13 to \$13.50, for Black Turtles \$14 to \$15, for Pintos \$12 to \$12.50, Light Red Kidneys \$26, Dark Red Kidneys \$22.50, and Cranberries \$19.

Lyme Disease Bacteria Can Survive in Un-Pasteurized Milk

Add the Lyme disease bacterium to the list of disease germs that can live in milk. A study at the University of Wisconsin - Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has shown that *Borrelia Burgdorferi*, which causes Lyme disease, can live for more than six weeks in refrigerated milk. Pasteurization kills the organism, so milk from the supermarket poses no threat.

A few studies have suggested that Lyme bacteria can show up in milk from infected cows. In other studies, experimental animals became infected after drinking milk containing Lyme bacteria. It's not known if humans can contract the Lyme disease from raw milk, but the evidence provides one more reason to avoid raw milk, advises E.H. Marth, emeritus professor of food science and bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Foodborne illness involves four events: the pathogen must get into the food; unless it produces a poison, it must survive until someone eats the food; it usually must multiply in the food to infectious levels; and the person who eats the food must be susceptible at those levels. Marth and his associates tested whether Lyme bacteria could survive or multiply in whole, lowfat, skim and protein fortified skim milk. Their numbers fell, but some bacteria lived for at least 46 days in milk kept at 41 degrees F, they found.

Lyme bacteria died within two weeks in milk stored at 93 degree F (a temperature at which bacteria grow in other substances).



An up-close look at the deer tick, *Ixodes Dammini*, a carrier of the Lymes Disease

They probably died off because they couldn't use the nutrients in the milk, according to Marth.

Pasteurization kills Lyme bacteria, so pasteurized milk and dairy products pose no threat, even if the milk came from infected cows, Marth emphasizes.

Marth loaded up the milk samples with Lyme bacteria for this study, and natural contamination probably wouldn't reach

similar levels. However, evidence suggests that only a few Lyme bacteria in an infected host can produce Lymes disease, he notes.

Lymes disease produces a variety of symptoms, ranging from headaches, rashes and flu-like symptoms to joint and heart problems if left untreated. It is treatable with antibiotics. Early symptoms include fatigue, stiff neck, chills, and "generally not feeling good." However, the first stage of the disease may produce no symptoms at all.

Young Citizens Community Action Group Tours Lansing

Members of the Young Citizens Community Action Group, Kent County, traveled to Lansing by bus in late September. Their agenda included meeting with MDA Director Bill Schuette and Congressman Paul Henry, and Sen. Dick Posthumus (at right), plus a tour of the state capitol and the Michigan Historical Museum. They also allowed time to visit the Senate gallery, where they were recognized by the full Senate.



New No Trespassing Signs Available

Many "No Trespassing" signs on the market are self-defeating. They are simply too harsh, and almost rude. "Keep Out," they scream. Sometimes they work, but more often they get shot with buckshot, or ripped down entirely.

Now there's a No Trespassing sign that puts the message out to would-be trespassers in a firm but polite manner. These signs are in use all over the United States, and users report a much higher degree of satisfaction with them.

The signs are printed on heavy-duty bright yellow plastic for high visibility, and are designed for years of service. Their cost, postage paid, is 10 signs for \$12.50, 25 signs for \$25, 50 signs for \$45, or 100 for \$79. To order, send a check or money order to: Rolling Hills Press; Box 250; Saylorsburg, PA 18353

NOTICE
 Use of this land
 by permission only.
 Please ask first.
 Otherwise,
 you are trespassing.

© 1990 by ROLLING HILLS PRESS
 Box 250 • Saylorsburg, Pa. 18353

HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS
 800-643-5555

30 x 50 x 10	\$4,395
40 x 50 x 12	\$5,695
50 x 100 x 14	\$11,895
60 x 100 x 20	\$16,795
80 x 150 x 20	\$27,995

BUILD IT YOURSELF AND SAVE MONEY
 Commercial steel buildings featuring easy bolt up assembly for the do it yourself builder from America's largest distributor. We have over 5,000 standard sizes of shop, farm, industrial, commercial and mini-warehouse buildings. All are complete with engineer stamped permit drawings to meet all local building codes, 20 year roof warranty, and painted walls. Prices are FOB from our 6 manufacturing plants nationwide. Call us today for a free information package, and a quote on our top quality buildings.

MINI-WAREHOUSE SALE \$11,298
 20' x 120' COMPLETE WITH 24 8' x 7' DOORS, PARTITIONS AND HARDWARE

SAVE UP TO 50% OF YOUR LIMING DOLLARS*
 with MICRO-CAL®

Mid-Michigan's Revolutionary Liming Product!

- Custom application by experienced operators with modern equipment.
- Small particle size for FAST soil reaction
- Qualifies for ASCS programs.
- No "HOT SPOTS"
- No dust loss.
- Ideal for:
 - rented ground
 - established Alfalfa
 - No till

Increase Yields! Lower Costs!

Call Mark Miller or Bill Goetsch at (517) 669-8395
GREAT LAKES/ENVIROLAND
 P.O. Box 139, Dewitt, Michigan 48820
 *Actual savings may vary depending on your location

HENKE Kwikcutter Mixer
 SERVING AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

BUILT BETTER THAN THEY HAVE TO BE

- No Limit on Square Bales
- Mixes any TMR Ration
- Extra Heavy Duty Mixer Box and Augers

Thumb Area Harvestore Kingston (517) 635-3636	Tillman Hardware Mt. Pleasant (517) 644-2252	Northern Michigan Harvestore, Lake City (616) 839-3030
---	--	--

HENKE MACHINE INC. • Columbus, NE • 1-800-228-1405

10

Intensive Grazing – An Untapped Resource for Livestock Producers?

Alpena County dairyman Fred Wegmeyer avoided green chopping hay or turning on a silo unloader, or hauling manure from his dairy cows for almost six months this past summer. No – he didn't sell his cows.

Instead, Fred took the plunge and tried a full scale intensive grazing program this year for his 60 to 70 cow herd on 30 acres of 50/50 alfalfa/grass and a clover/grass pasture. The 30 acres were split into three acre parcels, which were portioned off to smaller one acre parcels. Cows were advanced one acre a day, never spending more than three days on any three acre parcel.

According to Wegmeyer, the results were pleasing as well as profitable. "You wouldn't think it would work with that many cows," he said. "But we actually increased production with the feed quality. Our lowest protein level was 18 percent but we averaged in the 23 to 24 percent range."

The only other sources of feed included a 13 percent protein grain ration fed in the parlor and a 1,000 pound round bale of hay daily.

According to Alpena County Extension Director Jack Middleton, the secret to high quality forage in an intensive grazing program is maintaining forage height in the 3 to 12 inch stage. "If you whittle those forages down below 3 inches, you lose leaf surface for photosynthesis, with all the growth having to come from the roots," explained Middleton. "Over 12 inches, forages go into a reproductive state or a seed head develops. It basically stops growing."

Wegmeyer plans on utilizing the same system next year and then eventually expand the grazing acreage another 15 to 20 acres. "With additional acreage, we should be able to put them on by the 5th of May and keep the cows on the system until at least mid-October," he said.

Reminiscent of days gone by, this scene could become a familiar sight as more Michigan dairymen realize the benefits of intensive grazing. Photos: Courtesy MMPA



A major change scheduled for next year, according to Wegmeyer, will include installation of a watering system in the paddocks to save the cows a trip back to the barn for water. "They tell us that we can increase production by 5 to 7 pounds with water provided in the paddocks," said Wegmeyer. "They also tell us that a majority of a cow's droppings are within 600 feet of where the water is located, so it would do more good in the paddock as opposed to the lane."

Higher production and lower costs weren't the only benefits, according to Wegmeyer, adding that it only took 15 minutes a day to move the fence to open up another one acre parcel of pasture, an estimated savings of about 2 to 2-1/2 hours a day.

Ben Bartlett, District Extension Farm Management Agent in the U.P., often referred to as the resident expert on intensive grazing, has been promoting the merits of intensive grazing since 1984. To Bartlett, pastures are a crop that's not taken full advantage of.

"Pasture, as a crop, is somewhat of a stepchild if you will," said Bartlett. "What's the average yield of a properly managed pasture program? We really don't know because we don't give it the respect it deserves."

According to Bartlett, 15 to 20 percent of the U.P.'s livestock operators are utilizing some form of intensive grazing, although very few are taking full advantage of the system, adding that it's not for everyone. "There's always some physical limitations in regard to the farm layout. Secondly, there's more management expertise required. It takes some effort to do a good job at it."

Intensive grazing, says Bartlett, can allow farmers in the U.P. and the rest of the state

for that matter, to fill a niche with the excellent forage growing capabilities in Michigan, in a cost-effective manner.

Unfortunately, intensive grazing is battling three myths that seem to prevail in the mindset of many producers. "I always hear that intensive grazing won't work because it requires more labor, it takes too many acres, and it hurts production," said Bartlett.

Bartlett works with dairy farmers using intensive grazing who are maintaining if not improving production. One dairy farmer in particular has maintained a 25,000 pound rolling herd average. In addition, Bartlett claims that every producer who uses intensive grazing has needed the same or more acreage to produce feed for over-wintering, as was used for intensive grazing.

"With intensive grazing, you've not only fed the forage portion of your ration, but you've spread manure for the day, you've scraped the stalls, and rebedded the stalls," said Bartlett. "People will tell you that their land is too valuable to graze. But if it takes 20 acres to feed them, what difference does it make if the cows harvest it, or if a machine harvests it?"

It works for the beef producer, too

For Lynn Gould, a variation of intensive grazing called rotational grazing has helped him boost returns and expand while keeping investments to a minimum on the family's 250-head stocker operation in Clare county.

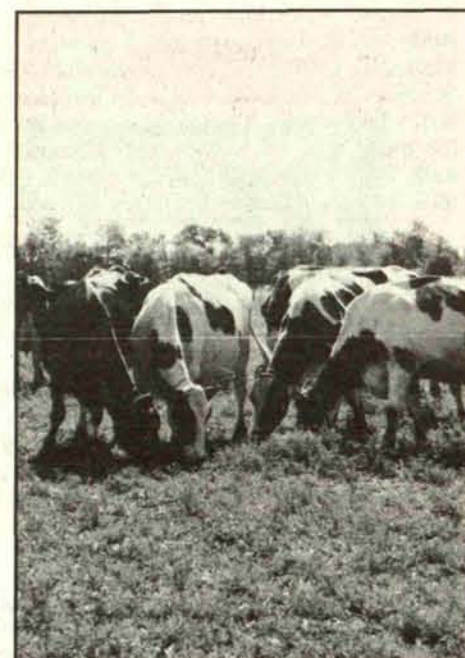
Gould, who is also the county CES Director, places stockers on a rotational grazing system in early May at 550 pounds, and starts selling them at 850 pounds in September and October for finishing in feedlots. Twelve producers in Clare county are now using the system, with one producer running as many as 500 head.

"We've got thousands and thousands of acres that could be used in grazing programs to support cattle," said Gould. "We ought to be putting gain on cattle using these roughages that are of lower cost rather than continually trying to make them hogs."

According to Gould, rotational grazing generally involves a larger paddock of 8 to 25 acres, with more time allowed for livestock to graze before being moved onto the next paddock, but it is intensive in terms of the number of cattle grazing at a given time.

"What we've tried to do is keep our machinery investments low," said Gould. "If I can run cattle out there on those fields and use rotational grazing, that means I don't have to cut that feed, harvest it, store it, feed it in a dry lot, and then turn around and haul manure back out."

Gould has spent time with a calculator and



Wegmeyer's cows at the feedbunk!

a computer to figure potential return on more conventional crops, such as corn, wheat, oats, barley and other crops, but the numbers just weren't there. "I can't figure out how I can make a better return on any of them than I can with cattle, especially with the deer damage problem we have up here," he said.

If there's a downside to grazing stockers, Gould says it's the fact that as more people get involved, available numbers of grazeable cattle are starting to get harder and more expensive to come by.

For more information, contact your local CES office and request **Bulletin E-2288, Controlled Grazing - Balancing Forages, Livestock and Management.**

Forage Sample Analysis

Sample Date	lbs./Acre	Avail. Protein	Net Energy MCAL
May 15	3189	30.5	0.83
May 24	2114	31.6	0.83
May 31	3533	26.9	0.76
June 10	2081	24.5	0.75
June 17	3194	24.3	0.73
June 29	1778	23.5	0.71
July 4	1408	18.5	0.65
July 6	714	22.7	0.72
July 7	1066	28.1	0.76
July 23	2478	22.7	0.69
July 30	1404	26.2	0.75
Aug. 4	1071	25.8	0.72

Source: Alpena County SCS's forage analysis and Alpena County CES.

USDA May Have Had \$1 Billion for Disaster Aid

The USDA announced it had as much as \$1 billion available at the end of the fiscal year which could have been diverted from other agencies to provide disaster payments for farmers suffering crop losses due to drought, floods and other natural causes, according to *Knight-Ridder News*. The only catch, it had to be used by Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

Now there's discussion about what, if anything, can be done to extend the fiscal year so that the \$1 billion can still be used for disaster aid. The aid package apparently fell through because it was a deal between the administration and Republicans, without consultation of high-ranking Democrats.

Rep. Charles Hatcher (D-Ga.) said even if the \$1 billion is somehow still available, it would not be enough to help farmers in the more than 1,000 counties declared natural disaster areas, calling it a "futile gesture."

Lupines May Hold Key to Breeding Phosphorus-Efficient Crops

University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers are finding that lupines grow well even in soils low in phosphorus. The finding may pave the way for breeding crops that use this nutrient more efficiently.

Normally, plants growing in soils low in phosphorus become stunted and lack vigor. However, lupines can modify the soil around their root system in response to a phosphorus deficiency, says Phil Helmke, a College of Agricultural and Life Sciences soil scientist.

Helmke and graduate student Sebastian Braum recently received a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine the mechanism that allows lupines to take up phosphorus from soils lacking in nutrient. This is the first study of its kind, Helmke notes.

"If we can understand this mechanism, it could be transferred to other plants and

reduce phosphorus fertilizer needs," he says.

Many species of lupines grow throughout the world. Because lupines grow well in cool weather, some farmers in central and northern Wisconsin are starting to grow the legume as an alternative feed crop to soybeans. Lupines contain more than 40 percent protein and, unlike soybeans, don't require roasting before being fed to cows.

In the 1920s and '30s, German plant breeders removed the bitter taste by developing lupine varieties with a low alkaloid content.

Phosphorus is one of the three major essential nutrients needed by plants. Previous studies have shown that lupines don't respond to added phosphorus fertilizer, even when the soil is low in this nutrient. In the greenhouse, Helmke and Braum are comparing the growth of lupines and

soybeans in soils with little or no phosphorus. Preliminary results show that, while soybeans looked stunted, the lupines appear healthy and are growing well.

Lupines develop a short section of very dense, fine cluster roots in response to low phosphorus levels in the soil, Helmke says. These roots excrete citric acid and possibly other compounds that alter the surrounding soil, making phosphorus more available to the plant. Helmke and Braum want to study how these compounds react with the soil to improve phosphorus uptake by lupines.

"We feel very strongly that the time is right to understand specific reactions of plants to soils and further advance soil-plant management practices," Helmke says.

Helmke and Braum will present the research Oct. 28 at the annual American Society of Agronomy meetings in Denver.

Finding Better Plants For Our Environment

Photo: Courtesy of SCS

William Richards, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C., told over 300 people who attended dedication ceremonies for new facilities at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center near East Lansing, about the role of plants in soil and water conservation programs.

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center is one of 26 plant materials centers operated by the Soil Conservation Service to find plants to solve soil erosion, water quality and other environmental problems.

The Rose Lake facility is located six miles east of East Lansing in the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area. Work at the center, which serves Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan, is focused on the needs of the Great Lakes region.

"Vegetative solutions for environmental problems is our objective," said Homer R. Hilner in his opening remarks. Hilner, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Michigan, was master of ceremonies for the event.

Bill Richards, chief of the Soil Conservation Service, before leaving for an afternoon appointment in Washington, D.C., reviewed the importance of the plant materials program in the agency's work to control soil erosion and protect water quality.

Jim Newman, director of ecological sciences, Soil Conservation



"Indigo" Silky Dogwood, one of several plants released by the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, was selected and released for windbreaks in fields where center-pivot irrigation systems require the removal of tall windbreaks. Without interfering with needed irrigation equipment, the low-growing windbreaks control wind erosion.

Service, and Paul Kobe, owner of Kobe Nursery, told the conservationists about the role of plants in soil and water conservation, and public benefits of the program.

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center was established in 1957, on a 40-acre site in the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center, to find better plants for gully and ditchbank stabilization. As needs change, the program was expanded to include wind erosion control, shoreline stabilization and, most recently, water quality. The new headquarters and greenhouse building, dedicated at the grand opening program, replaces the old farmhouse used for the center's headquarters since the center opened in 1957.

Seven plants have been released to nurseries for propagation and sale. They include: "Mackinaw" Birdsfoot Trefoil; "Roselow" Sargent Crabapple; "Imperial" Carolina Poplar; "Indigo" Silky Dogwood; "Lancer" Perennial Pea; "Redwing" Autumn Olive; and "Magenta" Hybrid Crabapple. The plant materials program is one of several programs conducted by the SCS to control soil erosion, protect water quality and protect our environment.

BORKHOLDER BUILDINGS



For quality Livestock Buildings, Machinery Storage, and Shops call: **1-800-552-2772**

First Genetically Engineered Corn Harvested

Seed corn companies scrambling to perfect genetically engineered corn took another step forward this year, harvesting the first samples grown outside of the laboratory. The goal is to produce corn that is more resistant to disease and insects.

Scientists say it will be several years before they are able to get new genes into commercial strains of corn, then several more years before enough can be produced to actually sell seed to farmers. John Howard, director of biotechnology for Pioneer Hy-Bred International, estimates that genetically engineered corn won't reach the farmers until 1998.

Firms racing to get genetically altered corn on the market include Biotechnica International, which just harvested the first naturally grown plots, Pioneer Hy-Bred International, DeKalb Genetics Corp., and Ciba Geigy Corp., according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Getaway

with Member Travel Services

WINTER TOURS

Ski Colorado, at Winter Park, the Premier Ski Center

Cost: \$355 per person, based on double occupancy.

Starting January 1992 through mid February '92 you can stay at Iron Horse Lodge which includes pool, hot tubs, health club, restaurant, and lounge. Fireplace and kitchen is included in the suites.

This 5 night package includes 4 days of ski lifts valid at Winter Park, Mary Jane and Vasquez Mountains. This package is land only but for approximately \$338 per person you can add on round trip airfare from Lansing.

Quaint Quebec City

Cost: \$459 per person.

February-March 1992 you can travel to Quebec City Via Rail and stay at the charming Le Chateau Frontenac Hotel. This package includes 5 days at the hotel plus round trip rail from Windsor. You can travel everyday except Friday and Sunday. This is a very popular package and has limited seating, so call early!

Bahamas Weekend

Cost: \$414 per person (Add \$40 per person for ocean view room)

All rates are based on double occupancy, departure tax not included.

Starting February 7th, 1992 you can book a great Bahamas Weekend at a great rate. Your package includes leaving Detroit on Friday and staying 2 nights at the British Colonial Beach Hotel. Special charter airfare service is included so that you fly non-stop to the islands.

London, On the Town

Cost: \$628 per person.

One of the best packages this year is London. Round trip airfare from Detroit on British Airways, 6 nights at the Travistock Hotel, transfers from the airport, taxes and continental breakfast. The Travistock Hotel is located in the Bloomsbury area and all rooms have a private bath, TV and radio. This trip starts Jan. 3rd and expires March 31, 1992. London is famous for their theatre, restaurants, sight seeing and most of all history.

Jamacia, Jamaica

Cost: \$1359 per person.

This package includes everything under the sun. You will stay 7 nights at the Jamaica Hotel, which has been called one of the "Super Club" resorts. This hotel includes three meals daily, bar drinks, use of all sports facilities including instruction, four tennis courts, shopping shuttle and sight-seeing tours. It is located on the white sand beach at Runaway Bay. Round trip airfare from Detroit is included.

Spa Week in Mexico

Cost: \$1052 per person.

Pamper yourself at the Hotel Ixtapan Delasal, a world known Spa facility that features deluxe accommodations. Included are 8 days of full spa facilities like three meals daily, unlimited facials, massages, manicures and exercise programs. Airport transfers are approximately \$72 per person - one way and gratuities are not included for spa week. This is a very special package for very special people. Pamper yourself!

Cancun, the Jewel of the Caribbean

Cost: \$569 per person.

Cancun is a great warm weather destination because of it's 14 miles of beautiful beaches and the friendliest people in the world. The Playa De Oro Hotel has a great special starting January 1 through January 24th, 1992. This package includes round trip airfare from Detroit, hotel for 7 days, airport transfers, baggage and handling service, hotel tax and a Welcome reception. This hotel is known for it's great location on the beach. Cancun is the perfect get-a-way for anyone seeking the sun and relaxation.

Disney World, It's Everyone's Favorite Vacation!

This package includes anything that you prefer at a member only discount. You can pick the number of nights you want to stay, you can stay on the Disney grounds or off premise, and you have the option to fly or drive. Farm Bureau has admission tickets available. Customize your Disney Vacation just the way you want, and still get a great discount!

For more information on how to book your GETAWAY CALL 1-800-354-4272

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



At Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., we know that your diesel equipment is an expensive investment that you must protect. The rigors of farming take their toll on your equipment and you shouldn't need to worry about engine failure.

Michigan's finest premium diesel fuel is FPC's GOLD FLAME Custom Diesel Fuel. Its improved detergent package continually flushes injectors to prevent gum and lacquer deposits. Increased injector life, increased horsepower, and reduced smoke emissions are added benefits.

GOLD FLAME Custom Diesel Fuel also offers a dispersing agent that suspends water particles more effectively. GOLD FLAME's low sulfur content and high lubricity help ensure even operation.

Farmers Petroleum offers a limited satisfaction guarantee on GOLD FLAME Custom Diesel Fuel. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied, we will give you a complete refund on the unused portion of your last delivery.*

GOLD FLAME Custom Diesel Fuel, available exclusively through FPC Retail Centers and its authorized dealers.

*Some restrictions apply.

FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE, INC.

Reorganization In Store For USDA?

Ed Madigan turned a few heads recently in his agency when he announced at a routine news conference that he will appoint a special commission to work on reorganization of the department.

The action is in response to criticism of some department procedures leveled by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO). Madigan said he agreed with some of the GAO complaints of the outmoded USDA management practices and strongly disagrees with others. The commission study is expected to begin later this year.

In part, the GAO's findings and comments included:

"USDA oversees an agribusiness sector of major importance to the nation's economy, accounting for 17 percent of the gross national product and 20 million jobs. To carry out its mission in 1990, USDA spent about \$46 billion, controlled assets of about \$140 billion, and employed over 110,000 full-time employees in 36 agencies in over 15,000 locations worldwide.

USDA's current program delivery structure does not efficiently meet the needs of modern agribusiness. USDA still maintains an extensive local presence - 5 agencies alone have 63,000 employees in 11,000 offices at a cost of \$2.4 billion annually.

Some county offices spend more on overhead expenses than they give out in program benefits. GAO estimated that the ASCS and SCS could save over \$90 million annually if USDA consolidated field offices where warranted.

For the long run, senior officials and the Congress need to seriously consider integrating the department's farm agency delivery system so that multiple agencies operate as a unit at the local level. USDA's own reports have called for such an integrated system, but the leadership has never acted on these recommendations.

USDA's comments on drafts of the individual reports in this series of studies concurred with most of the GAO's findings. USDA agreed that internal control and accounting weaknesses in its major financial accounting systems prevented system users from obtaining reliable information.

Regarding the need to pursue more fundamental change in its field structure by integrating farm agencies, USDA declined to comment. While incremental measures such as consolidating field offices are cost beneficial, GAO believes that USDA also needs to consider the kind of fundamental changes in the way farm services are delivered that integrating its farm agencies would provide."

"Fire Blight" continued from page 1

"Normally, Mycoshield is approved only for use on pears," said Jones. "Michigan State University is conducting residue studies of Mycoshield on apples this fall in order to support a registration request to the EPA for 1992."

Jones said there are few viable treatment alternatives. "We have copper fungicides available, but they are not particularly effective and they often cause some rusting on the fruit. Aliette (a Rhone-Poulenc fungicide) is a new compound, and the data I've seen indicates that it is not effective. Certainly, it has not provided the consistency of control that streptomycin provided when it was being developed. Also, it can only be used on nonbearing apple trees. The fire blight problem is much more severe on bearing trees," Jones said.

Fire blight has been an economic disaster for Herb Teichman, owner of Tree-Mendous Fruit Farm in Eau Claire. The disease devastated his 80 acres of apples, wiping out 60 percent of his fall apple harvest revenue. "Occasionally we'll find five or six apples on a tree, but the rest is dead wood," he said. "It's a lot to ask a U-pick customer to go into an orchard that looks so bad. I'm afraid customers won't return next year."

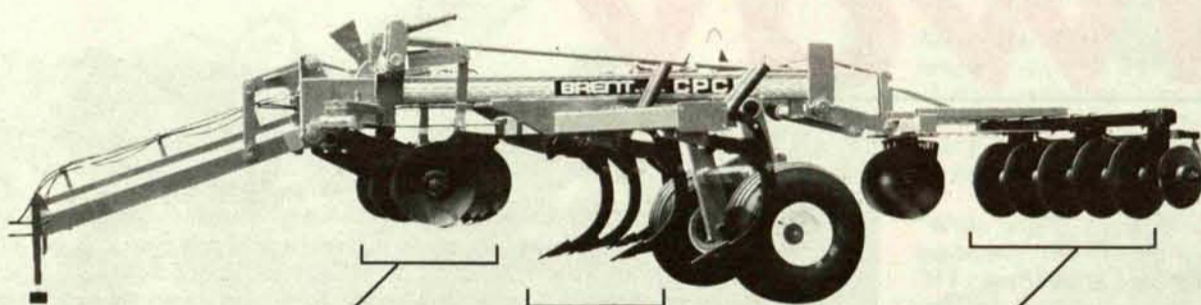
He is especially concerned about fire blight damage to his "museum orchard" of 200 unusual and seldom-grown apple varieties. "We'll nurse these the best we can, because they are one-of-a-kind. If I lose any, I'll have to trace back a new source," he said.

Teichman said he believes the fire blight spread because fruit growers were reluctant to do the chemical spraying necessary to control the disease. "Society expects farmers not to spray their crops as much as before, so we feel guilty about spraying," he said.

Michigan Farm Bureau will continue to monitor this issue in conjunction with the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station. If you have specific questions regarding fire blight, please contact your District Extension Horticulture and Marketing Agent.

PRESCRIPTION ^{Rx} FOR TOP CONSERVATION PERFORMANCE:

ON-THE-GO RESIDUE ADJUSTMENT FROM 0% TO 85%



CUT. PENETRATE. COVER.

You get the best of both worlds with the Brent CPC 2000 from Unverferth Manufacturing Company: The crop performance advantages of deep tillage and the soil-saving and moisture-retention benefits of crop residue on the soil surface. It's the perfect remedy for maintaining or even improving crop yields while complying with the requirements of your conservation plan.

The Brent CPC 2000 **cuts** through crop residues with adjustable disk gangs and then **penetrates** with deep-till shanks. Bringing up the rear is a second gang of angled, adjustable disks to **cover** the ridges and evenly distribute the remaining crop residue.

With the Brent CPC 2000, you can vary your tillage program from field to field or even within a field. Whatever residue percentage your compliance program calls for, the totally adjustable Brent CPC 2000 can handle it—from 0% to 85%.

The Brent CPC 2000 is the perfect prescription for conservation compliance and top performance from your cropping program. So take a little time to think about what it can do for your operation; then call us in the morning at **1-800-322-6301**.



Unverferth Manufacturing Co., Inc.
KALIDA, OHIO 45853 1-800-322-6301