

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

May 15, 1991



## Planting Season: Late but Underway -- Finally!

As if the spring planting season isn't filled with enough anxiety, Mother Nature decided to put in her two cents worth this spring. On average, April rainfall in Michigan was approximately 1 inch above normal. More alarming to sugar beet growers, however, was that areas such as the Saginaw Valley reported April rainfall totals 4.5 inches above average (see April summary page 4).

According to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Reporting Service, there were only 2.5 days suitable for fieldwork, for the week ending May 5, setting corn, oat and sugar beet planting well behind the five-year average.

"The Thumb and Saginaw Valley areas of the state are exceptionally wet as is the Vestaburg area and the extreme southwest part of the state," said Don Fedewa, State Statistician with the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. "For the week ending April 28, approximately 5 percent of the sugar beets were planted, whereas normally we'd expect about 60 percent planted based on a five-year average."

According to Bob Young, Executive Vice President of the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association, of the 90,000 acres of beets to be planted, only 3,000 acres were in as of May 1.

"We should have been at it around the 15th of April, and tried to be done by May 1," said Young. "If the beet doesn't have a long enough growing season, it doesn't fully mature and you won't get the sugar content or the tonnage."

Young said that producers also had to wait out the moisture to avoid compaction problems, which could further reduce yields, but should still be able to get most of their beet acreage planted.

"Producers can plant into the middle of May if needed. In fact, beets have been planted as late as the first of June," said Young. "If this wet weather breaks and the temperatures warm up, we could certainly still come out with a good beet crop."

### Weed Control Tips

Approximately 30 percent of Michigan's wheat crop is normally sprayed for weed control, but the "window for early application" quickly closed because of wet fields, according to Karen Renner, Assistant Professor in Crop and Soil Sciences and an Extension Specialist.

"It's almost past the time for use of Harmony Extra, Express or Banvel, but producers can use 2-4D until the boot stage," explains Renner. "There's been a delay, but more importantly, it's a question of whether the grower uses the proper herbicide for the stage of the wheat."

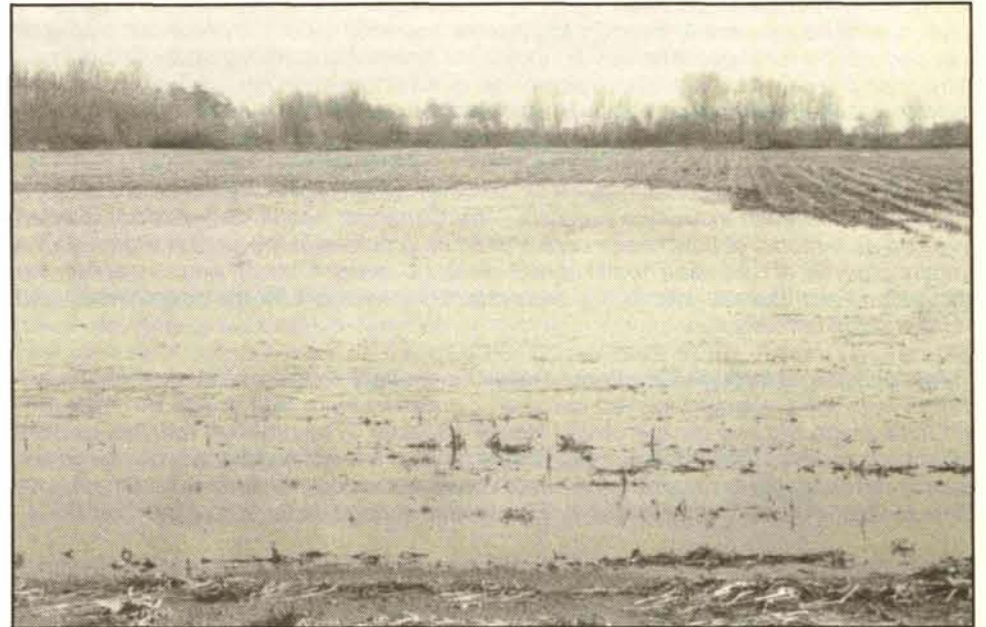
With a wet spring and a late start, producers may feel pressured into concentrating on planting and dealing with herbicide application when time permits. However, Renner encourages producers to keep their herbicide program in step with their planting progress.

"If we do get a rainfall before a producer can get back in to spray, that gives weed seeds an opportunity to germinate, without any herbicide to control them," cautioned Renner. "Where this will come into play the most is with corn this year."

"There's corn acreage planted in the state that was not sprayed and there will be corn emerging, meaning producers will have to make changes in their herbicide program. This may mean going to herbicides labelled for delay pre-emergence or going to a total post-emergence program, which had not been real practical for grass control in corn until this year with Accent and Beacon coming on the market," she said.

Relying on a planned total post-emergence program is not a sure bet either if rain prevents herbicide application beyond the optimal time for application, and weeds get ahead of the corn, warned Renner.

Renner also warns that the cool and wet weather means that growers have not seen the first flush of weeds that are normally eliminated by tillage before planting. "We're going into spring a week or two late as far as weed seed germination is concerned," she said.



An all-too-familiar scene across Michigan during late April and early May.

### Insect Management Crucial this Spring

Growers with early planted fields of corn may want to be on the lookout for three insect pests that, according to Dr. Doug Landis of MSU's Department of Entomology and Pesticides Research Center, are prone to cool, wet conditions.

"With corn setting in cold, wet soil, germinating slowly if at all, there's a greater opportunity for insect pests to attack the seedlings," warns Landis. "Seed corn maggot, white grub, and wire worm are three traditional pests that would be a concern in those situations."

When green plant material has been plowed down shortly before planting, the seed corn maggot, in particular, can be a problem. Landis explained that when green plant material begins to decay, volatile chemicals are released that attract the female flies.

"If you're planting into a situation where you're delayed several weeks and you have a fairly heavy cover of weeds, you'll want to be aware of the potential for increased seed corn maggot under those conditions," advises Landis. "If you're in rotated corn and suspect a seed corn maggot problem, you'll want to use a seed treatment, either a Diazinon or a Lindane, that can be applied to seed right in the hopper box."

Those chemicals are marketed under a variety of trade names, such as Ag Rox DL, which is a combination of Diazinon and Lindane, and are sold by a variety of companies. Unfortunately, there are no rescue treatments for a stand hard-hit with seed corn maggot, wire worm, and white grub, according to Landis. "It's just a matter of watching that stand closely and if it falls below an acceptable plant population, you may have to replant," he said.

Cutworms may be more of a problem in sugar beets and corn this year with winter annual weeds having some additional growing time because of delayed tillage,

and a shorter span between tillage and actual planting, advises Landis.

"Female moths (adult cutworm) look for places to lay their eggs, preferring green plant material such as winter annual weeds that have emerged and are providing an upright plant surface," said Landis.

"The cutworm moths will lay their eggs and the larvae will begin to feed on the winter annual weeds. If we then turn down that weed and plant corn or sugar beets into it, some proportion of those cutworm larvae will survive and begin feeding on those early emerging seedlings," he said.

"Normally we would recommend that a producer with a heavy stand of winter annual weeds wait a week to 10 days between field work and planting, to starve the larvae to death," suggests Landis. "That's not a real attractive option as late as things are getting this year."

Landis recommends applying Lorsban 4-E in a band directly over the corn or beet plant for effective and economical cutworm control. He added that SEVIN can also be used, although control is not as effective and caution is needed in sugar beets because of toxicity problems. Pounce and Ambush insecticides are excellent for cutworm control in corn, but they aren't labeled for sugar beets, warned Landis.

Alfalfa weevil activity has been minimal because of the cooler temperatures, although Landis did say that both adults and first larvae have been reported. "Right now, alfalfa is growing pretty well and weevil are not growing that fast, but things change very rapidly with them, so it's really hard to make an accurate prediction," said Landis.

Landis urges that growers with questions regarding insect disease and weed management contact their county CES agent.

### CROP PROGRESS REPORT Week Ending 5/5/91

	This Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Acres Tilled	50%	75%	65%
Barley Planted	45%	75%	60%
Corn Planted	8%	30%	25%
Oats Planted	50%	85%	80%
Potatoes Planted	20%	25%	20%
Soys Planted	5%	2%	1%
Sugarbeets			
Planted	25%	95%	90%

Source: Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service

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## "Health Insurance Cost : No Easy Answers"

The high cost of health insurance is a continuing problem for many farmers and other self-employed people. Indeed, it's a concern for society as a whole. Health care costs are rising for not just the self-employed, but also for employers and the federal Medicare/Medicaid program.

American Farm Bureau Federation has sound, positive, member-developed policy recommendations for addressing the high cost of health insurance. The policy includes support for: every possible effort to affect cost management while providing accessible high quality health care; legislation to allow 100 percent federal income tax credits or tax deductions for those who self-finance their health insurance; greater use of non-physician providers to help relieve personnel maldistribution in the medical profession; privately funded optional care delivery systems such as health maintenance organizations (HMO's); and efforts to reduce medical malpractice insurance costs.

Our policy opposes the popular "quick fix" solution to high health insurance costs, such as a national health insurance program. The Canadian health care system is often profiled as a model of how health care should be provided in the United States. But a recent analysis of Canadian health care by John Hosemann, senior economist with the American Farm Bureau, shows that the system doesn't work for the people who need it most -- the critically ill.

"Most people get through life without critical health care problems, so most voters are happy with the Canadian system because it supplies them with things like over-the-counter drugs and eye-glass exams," Hosemann said. "The problem with this political allocation process is that resources are spread over a large number of voters and are simply not available to the small number of voters who need critical care treatment from time to time. As one Canadian put it, 'The system is good if you do not get sick.'"

Hosemann points out that Canadian health care is rationed, not by cost, but by time. One physician survey showed an average 2 1/2 month wait for mammograms and 6-10 month wait for hip replacement. Those of us who live in Michigan may have read the media accounts of Canadian citizens, desperate for a procedure like open heart surgery, who pay out of their own pockets to have the operation done in Detroit.

"The Canadian government strategy of tightly controlling physician and hospital costs not only means fewer services, long waiting lines and extensive rationing," Hosemann said, "but also tension between health care providers and the government. This leads to work stoppages and, given the nature of the monopoly, complete shutdowns can occur in provincial health systems."

Clearly, something has to be done to control health insurance costs in our country. But adopting the clearly inadequate Canadian system is not the answer.

While your Farm Bureau organization continues to work on long term solutions to the high cost of health insurance, it's important for you to safeguard your family by having at least some catastrophic coverage.

*Jack Laurie*  
Jack Laurie, President  
Michigan Farm Bureau

## Michigan Floriculture Industry Gains

Michigan placed sixth nationally in sales of floriculture products in 1990, according to Michigan Agricultural Statistics. California, Florida, New York, Texas, and Ohio reported larger sales than Michigan. Reports from Michigan's 480 commercial growers indicated a wholesale value of surveyed floriculture crops totaled \$124 million in 1990, a 9 percent increase from 1989.

Michigan continued to lead the nation in production of potted geraniums grown from seed with 13 million pots, and ranked second in production of cut gladioli at 37 million spikes, potted Easter lilies at 1.1 million pots and flats of bedding plants at 9.8 million flats. Bedding plants were the industry's mainstay, accounting for 42.2 percent of total sales. Michigan had 25.8 million square feet of greenhouse cover in 1990, including both rigid and film plastic greenhouse. Only California and Florida have more covered growing area.

## Birchmeier New Young Farmer Department Manager



Ernest J. Birchmeier has been named the new Young Farmer Department manager. Birchmeier succeeds Vic Verchereau, who resigned recently to take a management position with Farm Bureau Insurance.

Birchmeier is a graduate of MSU where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Communications. He also completed the two year livestock production ag tech program at MSU in 1986.

Birchmeier started his Farm Bureau career as a regional representative in 1989. He has served in two regions -- the Northeast Region from July 1989 through November 1990, and the West Region from December 1990 to the present.

## In Brief...

### A Hidden Threat to Dairymen

Dairy producers who violate sodbuster and swampbuster rules could be beating themselves out of refunds on producer assessments provided for in last year's budget reconciliation package.

The budget package established refunds of the assessments for farmers, who do not increase milk marketings over the previous year. The refunds would amount to a nickel per cwt. in 1991 and 11.25 over the period from 1992-1995. However, new USDA regulations make producers ineligible for those refunds unless they comply with sodbuster and swampbuster requirements.

Producers who want to remain eligible for those refunds must contact their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee to complete form AD-1026, warns Ken Olson, director of the American Farm Bureau's Dairy Department.

### Put that in Your Four New Food Groups

A 10-year study involving 4,200 middle-aged men in Britain revealed a strong positive connection between drinking milk and reduced heart disease. The study, conducted by doctors at Llandough Hospital and reported in "CIRCULATION," the journal of the American Heart Association, found that men who drank a pint of milk a day were nearly 10 times less likely to suffer heart attacks than those drinking no milk at all.

Also on the positive side for dairy products, middle-aged butter eaters had roughly half the rate of heart attacks as those who had switched to margarine. Dr. Peter Elwood, the project leader, said the findings of the study gave a lead to further research into animal fat in the human diet.

### Bracing for Another Pesticide Food Scare

For the past year or so, the National Academy of Science (NAS) has been working on a new study dealing with children's dietary exposure to pesticide residues. The report was first due out this summer, but has since been delayed. It is still uncertain when it will be released, with estimates ranging from later this year all the way into next year.

The academy's report will evaluate how effective the EPA tolerance setting procedures are at protecting infants and minor children from potential health risks associated with pesticide residues in foods they commonly eat. The NAS report will again be based on the theoretical assumption that all pesticides registered for use on certain crops are used at their maximum allowable levels.

AFBF and state Farm Bureaus in several key growing states are conducting a postcard survey among growers to develop data on actual chemical use in 1990 on selected crops. Targeted crops include: peanuts, peaches, oranges, sweet corn and sweet potatoes. Actual chemical use data is already available for apples and some of the other targeted commodities. In conjunction with the National Food Processors Association, Farm Bureau will use the information to give balance and clearer perspective to the NAS report.

### Michigan Farm Real Estate Values Rise

The average value of farmland and buildings in Michigan was \$1,085 per acre on January 1, 1991, up \$80 per acre or 8 percent from January 1, 1990. This is from a report by USDA's Economic Research Service based on a survey conducted by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. This was the fourth consecutive year that farm real estate values in Michigan have risen. The average cash rents expected in Michigan in 1991 are as follows: farms rented for cash, \$52.80 per acre, up \$9.00 from last year; cropland rented for cash, \$45.50 per acre, up \$4.10 from previous year.

Farmland increased in price in neighboring states, too. The value of farmland in Indiana showed a 2 percent increase from 1990 to \$1,275 per acre. In Wisconsin, there was an increase of 6 percent to \$853 per acre. The price of farmland in Ohio inched upward by 1 percent to \$1,217 per acre. Farms rented for cash in Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ohio, were \$85.50, \$58.30 and \$67.50 per acre, respectively.

### Bush - "All Hinges on Fast-Track"

President George Bush, speaking to a group of farm editors recently, said world trade talks and a proposed North American free-trade pact depend on Congress allowing the administration authority to negotiate agreements without the possibility of congressional amendments.

"All hinges on the fast track," he said, referring to the administration's request to extend the authority. The administration contends it will be unable to successfully negotiate in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks and the US-Canada-Mexico free trade pact talks without the fast-track procedure.

Bush said there is apparently "some misunderstanding" among lawmakers that the fast track provisions would deny Congress the right to ratify, and pointed out that Congress would get to vote to accept or reject the agreements. "But we can't have 25,000 amendments" to the pacts. Otherwise, US trade partners could not be assured in advance of trade terms with the US, he said.

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Editorial: Dennis Rudat, Editor and Business Manager.

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### 1990 Farm Bill Dairy Title

**Status:** In a meeting with farm leaders during the week of April 29, Rep. Charles Stenholm, Chairman, House Agriculture Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry subcommittee, indicated that lawmakers will complete action on amendments to the dairy title by August 1991. "It (the dairy title) will be market oriented, it will be budget neutral, and it will be GATT legal," said Stenholm, referring to the plan that is still in its early stages.

Stenholm said one plan under discussion, referred to as the "Franchise to Produce Milk" plan, would allow farmers to participate in a franchise agreement with the government. It would allow the dairy industry growth and expansion into world markets, according to Stenholm. "If we can make the market system work, farmers will all benefit," said Stenholm. "But, if we continue to over-produce for the market, the burden of over-production will be on the producer."

**Farm Bureau Contact:** Al Almy, extension 2040.

### 1992 Budget Progress

#### House of Representatives

**Status:** The House of Representatives has passed its version of the Fiscal Year 1992 budget resolution. The measure is a \$1.46 trillion budget and passed on a vote of 261 to 163. The resolution does not make room for extension of the expiring health insurance tax deduction or for a capital gains cut.

Two attempts at spending freezes were offered as substitutes for the budget plan. One of those plans would have frozen domestic discretionary and international programs at FY 1990 levels and cut entitlement spending by \$6.3 billion in FY 1992 and another \$70 billion over five years. Another amendment would have frozen FY 1992 domestic spending at FY 1990 levels, with defense spending held at 1992 levels, cutting overall entitlement spending by \$6.4 billion in FY 1992 and by \$48.6 billion over five years.

#### Senate

**Status:** The Senate has completed work on its version of the FY 1992 budget resolution. It contains \$1.46 trillion in spending and differs very little from the House-passed resolution. Conferees are meeting to work out a compromise between the two resolutions.

The budget resolutions set targets for spending and revenues, but for all practical purposes, has little to do with the appropriations process which is still firmly in control of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

**Farm Bureau Position:** Farm Bureau supported the amendment to freeze spending at current levels and supports continuation of the health insurance premium tax deduction.  
**Farm Bureau Contact:** Al Almy, extension 2040.

### Five-Cent Gas Tax Proposal

**Status:** A new proposal in the House to raise the gas tax by a nickel a gallon to allow increased funding for surface transportation programs is gaining momentum. The House Public Works and Transportation Committee is proposing a five-year budget plan totaling \$119 billion for highways and \$34.5 billion for transit. The committee would fund this significant increase by spending the balance of the Highway Trust Fund, including revenues collected from the gas tax increase passed last year as part of the overall federal budget agreement.

However the administration's highway reauthorization proposal called for significant increases in spending without raising gas taxes or other use fees. Increased highway spending could be accomplished by spending down the balance of the Highway Trust Fund.

Committee Chairman Rep. Norman Mineta is arguing that since the five-cent increase enacted last year is being used entirely for deficit reduction, another five cent tax increase is needed as part of a Highway Reauthorization Bill due Oct. 1, 1991. Rep. Mineta said that his proposal for the increase has been enthusiastically received by the House Democratic leadership.

**Farm Bureau Position:** Farm Bureau has voiced opposition to this proposal, and will continue to monitor the proposal and consequences to agriculture.  
**Farm Bureau Contact:** Al Almy, extension 2040.

### EPA Seeks Pesticide Pollution Regulations

The Environmental Protection Agency, laying the foundation for a comprehensive groundwater protection strategy, is proposing new rules aimed at reducing the risk of pesticide pollution of groundwater and adds criteria for identifying which pesticides pose a high risk of contaminating groundwater and, therefore, should have restricted use.

Under the EPA's main proposal, the agency would consider classifying a pesticide for restricted use if any of its ingredients are likely to leach through soil to contaminate groundwater or is detected in groundwater in three counties anywhere in the U.S.

An alternative proposal would allow the EPA to consider restricted use for pesticides if any ingredient leaches into the soil, and it is also detected in groundwater at more than 10 percent of the maximum allowable level in three counties or at any level 25 times in four states.

**American Farm Bureau's Toll Free Capitol Hotline Service**

**1-800-245-4630**

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

### No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform

**Status:** Sen. Paul Wartner's (R-Portage) auto insurance reform measure will be modified to reflect reform measures established by the House and Senate Conference Committee. It's expected that conference committee negotiations on the reform measure will begin soon and continue throughout the summer months.

In another insurance related matter, the governor is expected to sign legislation extending the July 1, 1991 sunset provision to January 1992. Expiration of the July 1 sunset provisions would have activated strict territorial requirements forcing auto insurers to artificially adjust territorial rates in some areas of the state.

**Farm Bureau Position:** Farm Bureau continues to support improvements to the no-fault law which will reduce insurance costs and opposes arbitrary rollback of premiums.  
**Farm Bureau Contact:** Darcy Cypher, extension 2048.

### P.A. 116 Refunds

**Status:** Refunds from the state of Michigan to farmers applying for credit under P.A. 116 may take eight to ten weeks because the returns are being audited as they are received and the tight state budget has resulted in total elimination of overtime. Previously, Treasury staff were each authorized to work an additional four hours per day during peak work loads.

Previously, the Department of Treasury only verified that the proper information was attached to the return and that the return had been accurately filled out. However, an audit conducted after the last tax season showed a substantial number of returns had to be adjusted, resulting in the new policy of auditing the returns as they are received.

**Farm Bureau Position:** Farm Bureau has met with Treasury and contacted the Engler administration regarding the problem.  
**Farm Bureau Contact:** Ron Nelson, extension 2043.

### Agricultural Field Sanitation

**Status:** Sen. James Berryman is sponsoring legislation, Senate Bill 290, that, if successful, would immediately re-activate the previous and stricter than federal version of Michigan's field sanitation standards. It's believed this bill is intended to repeal the recent agreement that made Michigan's standards equivalent to federal standards.

Other co-sponsors of the bill include Senators Miller, Stabenow, Cherry, Kelly, Hart, Pollack, Conroy, Vaughn, Faxon, Dingell, O'Brien, Barcia, Holmes, and Dillingham.

**Farm Bureau Position:** Farm Bureau opposes S.B. 290 and contends that any agricultural field sanitation standards that are stricter than federal standards creates an inequity for Michigan farmers that is totally unacceptable.

**Farm Bureau Contact:** Howard Kelly, extension 2044.

### Minimum Wage

A number of sponsors have introduced H.B. 4155, a broad based minimum wage bill similar to one introduced in the last legislative session and nearly identical to recent federal legislation. The bill increases the state minimum hourly rate from \$3.35 to the current federal level of \$4.25, which went into effect April 1, 1991. There are no further increases called for in this bill.

Meanwhile, identical proposals have been introduced, one in each house (H.B. 4592 and S.B. 267), that call for additional increases from \$4.25 to \$4.65 in April 1992, and up to \$5.00, effective April 1, 1993. The Senate bill is sponsored by Senators Cherry, O'Brien, and Hart - the House version by Representatives Emerson, Hoffman, Murphy, Jondahl, Pitoniak, Ciaramitaro, Gubow, Barns, Clark, Jonker, DeMars, P. Bullard, Kilpatrick, Hood, O'Neill, Hollister, Bennane, Saunders, Hertel, Berman, Scott, and Clack.

**Farm Bureau Position:** MFB policy states that there shouldn't be any additional increases in the present federal minimum wage rate and that Michigan's minimum wage and piecework rate should not exceed federal minimum wage levels. Farm Bureau supports H.B. 4155, but does not support the other two versions that call for additional increases in April of 1992 and 1993.

**Special Note:** Farm Bureau policy on piecerates is that they should not exceed the federal minimum wage. Piecerates in Michigan are developed by the Wage Stabilization Board based on the Michigan minimum wage rate. Because Michigan's minimum wage is still at the \$3.35 level, the published piecerates first issued in 1981 are still applicable only to those workers who are subject to the state minimum wage.

Most workers involved with piecerate work, however, are subject to the federal minimum wage law and must receive a piecerate from growers equivalent to the federal minimum wage. There is an exception for workers 16 years of age and younger who are employed on the same farm as their parents. If they receive the same piecerate as older employees on the same farm, they aren't required to have a piecerate equivalent to the minimum hourly wage rate.

In the past, the Wage Deviation Board has increased the piecerates the same percentage as the increase to the minimum wage. On page 6 is a guideline which, based on past experience, shows the new piecerate schedule required to be equivalent to the current federal minimum wage law (right hand column). These figures are guidelines developed by MFB for use in applying a percentage increase in the federal minimum wage to 1981 piecerate rates. **Note that these are guidelines only.**  
**Farm Bureau Contact:** Howard Kelly, extension 2044.

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

T - Temp.	5/15.....5/30	5/15.....7/31
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	N.....N	A.....B
W. Corn Belt	N.....A	N.....B
E. Corn Belt	N.....A	N.....N
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....N	A.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	N.....N	A.....B
Pac. NW Wheat	B.....A	N.....N
Delta	A.....A	N.....N
Southeast	A.....N	A.....B
West Texas	N.....N	N.....N
San Joaquin	B.....N	A.....N

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

# Weather

## Additional Revised Atrazine Label Tips

Atrazine reclassification as a restricted use pesticide went into effect in September 1990, meaning that only certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision can legally apply atrazine. The label revision (in addition to the restricted use classification) includes the following:

- Users must wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants (or equivalent), chemical resistant gloves, and water-proofed boots. In addition, persons involved in mixing and loading operations are required to use chemical-resistant rubber or neoprene gloves and a face shield of goggles.
- Ground water contamination may be reduced by diking and flooring of permanent liquid bulk storage sites with an impermeable material.
- This product may not be mixed/loaded or used within 50 feet of all wells, including abandoned wells, draining wells and sink holes.
- Post-emergence applications to corn and sorghum must be made before the crops reach 12 inches in height.
- The maximum application rate for corn and sorghum is 3 pounds of active ingredient per acre per calendar year. Applications of the product for quackgrass suppression in corn and sorghum are restricted to spring applications only. No fall applications are permitted.
- Applications for industrial weed control in noncrop areas may not exceed a combined maximum of 10 pounds of active ingredient per acre per calendar year.
- Do not apply this product through any type of irrigation system.

For 4/1/91 to 4/30/91	Temperature Observed Max.	Dev From Normal	Accum. Grow. Degree Days*	Dev. From Norm. GDD*	Precipitation Actual (inch.)	Dev. From Norm (inch.)
Alpena	55	+4	135	+99	2.42	-.08
Bad Axe	56	+1	146	+71	5.58	+2.96
Belding	59	+0	189	+51	3.07	-.21
Beulah	57	+4	149	+94	3.06	+.26
Escanaba	48	+2	39	---	2.07	1.05
Fennville	59	+1	173	+61	5.46	+1.87
Flint	59	+3	197	+107	4.07	+1.02
Grand Rapids	60	+3	200	+96	5.73	+2.17
Houghton	51	+5	96	---	1.90	-.14
Houghton Lake	55	+3	139	+87	4.83	+2.25
Hudsonville	59	+2	181	+77	4.35	+.79
Imlay City	58	+0	168	+47	4.10	+1.18
Jackson	59	+2	207	+99	1.86	-1.10
Lake City	56	+2	142	+75	4.60	+1.72
Lansing	59	+2	198	+95	4.40	+1.52
Ludington	57	+2	145	+78	3.48	+.59
Marquette	52	+6	119	---	3.42	+.91
Muskegon	58	+4	172	+99	3.62	+.48
Pellston	55	+4	144	+111	1.96	-.74
Saginaw Valley	59	+1	199	+67	6.85	+4.42
Sault Ste. Marie	52	+6	106	---	3.93	+1.98
Sebewaing	57	+2	159	+84	5.23	+2.01
Standish	57	+2	154	+77	6.27	+3.77
Tipton	61	+3	198	+67	4.10	+.71
Traverse City	57	+4	165	+110	2.15	-.36
Watervliet	60	+2	194	+74	3.53	.23

High Temperature was 86 at Alpena 4/8/91  
 Low Temperature was 12 at Marquette on 4/11/91  
 \* Growing Degree Days are based on B.E. Base 50F method and are accumulated from March 1, 1991. Normals are based on Climatological district averages for the same period.

Warmer and wetter than normal weather continued over much of Michigan during April, with the exception of the scattered southern sections of the Lower Peninsula, where precipitation was below normal. Excessive rainfall in central and eastern sections of the Lower Peninsula (in many cases greater than 200% of normal) caused extensive delays in spring fieldwork operations. Mean temperatures ranged from 2 to 6 degrees F above normal, leaving 4-inch bare soil average temperatures in a 50 to 60F range by month's end.

Weather changes may be just over the horizon, however. The Climate Analysis Center's 30-day outlook is calling for near normal temperatures and precipitation. Normal precipitation for May ranges from less than 3 inches in northeastern sections of the U.P. and northern sections of the Lower Peninsula to more than 3.5 inches in the far southern Lower Peninsula.

Looking further ahead, the new outlook for May through July indicates near to above normal temperatures and near to below normal precipitation for Michigan, possibly leading to moisture deficiencies in some soils by mid-summer.

Jeff Andresen  
 Agricultural Meteorologist, MSU



Health care coverage isn't simple anymore. The bottom line, however, remains the same: everybody wants the best possible coverage at the lowest possible rates. This is where Farm Bureau has good news for small business owners.

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## MSU Researchers Improve Postemergence Tank Mixes

As public concern about farm chemical use rises, more attention is being focused on how to make herbicides more effective at lower rates and with fewer applications.

Research at Michigan State University has demonstrated that the addition of ammonium sulfate fertilizer to tank mixes of Poast and Basagran can improve weed control and allow growers to use lower rates of Poast.

"When you tank mix Poast and Basagran, there is a dramatic reduction in control of quackgrass, crabgrass and foxtail," says MSU's Dr. Donald Penner. "This problem can be partially overcome by using higher rates of Poast, but by carefully matching tank mixes and adjuvants, like ammonium sulfate, we can improve control of some hard-to-kill weeds without rate increases of Poast."

In field trials, MSU researchers Penner, Jim Kells and Gunawan Wanamarta, discovered tank mixes of Poast and Basagran, plus crop oil, gave only 20 percent control of quackgrass. But when ammonium sulfate was added to the tank mix, control jumped to 88 percent, comparable to the level of control provided by Poast alone, says Penner.

"Ammonium sulfate has other applications as well," Penner says. "Adding ammonium sulfate really kicks up the activity of glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup and Ranger) on certain weed species. This is especially true when you are using low rates, high spray volumes, or if you are trying to kill certain broadleaf weeds such as perennial sow thistle or velvetleaf."

According to Penner, ammonium sulfate breaks down salts that form when chemicals are combined or used in hard water, causing the weed's absorption of the chemical to be restricted. Penner claims ammonium sulfate can also help overcome absorption problems brought on by adverse weather conditions.

"If you have optimal weather conditions, the weeds may still absorb enough of the herbicide for good control when using low rates," says Penner. "But if adverse weather

sets in, the reduction in herbicide absorption caused by the formation of alkaline salts can be more severe."

Monsanto's Roundup and Landmaster have been labeled for use with ammonium sulfate since 1985. Ranger, however, isn't labeled for use with ammonium sulfate. Ten more herbicides were labeled for use with ammonium in 1990.

The herbicides include: Fallow Master, Honcho, Landmaster II, Landmaster BW and Roundup RT, manufactured by Monsanto Co.; Poast and Poast Plus, manufactured by BASF; Pursuit, manufactured by American Cyanamid; and Classic and Pinnacle, manufactured by DuPont.

Only a small amount of ammonium sulfate needs to be added when used as an adjuvant. Roundup, for example, calls for 17 pounds of dry ammonium sulfate per one-hundred gallons of water, working out to about two percent by weight. The Poast label calls for 2.5 pounds of ammonium per acre.

Released from "Growth Tech Communications"

Questions about state budget, school finance and property tax reform, and the Department of Natural Resources were the main topics of discussion in a meeting between 80 Huron County Farm Bureau leaders and Gov. John Engler, according to Huron County President Dayne Roggenbuck.

"He basically informed Farm Bureau members how the 9.5 percent budget cuts had really come into play - there's been a lot of misinformation," said Roggenbuck. "Governor Engler had hopes, after taking office in January, of getting some agreements hammered out to avoid across the board cuts."

According to Roggenbuck, Gov. Engler said he was pleased with the initial steps taken toward property tax relief, but that the issue is a long way from resolved.

In discussion about a proposed split of the DNR, Engler told the crowd that he's still looking for solutions and suggestions about the future configuration of the DNR and that the issue is still wide open.



Gov. Engler addresses questions as Huron County President Dwayne Roggenbuck (right) looks on.

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Explore the exciting history of South Dakota during Mt. Rushmore's 50th anniversary. Price includes roundtrip motorcoach tour from Chicago, five nights hotel accommodations, five dinners, Deadwood gaming halls, Boot Hill, Black Hills Passion Play, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park jeep tour and Badlands National Park. Departures in June and August as well.

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

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



Long hours of research, public preparedness, and genuine leadership ability, have brought Mary Beth Bush to the top, having recently been judged the state winner in the prepared public speaking contest during the 63rd annual state FFA convention.

A Breckenridge High School sophomore and member of the FFA Chapter, Ms. Bush began preparing her speech, "The American Farmer," in July of 1990.

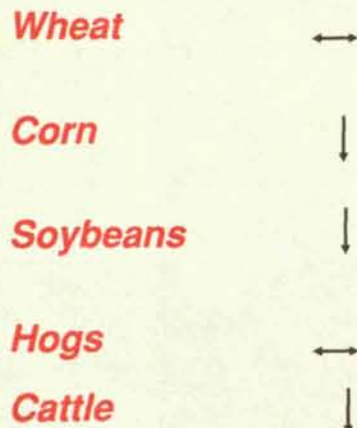
Judges looked for stage presence, voice inflections, official FFA dress, and subject knowledge. Mary Beth gave them just what they were looking for, and now anticipates national competition in Kansas City during the month of November.

Ms. Bush plans to prepare herself during the summer for this challenge and the future by participating in a leadership seminar and working alongside her subject, "The American Farmer."

6

MARKETS

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends (long term)



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

Hogs

With spring planting running behind, weather will continue to be the dominant short-term influence in the cash market. Producers appear to be staying current, which will help provide price support. However, hog numbers are large enough overall to keep prices from going much higher at this time. Demand for pork should hold firm over the next couple of weeks with retailers turning away from beef.

AGRICULTURAL PIECEWORK RATES GUIDELINES ONLY

The following scales of piecework rates for harvesting of vegetables, fruits and sorting and bunching of strawberry plants is determined by the Wage Deviation Board to be equivalent to the prevailing minimum hourly wage rate for such work.

The 1990 & 1991 figures are guidelines developed by Michigan Farm Bureau for use in applying the percentage increase in the federal minimum wage to the 1991 piecework rates (right column).

Effective Date	4/17/79	1/1/80	1/1/81	4/1/90	4/1/91
Minimum Wage Level	\$2.90	\$3.10	\$3.35	\$3.80/	\$4.25
Percent Increase		6.9%	8.06%	13.43%	11.84%

CROP/UNIT  
Rule 408.711

VEGETABLES	RATE IN DOLLARS				
Asparagus (Lb.)	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.13
Beans (Snap/Bu.)	2.58	2.76	2.98	3.38	3.78
Cucumber (Pickles/Lb.)	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06
Greens (25 lb. Crate)	0.53	0.57	0.62	0.70	0.78
Lettuce (24 Head Crate)	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.21	0.23
Onions (Yel. 5 Peck Cr.)	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.28	0.31
Onions (White 5 Peck Cr.)	0.38	0.41	0.44	0.50	0.56
Onions(8-9/ Bunch)	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
Peppers, "Cherry" (Bu.)	1.86	1.99	2.15	2.44	2.73
Peppers, "Green" (Bu.)	0.50	0.54	0.58	0.66	0.74
Potatoes (Bu.)	0.17	0.18	0.20	0.23	0.26
Radishes (Doz. Bunches)	0.48	0.51	0.55	0.63	0.70
Tomatoes, Fresh (5/8 Bu.)	0.43	0.45	0.49	0.56	0.63
Tomatoes, Proc. (5/8 Bu.)	0.31	0.33	0.36	0.41	0.46

RULE 408.713

STRAWBERRY PLANTS	RATE IN DOLLARS				
Machine Assist. (Thous.)	5.71	6.10	6.59	7.48	8.37
Non-Mech. Assist. (Thous.)	7.62	8.15	8.81	9.99	11.17

FRUITS	RATE IN DOLLARS				
Apples, Stripping (Bu.)	0.34	0.36	0.39	0.44	0.49
Apples, Crab (Bu.)	1.16	1.24	1.34	1.52	1.70
Blackberries (Quart)	0.33	0.35	0.38	0.43	0.48
Blueberries, Handpick (Lb.)	0.17	0.19	0.20	0.23	0.26
Blueberries, Assisted (Lb.)	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07
Cherries, Tart (27 Lb. Lug)	1.61	1.72	1.86	2.11	2.36
Cherries, Swt. (24 Lb. Lug)	1.77	1.89	2.04	2.31	2.58
Grapes, Con. & Niag. (Lb.)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Grapes, Delaware (Lb.)	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Peaches, Process (Bu.)	0.38	0.40	0.43	0.49	0.55
Pears (Bu.)	0.52	0.56	0.60	0.68	0.76
Plums (Bu.)	2.32	2.48	2.98	3.38	3.78
Prunes (Bu.)	0.91	0.98	1.05	1.19	1.33
Raspberries, Black (Quart)	0.33	0.35	0.38	0.43	0.48
Raspberries, Red (Quart)	0.45	0.49	0.52	0.59	0.66
Strawberries, Fresh (Quart)	0.17	0.19	0.20	0.23	0.26
Strawberries, Process (Lb.)	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.16	0.18

Corn

The spring high appears to be in for cash corn. New crop prices typically trend lower until July pollination time. This year could be different depending on the spring planting delays around the country. U.S. planting should be 50% complete by May 5 and is probably closer to 25%. Corn markets are still in a holding pattern awaiting decision on extension of U.S.S.R. grain credits.

Soybeans

Cash soybeans continue their downward trek into spring. Rumor has it that corn and cotton planting delays will result in increased soybean acreage. There has been some good news in the bean complex. Barge basis has firmed to the best level of the season for May loadings. Switching a couple of bean cargoes from South America to U.S. origin for Europe caused a pickup in demand. Reasons for the current situation is a small Brazilian crop and over-valued currencies.

Wheat

On May 9, USDA released the first official crop estimate of the season and their first 1991/92 crop year supply and demand estimates. The crop estimate will be the key to the wheat price trend. Early indications are the crop is in poor condition in several parts of the country. Preliminary indications are calling for carryover forecast to be the lowest one in years.

Any announcement of credit to the Soviets should precipitate immediate wheat purchases. Fundamental indicators are supporting stronger wheat prices.

Wheat experts recently toured Kansas fields to observe crop conditions and concluded that the leading wheat producing state will harvest 355 million bushels this year, 25 percent less than 1990's 472 million bushel crop. Oklahoma, which generally produces the second largest wheat crop in the nation, will also suffer reduced yields in this year's drought stressed crop. The group estimated the Oklahoma wheat output at about 134 million bushels, down 17 percent from the five year average.

Cattle

Cattle prices will remain soft for the next couple of weeks, followed by a slight pickup going into the Memorial holiday. Ample numbers on showlists should keep the cash market on the defensive. Consumer demand will be the key to future price movement. The continued weakening wholesale market has been the reason for the recent decline.

Dairy

The M-W price, hopefully, has started to stabilize. The M-W price for June is \$10.04, which is \$.02 higher than the May \$10.02, the first time since Oct. 1990 that the M-W has not dropped. This isn't much of an increase, but at least the M-W is headed in the right direction.

In other dairy news, Minnesota and Wisconsin legislatures are considering measures to extend, for at least another year, the current moratoriums on commercial sale of bovine somatotropin (BST), according to *Feedstuffs*, a weekly newspaper for agribusiness. The Minnesota legislation would extend the ban for a year if also passed by Wisconsin. Wisconsin's version would keep the moratorium in place for two more years.

Market Conditions Trip Big Packer

Iowa Beef Processors Inc. (IBP), the Nebraska based meat packing firm, found market conditions not to its liking in the first quarter of this year. The company finished in the red ink for the period ending March 31, for its first quarterly net loss in nearly 20 years, according to the *Des Moines Register*.

The giant meatpacker had a net loss of \$9.1 million for the quarter, compared with earnings of \$4.4 million in the first quarter of 1990. IBP's sales for the quarter, at \$2.54 billion, were slightly above last year's but officials said the opening last year of two new pork plants in Iowa and Nebraska added to sales -- not profitability. IBP is the world's largest producer of fresh beef and pork, employing 26,000 workers, the *Register* said.

Armies of Lobbyists Run on Fast Track

Battle lines are drawn and players are as many as Congress considers whether to accept or reject President Bush's request for continued fast-track negotiating authority.

Environmentalists, claiming lessening of food safety standards, and organized labor, fearing loss of jobs, head the opposition. However, Linda Fisher, assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said U.S. food imports must comply with U.S. regulations and this wouldn't change under a free trade agreement. Proponents also point out the large number of U.S. jobs dependent on foreign trade.

E.C.'s 1992 Farm Spending Budget Up 9.9 Percent

The E.C. Commission's draft 1992 budget forecasts spending 34.66 billion European Currency Units (ECU, 1 ECU = \$1.211 U.S.) on agricultural programs, or a 9.9 percent rise over the 1991 budget, according to E.C. Budget Commissioner Pete Schmidhuber.

Agricultural spending will total 53.2 percent of the E.C.'s budget, roughly in line with previous years, he said. The expenditure figure assumes the commission's current package of 1991-92 marketing year price proposals are accepted by the E.C. Council of Ministers.

Schmidhuber emphasized the figures represent only a draft budget. But he noted that increased costs of agricultural supports, the fluctuation of the dollar against the E.C.U., and costs associated with German reunification, helped increase the spending. The E.C.'s total budget for 1992 is forecast at 65 billion E.C.U.s, a rise of 11.3 percent over the 1991 budget, Schmidhuber said.

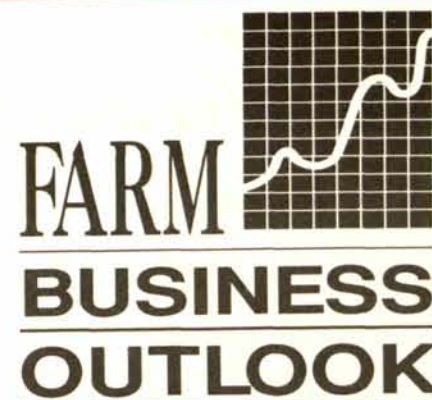
E.C.'s MacSharry Proposing Farm Policy Reform

Wide-ranging proposals for reform of the EC's Common Agricultural Policy will be unveiled by early June, leaving open the possibility that world trade talks could be concluded by year's end, according to E.C. Agriculture Commissioner Ray MacSharry.

In an interview with *Knight-Ridder Financial News*, MacSharry said he hoped EC farm prices for the 1991-92 marketing year could be agreed at an E.C. farm ministers' May 21-22 meeting so reform plans could be submitted the following week.

"That's the time-scale I'm working on," he said, adding reform plans would be submitted regardless of whether farm ministers approved the current price package. MacSharry said bilateral meetings held with individual farm ministers following their April 22 meeting encouraged him that a deal could be struck.

MacSharry said that in an upcoming meeting with USDA Secretary Edward Madigan and U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, he would continue to negotiate on GATT issues on the basis of the E.C. offer of 30 percent cuts in farm supports over 10 years.



### Michigan April Farm Price Index Down 2 Percent

The Index of Prices Received by farmers in Michigan for all products as of April 15 was 121 percent of its 1977 base, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. The April index is 2 percent below last month's level of 124 and 12 percent below last year's index of 137.

The price index for all crops rose 1 percent from its March level. Dry bean prices dropped by 1 percent, while corn prices experienced no change from a month ago. All hay prices fell by 8 percent. Potatoes had a 12 percent increase in price while oats increased by 1 percent from its March level. Commercial vegetable prices were unchanged from a month ago. A 29 percent decrease in poultry and egg prices along with a 4 percent decrease in dairy products and a 2 percent drop in meat animals lowered the livestock and products index by 6 percent from a month ago. Hogs showed no change from last month. Milk prices were 3 percent below March's price and 18 percent below April 1990.

The April Index of Prices Received for all U.S. farm products was unchanged from March at 149 percent of its 1977 average. Increases in the price of potatoes, onions, cotton and wheat had the largest upward effect while price decreases for eggs, hogs, cattle and tomatoes had the greatest downward effect. The index was 2 points (1.3 percent) below a year ago.

The April 1991 Index of Prices Paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wages was 190 percent of its 1977 average. This is 2 points (1.1 percent) above January 1991 and 7 points (3.8 percent) above April 1990.

### Soybean Research Funding Approved

"Soybean cyst nematode management research will become a reality at Michigan State University in 1991," states Michigan Soybean Committee Chairman Kam Washburn. He is chairman of the seven member producer group which oversees the collections and disbursements of Michigan's soybean checkoff program.

"The soybean nematode has recently been identified in at least five counties. Fortunately, it can be controlled with proper management, which is why we funded the nematode management research with Dr. Bird at M.S.U.," continues Washburn.

Nematode management was one of six research projects funded for 1991 at M.S.U. A mid-year report is required from each researcher, with a final report due in 1992.

The following five research projects were also approved for funding:

- Breeding Soybeans for Michigan by Dr. M. Vitosh, M.S.U.
- A Winter Nursery for Soybean Variety Development by Dr. M. Vitosh, M.S.U.
- Changing Weed Management in Soybean Production by Dr. K. Renner, M.S.U.
- Phytophthora Rot in Soybeans - Water Relations of Infection and Symptom Expression by Dr. P. Hart, M.S.U.
- On-Farm Nitrogen and Potassium Fertilizer Management Studies by Dr. M. Vitosh, M.S.U.

### Minor Use Chemicals Need Top Priority!

The American Farm Bureau Federation testified recently that one of the most urgent problems facing agriculture is the loss of chemicals registered for "minor uses."

AFBF urged Congress to give top priority to minor use chemicals as it considers reauthorization of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Products in the "minor use" category include those registered for all fruits, vegetables, nuts, tobacco, nursery products, ornamentals, and aquaculture. Major commodities such as wheat, corn, cotton and soybeans also sometimes have unique problems for which minor-use chemicals are necessary.

The increased cost of data development and establishment of maintenance fees have made it unprofitable for companies to maintain registrations and the production of many vitally important chemicals. Keith Eckel, AFBF board member and president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, told the House Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research and Foreign Agriculture.

"It is bitterly ironic that in the well-intentioned process of reregistration, we are losing these products primarily for economic reasons, rather than for health or environmental reasons," Eckel testified.

Farm Bureau was actively involved in past reauthorizations of FIFRA and supported the reregistration of chemicals, but now believes Congress should examine the underfunding and serious backlog facing the reregistration effort.

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"The accelerated reregistration of older chemicals also accelerated the decision of many registrants to support or drop many minor-use chemical registrations," Eckel told the Congressmen. "A large number of these products are no longer being manufactured and more than 1,000 represent critically important tools for farmers and ranchers. These decisions literally could mean the difference between growing or not growing certain crops."

He said preservation of these critical uses is also important from an environmental standpoint. Loss of an important product ripples through an entire farming operation forcing changes in management, cultural practices, conservation, pest control alternatives and marketing strategies. Often, no viable alternatives are available.

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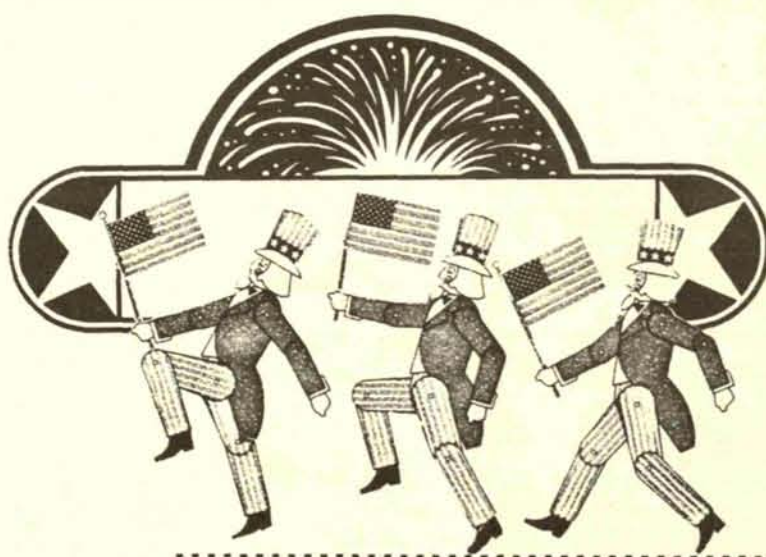
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#### SUMMERFEST July 17

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- ★ Cold drinks
- ★ Apple pie and other sweet treats
- ★ Games
- ★ Music

**Mall by June 21 to:** Summerfest, Michigan Farm Bureau, P. O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909. Only 2,000 tickets are available and will sold on a first come-first served basis.

## 8 Protect Children From Farm Risks

Farm parents must be aware of and respect the safety and health hazards their children face--hazards that include powerful machinery and tools, chemicals, confined spaces, ponds, animals, and motor vehicles on rural roads.

A large share of the serious injuries to both adults and children on farms involve mechanical trauma connected with the use of machinery and tools. Such injuries often result in amputation, permanent crippling, and even death. But accidents that involve fire, water, falls, firearms, poisonous substances, ATVs, electricity, and entrapment claim their share of victims as well.

Several factors combine to produce an environment in which unintentional injuries and deaths occur so frequently.

The main factor is the close proximity of farm workplace hazards to the farm home environment. Unlike other children, farm

children face virtually the same occupational dangers their parents face. They need only take a few steps from their homes to find heavy machinery, toxic chemicals, and potentially dangerous storage areas.

Plus, many children do the work of adults, facing the same hazards--but often without the same knowledge, experience, and physical strength. Unfortunately, many adults do not perceive the risks involved when children do farm work. Parents have to assume a deep sense of responsibility for their children and make the farm workplace as safe for them as possible.

Here are safety tips to help you protect your children:

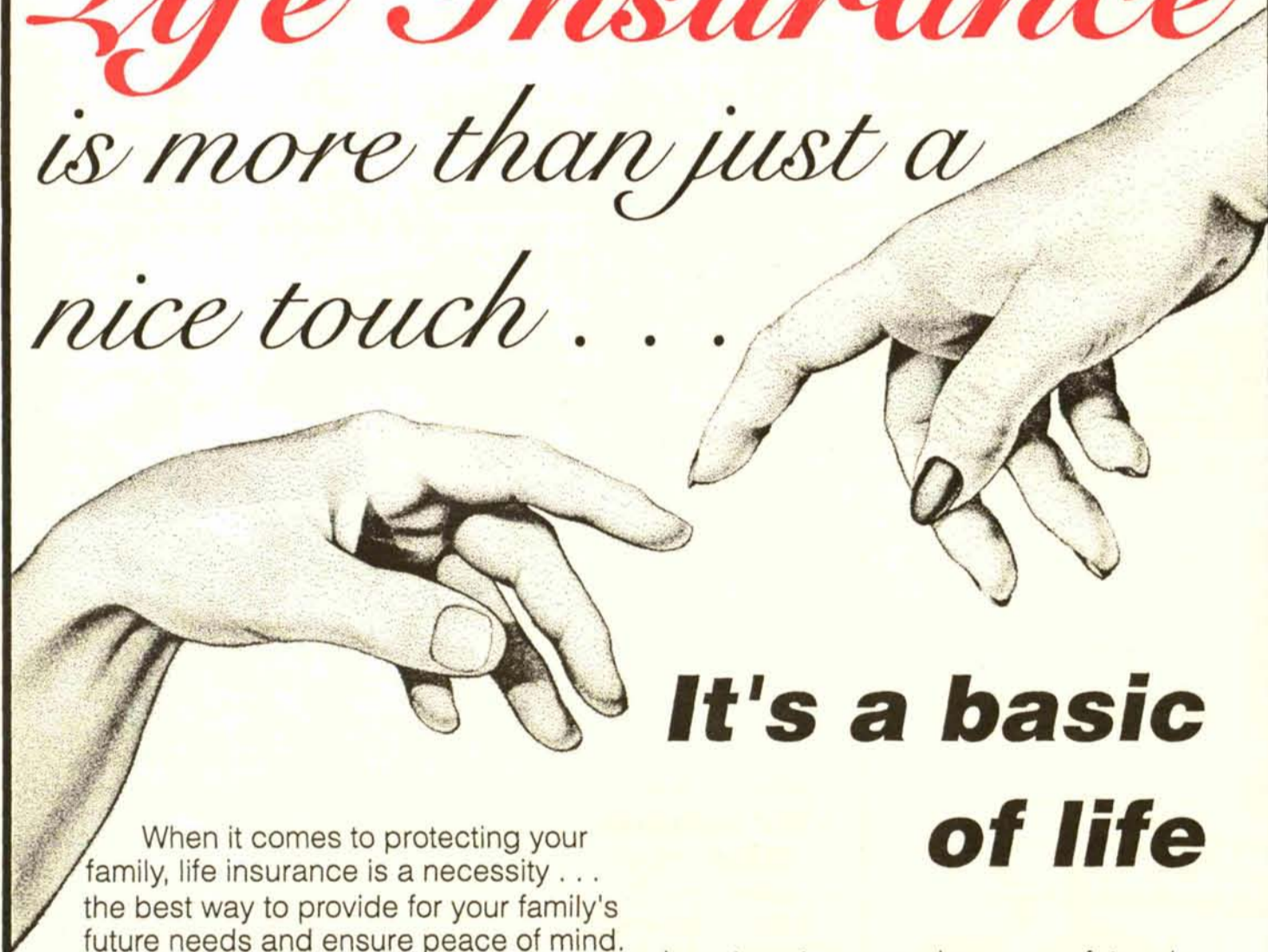
- Do not allow unsupervised children around farm equipment, large animals, chemicals, bins, ponds, or other potential dangers.
- Place warning decals in all dangerous areas, and explain to children that the labels mean they should stay away.
- Do not allow children to ride on farm equipment. Keep them away from moving machinery. Make sure everyone is safely away before backing up or going forward.
- Nearly two-thirds of the nation's traffic deaths occur on rural roads and highways. When you drive, properly fasten small children into approved child safety seats--and remember that Michigan law now requires children up to age 16 to wear safety belts in both front and rear seats.
- Install smoke detectors in your home, and test them once a month. Keep fire extinguishers in your home, and develop and practice a home fire escape plan with your family.
- Never leave a small child unsupervised in or near water, including bathtubs, cisterns, washtubs, ponds, and swimming pools. Farm children have also drowned in stock watering tanks, rain-filled excavations, and even milk cans.



From Farm Bureau Insurance

- Fence farm ponds and manure pits.
- Keep toxic chemicals--cleaners, medicines, paints, petroleum products, pesticides, and animal care products--locked up and out of children's reach. Keep children away from work operations involving chemical use and out of places that have been treated with pesticides. Dispose of empty chemical containers promptly.
- Take young workers' limitations into account when assigning jobs. Provide thorough instruction and supervision as well as proper protective equipment. Don't give a youngster a job better suited to adult skills.
- Learn first aid and CPR, especially if you live a distance away from emergency medical assistance. Post emergency numbers near every telephone, and teach children how to call for emergency assistance.

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### Ag Commission Releases Draft Nutrient & Pesticide Management Proposals

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture has released for public review and comment two draft proposals for "Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices" in the areas of Nutrient (fertilizer) Utilization and Pesticides Utilization, under Michigan's Right to Farm Act.

"The draft proposals were developed by a task force headed by Michigan State University's (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to develop practices that address water quality issues and improve agricultural production efficiency," Bill Schuette, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), said.

Others included on the task force were the United States Department of Agriculture Soil and Conservation Service, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other professional and industry organizations.

Schuette also announced that MSU's Agricultural Experiment Station will "field test" the proposed nutrient and pesticides practices at various university farms around the state.

"We greatly appreciate MSU's providing this field test research and demonstration effort to assure that the proposed practices will be practical in actual on-farm application," Schuette added. "This project again demonstrates the important partnership which exists between the agriculture industry, MSU and state government."

Interested persons may provide comment on the proposed practices in writing to:  
**Bob Craig**  
Director of Agriculture Policy  
Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Box 30017  
Lansing, MI 48909  
or, by calling (517) 373-1050. Requests for copies of the proposals may be obtained by writing the same address.