

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



August 15, 1991

D.C. Swamped With Cases of Wetland Confusion

Photo: Courtesy of AFBF

More than 50 Michigan farmers were part of the over 400 case studies of farmers caught up in bureaucratic wetlands regulations presented by Farm Bureau to Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), in response to his challenge to either put up or shut up.

During an Environmental Protection Subcommittee hearing in June, committee chairman Sen. Baucus astounded AFBF President Dean Kleckner and countless others by requesting that he provide evidence that farmers were indeed caught up in the maddening crossfire of bureaucratic wetland regulations. Kleckner testified during the hearing on the need to end confusion and overzealous regulatory action on wetlands.

The 50 cases submitted from Michigan, as well as the other cases from across the country, were surfaced, researched and

delivered to Washington, D.C., with names, addresses and various forms of documentation in a one week period.

"The farmers and ranchers who have stepped forward represent all sections of our nation," Kleckner said in a letter accompanying the documents. "These producers are amazed and angry that their conservation ethic and knowledge of their own farm have been challenged...some have had their farming and personal lives turned into chaos."

The Farm Bureau President also noted that many "had to overcome their fear of bureaucratic retaliation" and that others did not step forward for that reason.

Among those who did step forward were Illinois farmers Jim Koeller and Jim Gay, Oregon farmers Michael and Torri Schrock and Rhode Island farmer Bill Stamp (see

page 10). They told their stories during a news conference in Washington, D.C., along with Kleckner and some of the co-sponsors of proposed legislation to end regulatory confusion over wetlands.

Baucus intends to deliver the documents to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Reilly and ask that he take a close look at their concerns as he puts together a plan for administering wetlands laws.

AFBF President Dean Kleckner (left) presents Sen. Max Baucus with more than 400 of the case studies he had requested.

See Page 10 for additional Wetland Coverage



MSU's Cooperative Extension Service - an Imig Perspective

Michigan State University's new Cooperative Extension Director Gail Imig's appointment took effect July 1. Imig spent three years as assistant director of Extension at Kansas State University, and held several positions at the University of Missouri,

including associate vice president of academic affairs - university Extension, associate dean and program director for home economics Extension.

Imig attended a public hearing on the new Right-to-Farm proposals for nutrient and pesticide management during the early hours of AgExpo and took time out for a news conference as well. What follows are her observations during the first week in her new role.

Q. What, in your opinion, are your duties as CES Director?

A. My responsibilities are really to provide the overall leadership and administration of the CES, which includes field staff who work in the counties and MSU faculty with Extension appointments. That also means identifying colleges and departments within the university which contribute to the educational needs we have across the state.

Q. What is your philosophy on the role of the CES?

A. We must put programs together that meet the needs of the people, which hasn't always been the case in all Extension services. The real thing that's going to be important for the future is learning how to visit with people, work with advisory committees and find out what the needs are. It's a constant process of monitoring and identifying those needs. I want to see to it that we do that well.

Q. What are your biggest tasks here at MSU?

A. We're going to need to do some strategic planning, setting some very clear priorities after we've received input and then putting together the interdisciplinary teams of scientists and experts that we need to address those issues and make an investment of resources to make a difference.

Q. What areas would you like to see grow?

A. Commercial agriculture in this state has critical issues to deal with, such as changing consumer preference, a global economic environment and how to deal with that competition. Identifying those niche markets and really looking at market opportunities.

Biotechnology developments need to be considered and analyzed, meaning we need to look at where farmers can make the best use of these new developments. It also means that it won't be just one scientist. We're going to have to put together interdisciplinary teams that can go out and analyze the entire operation, including the market, economy, environment, financial management, and personnel. All of these things need to come together at the farm operation to help that individual.

See "Imig" - continued on page 5



Corn Belt Experiencing Spotty Drought Conditions

Drought-stressed corn is becoming a familiar sight in parts of the Corn Belt as some locations have gone since early June without rain. This particular field is located in Livingston County, Illinois, where farmers generally expect 140 bushel corn per acre, but this year are predicting 43 bushel corn and 17 bushel soybeans, even with a return to normal rainfall.

Ohio's governor declared a drought alert for all but 10 of the state's 88 counties on July 26. Hardest hit are the counties in northeastern Ohio, where rainfall is more than 6 inches below normal.

Fortunately, Michigan has generally been spared with rains. The area south of I-94 across lower Michigan is reportedly short of rain with Hillsdale and Monroe counties reportedly hardest hit.



Photo: Courtesy of Illinois Farm Bureau

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Dealing with the Wetlands Issue: Your Organization at its Finest

Early Michigan settlers found much of the state a morass of low-lying, soggy ground. They drained many of these swamps and mudholes and turned them into productive, fertile farmland.

Agriculture now finds itself stuck in another type of morass: a fight with federal bureaucrats over confusing and controversial wetlands policy that threatens to engulf the agricultural economy. The challenge is to move the debate to the high ground that will allow farmers to make a common-sense case for preserving genuinely valuable wetlands and protecting agricultural property rights.

It's been noted many times before: farmers are the original environmentalists. They want to preserve the quality of the environment they live and work in. They understand the value of wetlands for enhancing groundwater quality and maintaining wildlife habitat.

But farmers have been frustrated by a rigid bureaucratic attitude that unfairly treats all potential wetlands as equally valuable. This zealous mindset has led to countless examples of farmers who have had their farming and personal lives turned into chaos.

Congressional support builds for the Farm Bureau-supported Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act (H.R. 1330) and its Senate companion bill (S. 1463). The legislation is designed to protect property that should not be destroyed, classify wetlands according to value and function, and provide compensation to landowners who are denied use of their property.

As your organization and fellow Farm Bureau members carry on this wetlands battle, it is worth reflecting on where farmers would be without a strong organization to fight for their property rights. It's unlikely that any farmer working alone, regardless of how articulate and persistent, could obtain the access and influence that comes from Farm Bureau's united strength.

It's a good thought to have in mind this summer and fall as you participate in your policy development process. Farm Bureau is making progress in this wetlands fight, thanks to farmers who worked together to develop member policy. The issues you will discuss and debate this year are important to the future of your industry and way of life. Please give them your close attention and participation.

Jack Laurie

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

DeVuyst Appointed to Natural Resources Commission

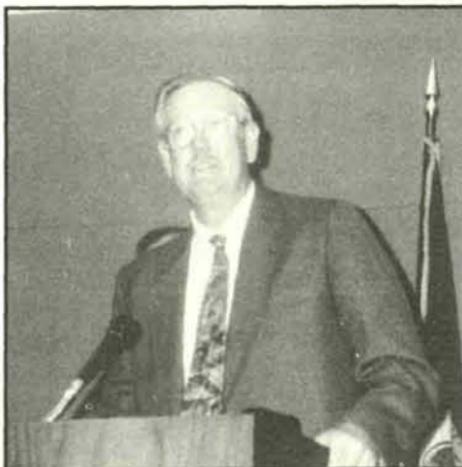
Former Farm Bureau leader Larry DeVuyst of Ithaca was appointed by Gov. John Engler July 18 to the Natural Resources Commission.

DeVuyst owns and operates a 625-acre cash crop farm and farrow-to-finish hog operation producing 5,500 market hogs per year. He served on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board for eight years and is a past president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau. DeVuyst, a past member of the Farm Credit Board of St. Paul, was appointed by President Reagan to the Federal Farm Credit Board (Farm Credit Administration).

"As a Farm Bureau leader and as a successful farmer, Larry understands the important relationship between agriculture and the environment," Engler said. "Larry also brings a strong banking and finance background to this position. His knowledge of the financial issues that affect farming, as well as how environmental policies affect the ability to finance new farms, business and factories, make him extremely qualified for the commission."

DeVuyst said that as a farmer, he'll bring some balance to the Natural Resources Commission by representing agriculture in a fair way. "I see myself as a conservationist, and I see the farmers' view of how they should use pesticides. I strongly believe there may be some things we have to live with rather than to take a chance on putting chemicals out that are going to be around too long or that might run off into a stream," he said.

DeVuyst said that whoever the Natural Resources Commission selects as a new director of the Department of Natural



Resources (DNR) will have to deal with the department's image problems. "In the eyes of farmers and sportsmen, the DNR has been an enforcer," he said. "A lot of people don't like someone coming along and putting a hand on their shoulder and saying you will or you will not do this."

That's contributed to giving the DNR a poor image, according to DeVuyst. "I think that's one of the things we're going to have to look for in a new DNR director," he said. "We need someone who is going to have strong management ability and can also put a new face on the department and be able to put a favorable image out there."

Gov. Engler also appointed David Holli of Ishpeming and Dr. Paul Eisele of Belleville to the Natural Resources Commission. Holli is a lumberman and owner of Holli Forest Products, a contract logging and land clearing company. Eisele is director of Health, Safety and Environmental Affairs for the Masco Corporation.

In Brief...

Mumby and Washburn Named to National Board

Barry Mumby of Fulton and Kam Washburn of Elsie have been appointed by USDA Secretary Ed Madigan to serve on the United Soybean Board for three-year terms each. The board will administer the new nationwide soybean promotion and research checkoff. Michigan ranks 12th in total soybean production in the U.S. and qualifies for two seats on the board. Half of the funds collected from Michigan producers will stay in Michigan, while the other half goes to the United Soybean Board for market development, research and promotional activities. The board and the checkoff were created as part of the 1990 farm bill.

Michigan July Farm Prices Slip

The index of prices received by Michigan farmers for all products as of July 15 was 118 percent of its 1977 base, down 2 percent from last month's level of 120 and 13 percent below last year, according to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service.

The price index for all Michigan crops declined 3 percent from June levels, with lower prices for corn, wheat, oats, dry beans and hay. All-baled hay experienced the most drastic decline at 9 percent. The livestock and livestock product price index for Michigan showed a slight increase of 1 percent from last month's level, down 12 percent from last July. Higher prices on slaughter cows, milk and eggs were partially offset by lower steer and heifer, calf and hog prices.

The July Index of Prices Paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wages was 189 percent of its 1977 average, up 2.7 percent from a year earlier.

Farm Price of Milk Not Keeping Pace With Retail

The farmer's share of the price of milk has risen over the past several years, but it has not kept pace with the rise in consumer prices, according to an Agriculture Department report.. In 1983, the average retail price of milk was \$1.128 per half-gallon, according to the Economic Research Service (ERS). The "farm value" of that was reported at 59.9 cents.

Last year, the ERS said, the retail price of milk averaged \$1.424 per half-gallon, an increase of more than 26 percent from 1983. In the same period, the farm value rose to 63.3 cents per half-gallon, an increase of less than 7 percent. Since that time, farm prices have fallen sharply, while retail prices dropped marginally.

MSU Dairy Survey to Identify Financial Status

Michigan State University has initiated a new research project with the goal of identifying production options to help Michigan dairy producers remain competitive throughout the '90s. The first phase involves a survey to address the financial status and production potential of Michigan dairy operations. The survey, mailed to 1,500 randomly-selected dairy farmers across the entire state, will be conducted throughout the month of August.

The survey emphasizes the collection of data on the profitability, debt situation, production resources, and labor availability on the various types of dairy farms in Michigan. The information provided on the survey will be strictly confidential, according to MFB Livestock Specialist Kevin Kirk. A summary of the results will be available to producers.

The information is considered critical for the second phase of the project to evaluate the long-term profitability, based on the current status of the industry. Various planning models will be developed specifically for Michigan dairy operations, to develop strategies to enhance dairy farm profitability. Dairy producers wanting additional information about the research project or the survey should contact Dr. Steve Harsh, MSU Ag Economics Department at (517) 353-4518, or MFB's Kevin Kirk at 1-800-292-2680, ext 2024.

"Sputacular 91" - August 22 and 23

Sputacular 91, an event to highlight the Michigan potato industry, is set for Aug. 22 and 23 at the Montcalm research farm near Entrican located nine miles northwest of Stanton. Machinery and equipment displays, agribusiness exhibits and field demonstrations will highlight the two-day event, according to Chairman Paul Wilkes.

The tours on Thursday will include stops and information at potato plots that are genetically resistant to Colorado potato beetles, tablestock and chip potato breeding program, harvested plots of long white and round white varieties and nematode-early die control plots.

Stops are also planned at herbicide and variety interaction plots, nitrate soil and plant sampling, phosphorus fertilizer response trials, and control of fusarium root rot. Friday's program includes a demonstration of a chemical injection sprayer and a look at construction of a spray mixing and loading pad. Two "bug vacuum" machines for Colorado potato beetle will be demonstrated on some late planted potatoes, and a harvester and windrower will also be demonstrated. For more information, contact Ben Kudwa of the Michigan Potato Industry Commission at (517) 669-8377, Dick Chase of MSU at (517) 355-0206 or Don Smucker of the Montcalm CES at (517) 831-5226, ext. 248 or 249.

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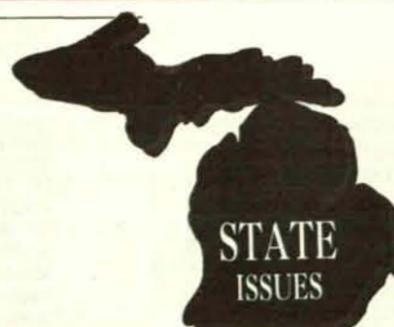
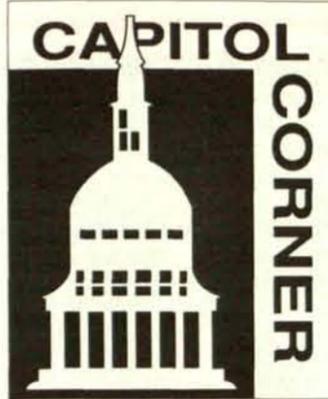
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Disaster Assistance

Status: The U.S. House recently gave approval to legislation that would allow farmers who suffered crop losses from damaging weather in 1990 and 1991 to be eligible for disaster assistance. Under terms of the package, which is awaiting Senate action, a farmer would not be able to collect more than \$100,000.

Farmers enrolled in the farm program and carrying crop insurance would receive 65 percent of the target price on losses above 35 percent of production. Program participants without crop insurance would receive 60 percent of the target price on losses above 40 percent of production.

Producers of insured non-program crops would qualify for the 65/35 protection based on the five-year average market price of the crop. Non-insured producers would fall under the 60/40 protection limits. Producers receiving assistance would be required to carry crop insurance to cover for 1992 losses. The Bush administration is threatening to veto the package because of its estimated \$2 billion price tag.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports the legislation.
Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040

Surface Transportation Act of 1991

Status: The House Public Works and Transportation Committee has approved the Surface Transportation Act of 1991, which calls for increasing the federal gas tax by 5-cents per gallon. The increased tax is expected to generate \$121.5 billion for highways and transit over the five-year life of the bill. A \$79 billion flexible highway program would also be created. This program would permit state and local officials to transfer up to two-thirds of the funds for transit purposes.

States with significant portions of their population in non-attainment areas would be able to transfer all of their highway funds to transit. The 5-cent gas tax provision will face heavy opposition by the Bush administration.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau opposes the legislation, citing the unfair burden of the gas tax on rural residents. The Highway Trust Fund should be spent before additional taxes are considered. It does not include a provision approved by the Senate that requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on private property under the "takings" clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040

Farm Bill Spending

Status: The Senate has passed an agricultural spending bill that does not limit funding for the Export Enhancement Program (EEP). That means the U.S. will probably spend about the same in the new fiscal year, which begins October 1, as it did during the current year.

Current estimates are that the U.S. will spend about \$900 million on the EEP this year. Though spending is technically unlimited, budget constraints make it unlikely that spending will exceed that level.

The bill passed by the Senate also would continue the export credit guarantee programs at the \$5.5 billion minimum for the coming fiscal year and allows \$1.6 billion for the PL 480 program.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040

Huron County Drain Lawsuit

Status: Attorney General Frank Kelly has filed a verified complaint for injunctive relief against the Huron County Drain Commissioner. The complaint was filed based on the belief of the Michigan DNR that the dredging, deepening, and widening of the Willow Creek at the Philp Drain location will impair water quality, destroy wetlands and destroy fish populations and wildlife habitats.

The lawsuit cites violations of the Michigan Water Resources Commission Act (the act to protect and conserve waters of the state) and the Michigan Environmental Protection Act (law to protect the environment). The suit also states the Drain Commission needs permits under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Inland Lakes and Streams Act.

Huron County Circuit Court Judge M. Richard Knoblock has received testimony from the DNR and from the attorney for the Drain Commissioner Association. He ruled against the DNR's request for a temporary injunction to stop the project.

Attorney General Frank Kelly, however, has filed an emergency appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals. The DNR intends to pursue the question of jurisdiction over county drains, regardless of the results in Huron County.

Farm Bureau Position: Michigan farmland is enhanced by an adequate and well-managed drain system. Nearly 12 million acres of Michigan farmland require draining to produce crops. Farm Bureau feels that the authority for administration of the Drain Code should be maintained in the Department of Agriculture. Farm Bureau is gravely concerned over any ruling that would give jurisdiction over county drains to the DNR.

Farm Bureau Contact: Vicki Pontz, extension 2046

Milk Inventory Management Act

Status: Congressman Charles Stenholm (D-Texas) has introduced legislation that would increase the milk support price to \$12.60 and then decline to \$11.60 by 1995. The bill imposes an unprecedented series and levels of assessments on dairy farmers. The assessments must pay for all costs incurred by the CCC of purchases exceeding 5 billion pounds but less than 7 billion pounds annually. A mandatory inventory management program using a two-tier price system would be implemented when annual CCC purchases of dairy exceed 7 billion pounds. The two-tier system would require quotas or bases be assigned to individual producers. Milk produced within their respective quotas would receive a higher price, while milk produced above quota would receive a significantly lower price to discourage over-production.

In addition, farmers would also be assessed for: the cost of the inventory management program; additional costs to the Women, Infant and Children Program due to higher support price levels; and the cost of assuring that increased cull cow movement doesn't reduce beef prices. The bill would also increase the solid-not-fat standards for fluid milk and extends Packers and Stockyards Act security trust provisions to dairymen.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau opposes the milk price support increase, mandatory inventory management program and the unprecedented level of assessments on the dairy producers for social programs which are projected to easily reach 75 cents to \$1.00 per cwt. Farm Bureau does support an increase in the solids-not-fat standard and extending the Packers and Stockyards Act security trust provisions to dairymen.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040

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

AFBF's Toll Free Capitol Hotline Service 1-800-245-4630

Camp Sponsoring National MECP-Style Legislation

Citing more than \$30 million in energy savings for Michigan farmers and foresters, Congressman Dave Camp (R-Midland) is sponsoring legislation to use the Michigan Energy Conservation Program (MECP) on a national level.

Using a two-prong approach, the legislation has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee and to the Energy and Commerce Committee, as they prepare to draft their National Energy Strategy in 1992. The legislation has received considerable bipartisan support from members of both committees, including both committee chairmen.

Camp and Gordon Wenk, program manager of MECP, testified to the Small Business Subcommittee on Energy that the Michigan program can also be a national success and is seriously needed.

Wenk testified that Michigan's three-year program has led to \$2 in energy savings for every \$1 invested due to curbed energy consumption through building and equipment renovations, improved tillage and irrigation methods and use of wood-burning heating systems.

"It (MECP) has definitely changed attitudes, provided new directions and assistance when producers were looking for help," Wenk said.

The national program proposed by Camp would provide grants of \$5,000 to \$15,000 for innovative energy-saving programs. Local soil conservation districts would work directly with farmers and foresters to teach them how to save energy.

The maximum appropriations for the entire program would not exceed \$150 million, even with full participation from all states, which is unlikely since each state must have a formally approved plan on paper. The maximum amount to each state would not exceed \$3 million, and states could choose to participate with matching funds.

"This process would allow states to voluntarily use existing agencies to promote energy conservation," Camp said. "It would also encourage innovation by offering incentives for people to save energy. That will save money in the long run."

Wenk cited other examples of the Michigan program's success:

- More than 15,000 Michigan producers saved \$15 million statewide with fertilizer management and tillage programs, which saved on fuel costs by reducing heavy equipment use and also protected groundwater and soil from overexposure to fertilizer and pesticides.
- 2,000 Michigan foresters saved more than \$3 million in production and energy costs through building and equipment renovations to conserve energy.
- The Laurium-Keweenaw Public Schools will save \$42,000 a year in heating costs by converting a fuel-oil system to a wood-fired boiler.

"These benefits will extend far beyond the farmer's field or the back lot of the wood processing firm," Wenk said. "They will be felt by the consumer who buys produce that was grown in soils where pesticides and fertilizers were used wisely and only when necessary. The air that we share contains less pollutants because fossil fuel use has been reduced."

"We must encourage innovation to help make conservation a cornerstone of our

energy policy, and not an afterthought," Camp said.

According to Rob Rehg of Rep. Camp's office, the best strategy for successful passage of the legislation will be to make it a part of the National Energy Plan.

"The legislation is currently going through an administrative review and an agricultural committee review yet this year so that when the National Energy Plan is started, developed and hopefully in place by the end of 1992, the legislation will be part of that final package," said Rehg.

"We're hoping that the package gets through in 1992 with an appropriation for 1993 so that when the Michigan program expires, it's eligible for federal assistance to keep the program going," said Rehg.

There are three areas of political contention, however, that may hold up a National Energy Policy, including domestic oil development, increasing the gas tax, and increasing the minimum gas mileage requirements, which, according to Rehg, may ultimately delay Camp's plans.

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

T - Temp.	8/15.....8/31	8/15.....10/31
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	A.....N	A.....N
W. Corn Belt	N.....B	N.....A
E. Corn Belt	N.....N	N.....A
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....N	N.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	A.....B	N.....A
Pac. NW Wheat	A.....B	B.....N
Delta	B.....A	A.....A
Southeast	B.....A	A.....N
West Texas	N.....N	N.....A
San Joaquin	A.....B	B.....A

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

Weather

1991 Won't be Fruitful

The apple, peach, pear, and sweet cherry crops all show decreases in production from a normal crop, according to Michigan's Ag Statistics Service. Ragged bloom, poor pollination, and a large June drop are blamed. Weakened trees were also susceptible to many diseases, especially fireblight on the apple crop, which further reduced the crop's potential.

Michigan's apple production is forecast at 750 million pounds, the same as last year's crop, but down 21 percent from 1989. The U.S. production level is expected to reach 9.96 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 1990. Michigan's sweet cherry crop is estimated at 15,000 tons, off 6 percent from 1990, down 40 percent from 1989. U.S. production is down 24 percent from 1990.

State peach production is forecast at 40 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1990, while national production is estimated 16 percent above last year. The state's pear production, forecast at 5,000 tons, is double the 1990 crop, but off 37 percent from 1989. National pear output is down 10 percent from 1990.

The state's tart cherry crop is forecast at 95 million pounds for harvest, down 41 percent from 1990, down 47 percent from 1989. This is Michigan's smallest cherry crop since 1983 when 87 million pounds were harvested.

Tart cherry production in Northwestern Michigan is expected to reach 80 million pounds, up 12 percent from 1990, but 19 percent below the five-year average. Harvest in the West Central area is pegged at 13 million pounds, down 76 percent from 1990 and 71 percent below the five-year average. Harvest in the Southwest was expected to reach 2 million pounds at best, 94 percent below 1990, and down 96 percent from the five-year average.

For 7/1/91 to 7/31/91	Temperature		Accum. Grow. Degree Days*	Dev. From Norm. GDD*	Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal			Actual (inch.)	Dev. From Norm. (inch.)
Alpena	67.7	+1.7	1532	+382	5.16	+2.07
Bad Axe	70.1	+0.8	1703	+295	2.65	-0.28
Escanaba	67.7	+1.3	1218	+351	7.21	+3.64
Grand Rapids	72.4	+1.0	2037	+465	6.24	+3.40
Imlay City	69.9	-1.8	1799	+252	3.63	+0.52
Lansing	71.4	+0.6	1946	+409	2.41	-0.37
Ludington	69.2	+0.6	1683	+359	4.22	+2.04
Marquette	64.9	+0.3	1331	+324	5.40	+2.19
Sault Ste. Marie	64.5	+1.0	1264	+397	3.86	+0.86
Standish	68.3	-0.5	1616	+208	2.80	-0.12
Tipton	71.4	-0.3	1911	+364	2.04	-1.07
Traverse City	70.6	+0.3	1797	+624	4.00	+1.39
Watervliet	72.1	+0.4	1970	+398	4.35	+1.26

* Growing Degree Days are based on B.E. Base 50F method and are accumulated from April 1 through July 31 1991.

Michigan Small Grains Termed "Disappointing"

Michigan's 1991 wheat crop yield is estimated to have been off by 30 to 35 percent according to Michigan Ag Commodities, with test weights from a low of 50 to 60 lbs. Corn and beans look good, although southern Michigan is experiencing pockets of drought conditions. Oat yields ranged from 35 to 45 bushels, with total harvest estimated to be off by 50 percent compared to average, while test weights averaged in the low 30s. Canola yields are ranging from 25 to 30 bushels compared to a normal 40 to 50 bu. average.

Michigan sugarbeet yields may be off by 15 to 20 percent due to late plantings, even though actual planted acreage is higher than normal, according to Bob Young of the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association. "We have such a variation of beets this year from good to bad. Many beets got in late, because of the wet spring and then required replanting."

Summary and 30 & 90-Day Forecast

Following abnormally warm and somewhat dry weather over much of Michigan the past month or more, a change may be in store for at least the next few weeks. The latest 30-day forecast is calling for the seasonably cool weather to continue, with normal temperatures expected over the Upper Peninsula and northwestern Lower Peninsula, with below normal temperatures expected in the southeastern one-half of lower Michigan. Precipitation is predicted to be near normal.

In the longer term, a change back to warmer than normal temperatures is expected in the southern one-half of the Lower Peninsula for the 90-day forecast, with near normal temperatures forecast elsewhere. Precipitation is expected to average above normal over much of the state.

Climate Analysis Center forecasters liken the expected 1991 fall weather pattern to that of the 1986 fall season. In September of 1986, a near stationary frontal boundary persisted over middle lower Michigan, causing frequent periods of rain, thunderstorms, and flooding, with some stations recording more than 10 inches of rain for the month.

Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

40 YEARS

OF STRENGTH AND STABILITY

- Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan will celebrate its 40th anniversary in September . . . and we'd like to thank all our policyholders for 40 years of trust.
- Whether you joined us in 1951 or 1991, our commitment remains the same: to guarantee a better future for you and your family.
- With our quality assets, strong financial reserves, and responsible approach to investing, we are a company prepared to fulfill our long-term obligations.
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MAKING YOUR FUTURE MORE PREDICTABLE



CROP PROGRESS REPORT

Week Ending 8/4/91

	This Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
	percent		
Corn in Dough	5%	0%	10%
Hay Second Cut	78%	60%	60%
Oats Harvested	51%	15%	40%
Soys Set. Pods	40%	15%	25%
Drybean Set. Pod	33	20	20
Wheat Ripe	50%	5%	15%
Wheat Harvested	99%	95%	95%

- Michigan Crop Condition -
Percent of Acreage

	Excellent	Good /Fair	Poor
Corn	21%	70%	9%
Soybeans	23%	71%	6%
Drybeans	30%	65%	5%
Oats	9%	77%	14%
All Hay	20%	71%	9%

Source: Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service

"Imig" continued from page 1

I also see local staff and volunteers being a part of that expert team when it's formed. That means those teams will be out there spending time in the community, with the farmer, and forming a set of recommendations that can be followed through on locally. Too many times, we separate the experts from the real world -- from the real problems. They've got to be out there.

Q. What has been the biggest difference between Missouri and Michigan?

A. Michigan is dealing with a number of issues like Right-to-Farm and the Livestock Initiative right up front. There's progressive leadership here in Michigan -- I'm thrilled to see that. There also seems to be a commitment to Extension and a willingness to serve in a partnership role and work together to set some priorities and achieve results.

Q. What structural changes do you see in CES, specifically the county relationship?

A. I assume over time, we're going to do some fine-tuning of the organization. But as far as changing the county relationship, if I do anything, I'd see reinforcing that relationship. That county unit with its strong political support locally and citizen involvement is critical to the success of the CES.

Q. What do you foresee as major issues that Extension will need to deal with?

A. The Livestock Initiative is crucial. When you do much analysis, you can see why people have put their support behind it. The dairy industry is currently in crisis and that's an area that we need to deal with. Another issue that's come to my attention is the plight of the cherry producers. I think we have some real marketing challenges. We really need an expert team working with producers to look at alternatives, markets and to answer the tough questions.

Q. What's your response to concerns about the future of CES, given your background?

A. The concern that we'll move away from agricultural programs isn't going to happen. It didn't happen in Missouri. As a matter of fact, we worked hard to strengthen the agricultural programs. We developed other areas very aggressively also, like rural development, working with small business, leadership development and so on. But we were able to attract new resources to do that. We didn't have to reallocate resources from agriculture to accomplish those programs.

Some people feel that unless you grew up on a farm that you can't understand and care about agricultural programs. I don't think that's true and I'll demonstrate that. But at the same time, I want quality and I want programs that are on the cutting edge. You'll find that I work with producers and industry and take their advice to heart and involve them in the planning process.

Summer Seeding Alfalfa Can Be a Hot Idea

Seeding alfalfa in late summer has a lot of things going for it even in northern areas, when done right, providing a vigorous productive stand, says Bryan Renk, forage manager for the Renk Seed Company.

"In most cases, late summer seedings produce higher forage yields the following year than when seeded the following spring," says Renk. "Often, yields in that first year are comparable to two-or three-year-old stands."

Renk advises that summer seedings occur at least six to seven weeks before the first frost or earlier if possible. A new stand needs as much time after emergence to survive hard northern winters.

Soil moisture, if short, will hinder germination and may mean that you should wait until spring to seed. However, Renk suggests that if adequate moisture is a borderline situation, no-till seeding is an option to preserve moisture.

Renk also discourages the practice of spreading manure to a field prior to summer seeding. "Manure may have high salt concentrations that, when combined with high nitrogen levels, can hamper germination" he said.

Assuming summer alfalfa is seeded in a timely manner, receives plenty of moisture and shows vigorous growth, can you attempt a late season cutting?

Summer seeded alfalfa has less competition from weeds compared to spring seedings, and annual weeds that do germinate with summer seedings will be killed with the first hard frost. If broadleaf winter weeds are a problem, they can be knocked out with herbicide, according to Renk.



Absolutely not," said Renk. "That'll just weaken the stand. Hold off until next spring and enjoy the full rewards of a summer seeding."

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	200 mg	100's	89.25	59.95		600 mg	100's	20.25	10.95
Coumadin Tabs	2 mg	100's	39.95		Ortho-Novum Tabs	800 mg	100's	24.75	15.95
	2.5 mg	100's	41.25			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
	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	

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6

MARKETS

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends (long term)

Wheat	↔
Corn	↔
Soybeans	↑
Hogs	↓
Cattle	↓

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

Livestock

The quarterly Cattle on Feed Report released on July 23 caught the trade by surprise. The number of cattle placed on feed in the seven major feeding states during June was down 19 percent from June of 1990. These lower placements most likely will not trigger significantly higher prices unless there is a steep grain price rally. Marketings have picked up recently, which is a start towards getting the backlog of cattle cleaned up. Market appears to be establishing a bottom before moving to a higher price level.

Higher cost of feeder calves and rising grain prices threaten to throttle cattle herd expansion, according to market analysts. Higher corn prices and weakness in fed cattle prices will likely weigh on the feeder cattle market in the coming months.

"Feeder cattle prices are going to have to come down or cattle feeders are going to stop placing cattle, especially when they're losing \$100 a head right now," said Ernie Davis, Texas A&M University livestock specialist.

Hogs

Market signals increasingly suggest that the hog market is very near the time when prices begin the seasonal slide into the fall lows. While the daily numbers have yet to show that the increase in market-ready numbers is upon us, the reluctance in packer bidding indicates that they feel the hog numbers are "out there." Soft wholesale and retail demand is also keeping packers from posting higher cash bids. Threats of added supplies due to liquidation if the grain rally continues is pressuring the futures market.

Wheat

The summer wheat market continues to take its cue from weather-driven corn and soybean activity. Export prospects are slim with a lack of Soviet buying and a concern over China's response to a conditional Most-Favored-Nation trading status. Traders fear China may limit purchases as a way of retaliation for what the Chinese consider interference with internal affairs regarding human rights. Tough world competition due to enormous stocks in Canada and Europe, who will both market excess production at clearance prices will keep wheat pressured through the fall.

5 Percent Set-Aside to Hold

Meanwhile, USDA Secretary Edward Madigan has announced he will hold the 1992 wheat-acreage set-aside at 5 percent, announced on May 31. The USDA Secretary was authorized to make adjustments to the program before July 31 if the total supply of wheat had changed drastically since the set-aside was originally announced. Madigan said USDA has received several positive comments since making the first announcement and believes the 5 percent set-aside was a good choice.

Corn

The corn market continues to ride the weather roller coaster, staying true to form in a volatile summer market. Crop condition as of July 28 for the top 17 corn producing states shows only 53 percent rated good to excellent, with Illinois, Indiana and Iowa at 33 percent, 23 percent and 43 percent respectively. However, concern over supply is being tempered by the demand outlook. Domestically, hog producers will continue to buy corn, but prices approaching \$3 will limit demand from cattle feeders. Export competition also limits upside potential, and highlights the importance of the trade treaty with the U.S.S.R., that President Bush has submitted to Congress. The treaty includes Most-Favored-Nation trade status.

Soybeans

As of July 28, the U.S. soybean crop was rated 46 percent good to excellent in the 19 key producing states, which is down 6 percent from a week earlier. This compares to 59 percent for the previous year. The price volatility will continue, based on weather impact as this crop begins to fill pods. If the crop rebounds from the effects of the hot and dry weather, attention will shift to concern of an early frost. Limited export demand, as well as the level of carryover stocks, will temper prices.

Dairy

USDA announced the September Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price at \$10.99, a 41 cent increase over August. Cheese prices have been edging up steadily since early May, climbing 20 cents per pound in the past three months. Price increases for block and barrel cheese were reported at the National Cheese Exchange in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This, along with decrease in purchases by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), are the big factors behind the continued price rise. 1991 milk prices are following an untraditional scenario in paralleling 1990 price trends.

Milk production continues to trend lower also, despite the recent return to cooler temperatures and lower humidity in parts of the Northeast and Midwest. Milk supplies are tightening, with bottlers starting to pull additional amounts from manufacturing facilities.

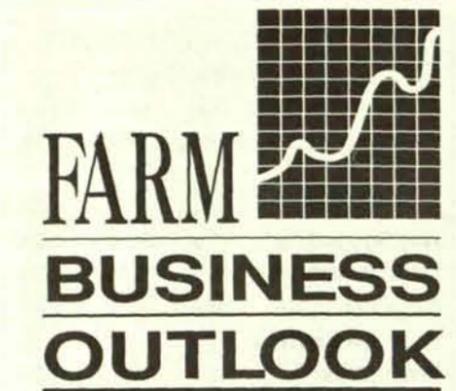
Worsening crop conditions in many areas across the United States will also continue to tighten milk production and, consequently, supplies, due to poorer quality and availability of protein sources and forages.

Lamb Price Study Needs Producer Input

At the urging of several members of the Senate from western states, the Justice Department is looking into the wide disparity between the wholesale and retail price of lamb. However, producer participation is seriously lacking.

Wyoming Sens. Malcom Wallop and Al Simpson led the campaign for the study and were joined by 11 other senators. The American Farm Bureau (AFBF), the American Sheep Industry Association (ASIA), and other farm groups had called for the study on the price disparity in a meeting with Justice Department officials last January.

Now that the investigation is on, Sen. Simpson and Jim Magagna, president of ASIA, say not enough producers have come forward to offer price information.



"Anyone with knowledge of any intimidation or any evidence of anti-competitive activity in the lamb industry are encouraged to step forward," said Simpson. "We cannot do this alone and need all the help of all the producers we can possibly get."

Al Keating, director of AFBF's livestock department, said anyone wishing to offer information should contact Bruce Yamanga, the Justice Department attorney handling the investigation, at (202) 307-5775.

USDA Proposes Mandatory Aflatoxin Testing

Carrying out one of the mandates of the 1990 farm bill, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has announced it will soon propose testing for all corn exports for aflatoxin, a carcinogenic fungus sometimes found on grain, according to *Knight Ridder News*.

The USDA agency also said it would propose making the aflatoxin testing services available for all grains under the U.S. Grain Standards Act, as amended by the 1990 farm bill. The proposal would likely increase the availability of aflatoxin testing services by allowing FGIS-certified agencies and states that have cooperative agreements with FGIS to perform the testing.

The 1990 farm bill made testing for aflatoxin mandatory for all U.S. corn exports, except when the buyer and seller agree to waive the procedure. Aflatoxin, which can appear on corn in times of drought, was found through much of the Corn Belt in 1988. Comments on the proposed rule, which will be published in the *Federal Register*, must be submitted before Sept. 5. FGIS officials hope to publish a final rule in September and begin mandatory testing in October for the 1991 fall harvest.

U.S. Farm Size Continues Increase - Michigan Steady

The number of U.S. farms will likely shrink this year, but the average acreage of each farm will probably grow, according to the recent USDA Farm Numbers Land and Farm Report. Estimates for the number of U.S. farms is down 5 percent from last year's figures at 2.1 million. The average size, however, will increase to 467 acres, about six acres more than last year. USDA estimates total U.S. farmland at 983 million acres, down slightly from last year.

Leading states included Texas, with 185,000 farms totaling 131 million acres, followed by Missouri with 107,000 farm and Iowa with 102,000. Ohio and Indiana showed the sharpest decline in numbers since last year.

Almost half of all the farms will have gross sales of less than \$10,000 in 1991, while 37 percent will have gross sales of between \$10,000 - \$99,999, while just 15 percent will have gross sales of more than \$100,000. USDA noted, however, that farms making more than \$100,000 in gross sales will rise this year to 327,000, almost 6,000 more than last year.

In Michigan, it's estimated that there are 54,000 farms, the same as last year, and the first year since 1983 that farm numbers haven't declined. Michigan currently has 10.8 million acres in farmland, unchanged for the last two years, while the average size is 200 acres.

Of all Michigan farms, 8,000 were in the \$100,000 and over economic sales class, operating a total of 6 million acres. Farms with sales between \$10,000 and \$99,000 accounted for 18,000 farms and 3.3 million acres. Farms with sales between \$1,000 and \$9,999 represented 28,000 farms and 1.5 million acres.

Beef Industry Prepares for New Marketing Direction

The award-winning beef industry's "Real Food for Real People" advertising campaign has met its goal of raising consumer awareness of beef, according to an independent study conducted by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., a management consulting firm.

According to the study, 74 percent of consumers are aware of beef advertising, a level of awareness second only to milk among commodity advertisers. The study also showed that aware consumers are 59 percent more likely to say beef fits their lifestyle; 39 percent more likely to say beef can fit a reduced fat diet; and 42 percent are more likely to see beef coming back into style.

The study also recommended that the Beef Industry Council (BIC), the marketing arm of the beef industry, conduct an advertising agency review in preparation for shifting advertising strategy, including target audiences and messages delivered.

According to BIC spokesman Brent Langman, the new message will be less concerned with building awareness, and concentrate on the benefits of beef products with more emphasis on sales. The new messages will be focused on the convenience-oriented audience (younger couples with double incomes and higher educational levels) and the new traditionalist female audience (middle age income and educational levels, stay-at-home segment).

According to Langman, the convenience-oriented market will focus on the restaurant side of business, while the new traditionalist focus will concentrate on the retail, grocery market purchases. The Booz-Allen recommendations also suggested that all advertising be suspended for one year while BIC's new marketing plan is developed. Once the campaign is ready, a major media blitz would be conducted, utilizing the BIC's advertising budget from a two-year period in one year.

1991 - First Quarter Farm Receipts Strong

Despite problems in the dairy industry, cash receipts from farming continue to run above the record 1990 level in the first quarter. Cash receipts from crops were up over 10 percent, led by an upsurge in nearly all areas except food grains.

Cutbacks in production of several important truck farming crops boosted vegetable, melon and fruit prices by over 26 percent, resulting in a \$1 billion increase in receipts during the first quarter.

Soybeans and feedgrains rounded out the impressive gains in the crops sector, which was offset by the dismal performance in the wheat market. U.S. wheat exports are off by 150 million bushels in the last year, and are requiring heavy Export Enhancement Program funding.

The decline in dairy cash receipts negated just about any gains in other livestock categories. With milk at a 13-year low during the spring, record fat cattle prices of \$80 and hog prices in the mid \$50 range helped boost total livestock cash receipts 2 percent over previous year figures.

Despite relative strong cash prices in the crop sector that cut government program payments by over 33 percent (a \$1.4 billion cutback), total cash receipts were 2 percent stronger.

The Remainder of 91?

Soon after the start of the second quarter, cattle prices fell off their \$80 mark by \$10/cwt., while hog prices dropped off \$5/cwt. Reports of large numbers of cattle on feed suggest that cattle prices will be under pressure until well into fall. Likewise, an increase in the breeding herd and farrowing intentions suggests that hog prices may come under more pressure later this year.

Au Lean Sausage Will be Cooking

A check-off funded research project has resulted in a pork sausage product with 60 percent less fat and 46 percent less calories after cooking than the average conventional sausage, according to Dr. Dale Huffman, meat scientist at Auburn University.

A grant from the Pork Industry Group of the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the National Pork Board to Auburn University made the project possible. Additional funding was provided by the Alabama Pork Producers Association.

The product, named "Au Lean Sausage" by Huffman, is made from trimmed pork shoulder, water, spices and carrageenan, a plant carbohydrate that binds moisture. "We've taken a pork cut with traditionally less dollar value and converted it into a value-added product that consumers should feel good about buying," Huffman said. "While the fat and calories are reduced, Au Lean Sausage retains the flavor and other sensory characteristics of conventional sausage."

While the product isn't currently available commercially, Huffman reports very high interest from both foodservice and retail operations. "It's just a matter of time and logistics before we see this product out in the market place," he said.

Farm Workers up in Numbers

There were 30,000 hired farm workers in the state of Michigan during the week of June 9 - 15, up 1,000 from May, according to the Michigan Ag Statistical Service.

The average farm worker wage rate was \$5.75 per hour, down 13 cents from May. Nationally, there were 566,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in the 11 surveyed states, compared to 487,000 workers in May.

The good news in the dairy industry is that prices probably bottomed during the month of April and May, a seasonal pressure point each year. Unfortunately, the expected recovery in milk prices may be slow and feeble, netting an overall price drop of 10 percent for the year.

Grain : Demand, Not Weather, to Drive Prices

While crop size is important for corn and soybean price prospects, demand may be the most important factor this year, according to Darrel Good, University of Illinois marketing specialist.

"Prices of both crops have recovered from early July lows as crop conditions have deteriorated, but still remain at very low levels," he said. "In general, the market has not reacted positively to fairly significant production problems over the past several months."

These problems include: a 25 percent drop in the Brazilian soybean crop; a 15 percent drop in the overall Soviet grain crop; major flood damage to the Chinese rice and wheat crops; a 33 percent reduction in the U.S. winter wheat crop; and significant planting problems in the U.S. this spring. However, offsetting these problems are an abundant European crop and the lack of Soviet purchasing power.

"Unless damage to the U.S. feed grain and soybean crops is severe, price reaction may be restricted by perceptions that world grain and soybean demand will remain weak during the year ahead," Good said.

Cash Receipts From Farming

	1990 (million dollars)	1991	percent change
Farm Marketings & CCC Loans	38,006	40,072	5.4
Meat Products	12,153	13,373	10.0
Dairy Products	5,124	4,298	-16.1
Poultry, eggs, other	4,233	4,212	-0.5
Livestock & products	21,510	21,883	1.7
Food Grains	1,661	1,288	-22.5
Feed Crops	4,558	4,997	9.6
Cotton	1,079	1,387	28.5
Oil Bearing crops	2,661	3,055	14.8
Vegetable, fruits/nuts	3,615	4,568	26.3
Other	2,922	2,894	-1.0
Crops	16,496	18,189	10.3
Government Payments	3,714	2,295	-38.2
Total	41,720	42,367	1.6



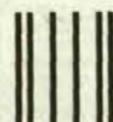
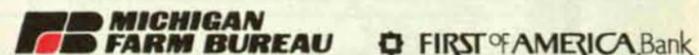
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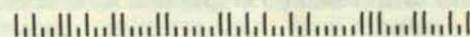


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8 Don't Try to be a "Superfarmer"

Too many farm accidents happen when people exceed their limitations. Remember this: If you work in extreme heat or cold, or if you attempt jobs beyond your physical capabilities, you increase the likelihood of illness or accident - and your age and state of health are also factors you should consider when deciding what and how much you can safely accomplish. Here are safety tips to keep in mind:

- Be ready for a safe day. Dress right for the weather and job. Be properly nourished and well-rested.
- Take work breaks to fight fatigue and extend your energy.
- Don't try to be "Superfarmer." Know when it's time to stop. Ask someone to relieve you while you rest. If it will be a struggle to lift or carry something, get help.

- Be sure you have the necessary competence (strength, skills and staying power) required by a job or activity to do it well and safely.
 - Find the least-taxing way to do things. Use motor power rather than muscle power when possible. Plan your work to make maximum use of your available energy.
 - Take a break for a day of fishing, hiking, a trip to the fair, reading, or whatever you enjoy doing.
 - Exercise regularly for improved cardiovascular fitness, muscle tone, and agility.
- Here are some suggestions for working in hot, humid weather:
- Stop periodically to cool off. Find a shady spot to rest.
 - Drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids.
 - Wear clothing that allows air circulation on the skin.
- If the sun is intense, wear adequate skin cover and a hat to protect yourself.
 - Pace yourself. If possible, do the hardest, heaviest, sweatiest jobs in the morning or the late afternoon when temperatures are more moderate.
 - When you must work in hot or poorly ventilated buildings, open any doors or windows you can to get all the ventilation possible. Set up electric fans if you can do so safely without raising dust.
 - Come out often for fresh air. Wear a filter respirator or dust mask if the air is polluted with dust, chaff, or spores. Wear a self-contained breathing device if there is an oxygen deficiency or the air contains poisonous gases.
 - If you feel dizzy, lightheaded, or overheated, or if you begin to sweat profusely, stop working and get to a cool place. Sit or lie down, and drink some water or other nonalcoholic fluid. Bathe your face with cool water or a wet towel. If you don't feel better soon, call for help.



From Farm Bureau Insurance

Logging Congress September 5-7

Marquette, Michigan, and the Wisconsin/Michigan Timber Producers Association will be hosting the 1991 Logging Congress trade show Sept. 5 - 7 according to Carl Theiler, executive secretary of the Wisconsin/Michigan Timber Producers Association.

"The show is for people who deal in the fiber business, be it the loggers, sawmill operators, truckers, paper companies and equipment companies," said Theiler. "We expect about 235 exhibitors, both indoors and outdoors, of businesses that service and sell to producers to be on hand. We're expecting nearly 40,000 people from the three state area of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota at the trade show and events such as the National Chainsaw Championship."

According to Theiler, events get underway Thursday, Sept. 5, at 12 noon, and wrap up Saturday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. The show is open to the public with no admission to enter the trade show. For more information, contact Theiler at (715) 453-4355

Sheep Producers Face Referendum

U.S. sheep producers are again being called to vote from August 19 - 30, 1991, to determine whether they wish to continue contributions to lamb and wool promotion, producer and consumer education and industry communication.

The program, approved nine times previously, would continue to be funded by deductions from wool incentive payments. The incentive deduction, often referred to as producer dollars, is used for promotion, marketing and communication efforts.

In the 1986 referendum, less than 43 percent of eligible producers voted. In 1991, all producers are urged to cast an educated vote on the issue, said Al Keating, director of the AFBF Livestock Department.

Voting will be done through local ASCS offices. Any producer, regardless of age, who owned one sheep for a 30-day period in 1990, is eligible to vote.

The referendum, if approved by either a majority of producers voting or producers representing operations that own a majority of the sheep, would establish deductions from wool price support payments at a rate not to exceed seven cents per pound of wool marketed and not more than 35 cents per cwt. of unshorn lambs for calendar year 1991.

For the next calendar year and each year through 1995, the deductions may increase up to an additional penny-a-pound of wool marketed and up to an additional nickel per cwt. of unshorn lambs sold each year.

County ASCS offices will be distributing ballots to producers of record in early August. Ballots must be returned in person to local offices, or postmarked before midnight Aug. 30, according to Keating. Eligible producers not receiving a ballot may pick one up at their local ASCS office.

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	City, State		Zip Code	Home Telephone Number		()	
	Previous Address (if less than two years at present address)				City	State	Zip
	Present Employer		Income from alimony, child support, or maintenance payments need not be revealed if you do not wish to have it as a basis for repaying this obligation.				
	Employer's Telephone Number	Position	Time at Present Employment	Gross Income from Employment		<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly	
	City, State, Zip Code		Other Income		Source of Other Income		
	Previous Employer (if less than two years at present employer)		Time at Previous Employer		Yrs. Mos.		
	Nearest Relative (not living with you)		Address			Telephone	
	First Name		Middle Initial	Last Name		Social Security Number	
Present Street Address				Time at Present Address	Date of Birth		
City, State		Zip Code	Home Telephone Number		()		
Previous Address (if less than two years at present address)				City	State	Zip	
Present Employer		Income from alimony, child support, or maintenance payments need not be revealed if you do not wish to have it as a basis for repaying this obligation.					
Employer's Telephone Number	Position	Time at Present Employment	Gross Income from Employment		<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly		
City, State, Zip Code		Other Income		Source of Other Income			
Previous Employer (if less than two years at present employer)		Time at Previous Employer		Yrs. Mos.			
Nearest Relative (not living with you)		Address			Telephone		
CREDIT REFERENCES	Credit References	Monthly Payments	Balance Due	<input type="checkbox"/> Own/Buying Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Rent		Monthly Payment \$	
		\$	\$	Mortgage Holder or Landlord		Mortgage Balance \$	
		\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (Bank Name)		Estimated Value \$	
		\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (Bank Name)		Have You Ever Declared Bankruptcy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
OPTIONAL GROUP CREDIT INSURANCE	Optional Group Credit Insurance The cost to you, the Primary Account holder (applicant), is \$5.00 per \$100 for each month's average daily balance. The insurance will become effective when your credit begins. You must be less than age 71 to be eligible for coverage. A certificate which more fully describes the insurance will be sent when your credit application is approved. Underwritten by The Prudential Company of America, Newark, New Jersey, and Prudential Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Holmdel, New Jersey. Those choosing to enroll will be mailed a certificate of insurance explaining benefits, limitations and provisions and indicating the effective date of coverage.		Please check your card preference (choose one design only)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, Please enroll me in the Group Credit Insurance Program.		<input type="checkbox"/> SCENIC VISA <input type="checkbox"/> STANDARD VISA   <input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL CARD FOR AUTHORIZED USER				
Applicant's Signature _____ Print name here _____		OR Apply for a Gold MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> YES, I'd like the extra freedom and flexibility of a Gold MasterCard instead of the VISA card. If I do not qualify for the Gold MasterCard, consider my application for the Farm Bureau VISA card.		I've hereby certify that each of the answers on this application is true and correct, and is made for the purpose of obtaining a loan or credit from the Bank. I've certify that all debts owed whether individual, joint or contingent have been disclosed above and that none of my/our debts are delinquent or in default, except as I've have indicated above. I've hereby authorize the Bank to investigate my/our credit record to the extent it deems necessary and to verify my/our credit, employment and income references. I've further authorize and instruct any person or consumer reporting agency to furnish to the Bank any information that it may have or obtain in response to such credit inquiries. I've further agree that this application shall become the property of the Bank, whether or not it is approved. I've agree that if this application is accepted and a card or cards are issued that any use of the card(s) will be governed by the terms and conditions of the Bank's VISA/MasterCard Agreement and Disclosure provided before or with delivery of the card(s). I've assume, if more than one jointly and severally, liability for all charges incurred in any use of the card(s).			
Applicant's Signature _____ Print name here _____		Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____ Co-Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____		AGENT USE CODE BIT 9 9 5 2			
Annual Percentage Rate 15.9%		Balance Calculation Method Average Daily Balance (excluding new purchases)		Annual Fee None for scenic or standard VISA \$20 for Gold MasterCard (rebated every year net annual purchases exceed \$3,000)		Grace Period for Repayment of the Balance for New Purchases 25 Days, starting with the billing date on statement*	
				Other Fees Cash Advance Fee - none Transaction Fee - none Late Fee - \$10.00 Over Limit Fee - \$10.00 Minimum Finance Charge - none			

Please letterfold and staple this form with the mailing address on the outside (reverse side)

Coping With Michigan's Covered Load Requirements

Several Michigan farmers have been taking lessons on Michigan's covered load law the hard way, especially during the recent wheat harvest, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Ron Nelson.

"Several farmers were surprised when they were fined for wheat that had blown off their trucks during transport from the field to storage," said Nelson. "It's true that farmers have an exemption from having to tarp their loads during harvest, but they're not exempt from fines and penalties for product that does manage to spill onto the roadway."

According to Nelson, Public Act 67 of 1990 requires vehicles such as trucks to be loaded in a manner that prevents the cargo from "dropping, sifting, leaking, blowing off or otherwise escaping from the vehicle."

The agricultural provision is important to note: It is not mandatory that the vehicle be covered if it is transporting agricultural or horticultural products, but it is a violation if the product escapes. The law does not apply to vehicles transporting hay, straw silage, or

if residue from the product, such as chaff from corn or wheat or materials such as water used to preserve and handle agricultural or horticultural products, escapes in an amount that does not interfere with other traffic on the highway. However, if the product itself escapes from the vehicle, it is a violation of the law.

"As the harvest season begins, it's important that farmers understand that the product must be secured and not allowed to escape from the vehicle," Nelson said. "The maximum penalty is severe for both the operator of the vehicle and the person who is responsible for either loading or unloading the vehicle."

A violation of the law could result in a fine of not more than \$500, or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both. Again, the penalties can be assessed both on the driver and the person responsible for loading or unloading the vehicles.

For more information, farmers should contact Nelson at (517) 323-6560.

Saginaw County Gets The Spills

Under a new policy, anyone causing spillage on roads in Saginaw County must remove the substance immediately, or pay the Road Commission for doing it, according to the Saginaw County Road Commission.

"We've had some difficulty in a number of cases with not being able to get good cooperation during harvest time when a lot of mud is dropped on the roads," said Roger Walther, Deputy Director-Manager for the Saginaw County Road Commission.

"And," he added, "in some cases it's been very difficult for us to get farmers to cooperate and scrape the roads. This is the exception rather than the rule, but it's just that there are a few cases where we run into uncooperative individuals that have resulted in this policy occurring."

Walther said that another influential reason for the policy was a lawsuit. "There was, within the last two years, a major lawsuit where the Road Commission and the farmers involved lost money as a result of

the case and dealing with the issue of mud on the road," he said.

"The lawsuit," Walther added, "is the single, most blatant reason that we have (for the policy) other than the normal cases where we might stop by and say, 'we would like you to clean up a little bit' and at most places, most farmers are very cooperative in that regard and they understand their liability as well as ours."

Under the policy, farmers who do not cooperate will have to pay later. It reads, "Should the party or parties fail or refuse to remove such (spillage including dirt, mud, gravel, sand, agricultural fertilizer, product or by-product of an agricultural operation or other foreign substance) in a timely or satisfactory manner, the Road Commission may remove same by means available to it, and thereafter bill the cost of such to the responsible person, firm or corporation."

According to Ron Nelson, legislative counsel at Michigan Farm Bureau, there are some concerns over the policy. "One concern is that if farmers are going to be billed for the cleanup, it is probably going to keep farmers from calling in situations that should be called in," he said.

"Another concern," Nelson added, "is a situation where you have two or three fields in the same proximity owned by two or three different farmers. And depending on the situation, if they are equally contributing to the problem, who are they going to bill?"

Nelson agreed that the Road Commission has a legitimate reason for the policy. He said, "The Road Commission has been generally cooperative in understanding the problems farmers have and the Road Commission is hard pressed."

According to Walther, some surrounding counties have not adopted any policies like this but have a type of informal policy with farmers in their counties that is similar to the adopted policy in Saginaw County.

Case IH Pledges Tractor to State YF Discussion Meet Winner

Case IH has raised the stakes in the Michigan Farm Bureau's State Young Farmer Discussion Meet, offering 100 hours free use of MAXXUM tractor to one lucky state winner, in addition to a Honda Four-Trax 300 all terrain vehicle. The winner can choose from three models, the 5120, 5130, and the 5140, rated at 77, 86 and 94 PTO horsepower respectively.

The Case IH line-up is from the latest series of tractor models available. All three models come equipped with 540 and 1,000 PTO speeds, 16 forward - 12 reverse speeds with a synchronized transmission, with an exclusive forward/reverse shuttle shift.

To make sure you have a chance to win 100 hours free use of a MAXXUM tractor and a Honda Four-Trax 300 all terrain vehicle, don't miss the competition starting with your regional contests in August (see schedule). In addition, you'll want to become familiar with the following topics:

1. What is the future role of land grant universities for meeting the needs of commercial farmers?
2. How can American farmers and others in rural areas continue to receive adequate health care at reasonable prices?
3. Conservation - how does it affect a farm's future?
4. What is the role of agriculture in reducing the United States' dependence on foreign oil?

For additional contest information and registration, contact your county Farm Bureau office, or call MFB's Young Farmer Department at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3234.



1991 Young Farmer District Discussion Meets		
District - Date	Time	Location
1 - Sept. 23	7:00	Dowagiac
2 - Sept. 19	7:00	Jackson
3 - Aug. 29	7:00	Ann Arbor
4 - Sept. 10	7:00	Middleville
5 - Sept. 13	7:00	Lansing
6 - Sept. 5	7:00	Cass City
7 - Sept. 30	7:30	Stanwood
8 - Sept. 6	6:00	Chesaning
9 - Aug. 17	7:00	Mesick
10 - Sept. 27	7:00	Gaylord
11 - Sept. 4	7:30	Escanaba

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10

"The mood of farmers across this country is that the bureaucrats have just gone too far. They have, in effect, taken land that we own away from us. 'They' are state agencies in some cases and, in almost all cases, the Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, SCS and the EPA, and 'they' don't agree."

They're confusing farmers who are trying to follow the rules by giving farmers conflicting stories about what is and isn't a wetland, and their confusion ultimately shuts farmers down. Farmers are fed up with the run-around they're getting!" AFBF President Dean Kleckner.

"The U.S.D.A., Army Corp of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Environmental Protection Agency are trying to revise their respective manuals to identify wetlands. Unfortunately, they can't agree on how to rewrite the definition and that's the reason we need legislative action. Let's protect wetlands by first defining them in a rational manner and let's protect what should be protected by value and function." Rep. Jim Hayes (D-La.), cosponsor of Hayes-Ridge bill.

"I think it's really important for the Washington community to understand that this bill (H.R. 1330) is gaining momentum every day because of the people back home. These people have been affected by what I consider to be, in my nine-year history, the most impractical, most difficult group of bureaucrats that I've ever encountered." Rep. Tom Ridge (R-Pa.), cosponsor of Hayes-Ridge bill.

"The reason why we have a problem is because the bureaucrats and the regulators have taken a very narrow section of the federal Clean Water Act and tried to interpret that to use as a national land use planning tool. The Clean Water Bill was never intended as a national land use planning program, and yet they're trying to make it fit into that mode. One of the basic problems is that all wetlands are currently treated as if they're the same. They're not equal in the make up or values or the amount of regulations that are applied." Sen. John Breaux (D-La.), sponsor of Senate version of Hayes-Ridge bill.

"2,300 of 3,300 farm tracts in Pike County, Illinois, are designated or alleged as wetlands. The SCS is responsible for making this identification using aerial photography and without any water table studies in this 550,000-acre county." Kim Keoller, Pike County, Illinois, cash crop farmer at Washington, D.C., news conference.

"We have a serious problem in this country today. It's not about wetlands. What's going on here is an out and out power grab and struggle for control of the land by the Army Corp of Engineers, EPA, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, based on erroneous wetland determination made by the SCS." Jim Gay, Pike County, Illinois, cash crop farmer at Washington, D.C., news conference.

A Chance to End the Wetlands Confusion

Citing significant support in Congress for proposals to end regulatory confusion over wetlands protection, the American Farm Bureau (AFBF) is urging members of Congress to adopt "corrective legislation which farmers sorely need."

AFBF President Dean Kleckner said the level of support in both houses "should convince reluctant lawmakers as well as the administration that wetlands regulatory enforcement is a real problem."

In March, Reps. Jim Hayes (D-La.) and Thomas Ridge (R-Pa.) introduced the Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991 (H.R. 1330), which currently has 154 cosponsors. Four representatives from Michigan have signed on as cosponsors and include Reps. William Broomfield (R-Birmingham), Dave Camp (R-Midland), Bob Carr (D-Lansing) and Guy Vander Jagt (R-Luther).

An identical Senate bill (S. 1463) was also recently introduced by Sen. John Breaux (D-La.). It has 21 cosponsors thus far. Neither Sen. Carl Levin nor Don Riegle are cosponsoring the bill.

According to Kleckner, the proposed legislation provides a means to end the regulatory chaos which has angered farmers and other landowners across the U.S. The

bills provide a clear definition of what a wetland is and what is worth protecting.

"This legislation would inject badly needed common sense and consistency in wetlands regulations and how they are enforced," Kleckner explained. "On too many occasions, the varying interpretations by four government agencies have produced disastrous results, locking up lands with questionable wetland values while robbing landowners of their dreams and livelihoods."

The Crux of the Problem

Rep. Jim Hayes (D-La.), one of the original cosponsors of the Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act (H.R. 1330) explains that there is currently no wetlands policy in the United States, resulting in little or no sense of direction.

"There is no formula by which you deal with wetlands," he said. "Therefore, those who are interested in creating a policy regarding wetlands grafted onto a 20-year-old water bill, the Clean Water Act of 1972."

"That bill had a single paragraph, Section 404, and all it said when Congress passed this dredge and fill bill regarding most of the Mississippi River and its tributaries was that the word 'water bottoms' would be

appropriately defined by the agencies," Hayes explained.

The result today is a continued grafting and expanding of Section 404 into "what is now the wetlands policy of the United States."

The legislation introduced by Hayes is aimed at protecting property that should not be destroyed, classifying wetlands according to value and function, and providing compensation to landowners who are denied use of their property, Hayes explained.

"This is a fundamental right of ownership issue, driven not within the beltway, but far beyond it," he said.

Rep. Tom Ridge (R-Pa.), co-author of H.R. 1330, adds that the legislation would provide "classification, conservation and compensation" and end the "inappropriate use of regulation, which is cumbersome and costly."

Sen Breaux, when introducing S. 1463, said: "The need for fairness and a greater degree of certainty in the wetlands permitting process demands congressional attention. We've all heard wetlands-permitting horror stories. A federal wetlands policy must be reasonable and be balanced."



Richard Taylor

Perry, Shiawassee County
Farm: Cash crop
Commodities Grown: corn, soybeans, hay
Size: 650 acres

Richard Taylor has been in a dispute with the SCS for three years regarding ground that has been declared wetlands. According to Taylor, the ground had been farmed at one time, but had been used as a pasture in recent years.

"The biggest problem is that it hasn't been cropped," he said. "My dad raised corn on that piece of ground for years and years. After that, nothing was ever put back on it. Then when I started farming, I put it to pasture and did some tiling with plans to eventually farm the ground."

Taylor said that the SCS inspected his land and the outcome is upsetting to him. "It just seems that if we own the land and have to pay taxes on it, then we should be able to drain it and we should be able to work it," he said. "Things are hard enough with prices and taxes the way they are. We've got to work this land and do the best job we can or we can't make ends meet."

According to Taylor, the SCS determination is somewhat of a mystery. "When they (SCS) looked at it, there was just a small trickle of water coming out of the mains," he said. The above picture of the drain outlets were taken the morning after a one-inch rainfall during the previous night.

Soil Conservation Service

Jim Dickie, a District Conservationist at SCS, commented on the Taylor situation. "If it has not been farmed for five years or more, it reverts back to a wetland status because it would have been a wetland prior to him clearing it or farming it," he said.

"My own personal opinion is, if we are going to be doing wetland determinations, we ought to be looking at areas that most people would consider a wetland," Dickie added.

"In many cases, we've had to designate wood lots as wetlands because of the hydric soil conditions and the hydric vegetation that's on it, meaning brush and trees that grow in a wetland type soil," he said.



Love Farm

Dave and Robert Love
Dafer, Chippewa County
Farm: Livestock
Animals: beef and sheep
Size: 1500 acres
Years farm has been in family: 25

Dave Love and his brother, Robert, bought an adjoining farm last October. They checked into the regulations to make sure the ground could be worked. When it appeared to be fine, they went ahead with the purchase, financing it through FHA.

A conservation plan had been approved by SCS, prior to the new farm bill. That approval, however, was revoked after Jan. 1, 1991, according to Love.

"We knew we couldn't put grain on it, but we made up a conservation plan so that we could plow it and reseed it and maintain the surface grain that was on it," Dave Love said.

Love said that 175 acres of the 440 acres purchased has been declared as a wetland area by the SCS. "They (SCS) said I was in violation of wetlands regulations which could cause FHA to recall the loan," he said.

"What this land is," Love added, "is poorly drained land and it hasn't had anything done with it. The previous owner pastured it, and then he didn't use it. Then the road was plowed with a grader several years ago and they blocked all the little surface drains. All this land is drained by plow furrow type drains and when they got blocked off, the willow started to grow."

"What we wanted to do was to plow it up and put in a good pasture and maintain the little water burrows. But now we can't do that. All we can do is cut the brush and fence it," he said.

Soil Conservation Service

Selden Collins, a District Conservationist at the SCS, commented on the Love's problem. "With the farm they bought, they knew beforehand the wetland designation. Unfortunately, the 1985 farm bill changed in November and there were different regulations for wetlands," she said. "It was kind of unfair to the Loves."

Understanding the DNR's Role in Wetland Regulations

The Department of Natural Resources' role in wetland regulation arose in 1984 with the assumption of administering Section 404 of the Clean Water Act instead of the EPA as is done in other states, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Vicki Pontz.

Michigan is the only state in the country to have assumed Section 404 authority. The DNR processes 6,500 to 7,000 applications annually to permit dredge and fill activities.

"There are advantages to this system, since we have people within the state to work with as opposed to EPA personnel based out of the Chicago Regional offices," said Pontz. "We also have an appeals process through the Natural Resources Commission as opposed to appealing the case in the courts as is done in the other states."

Pontz added that Michigan also has a wetlands act called the Goemaere-Andersen Wetlands Protection Act, Act 203, that the DNR is involved with on a regular basis.

In regard to agricultural wetland issues, Michigan's Wetlands Protection Act contains several exempted activities including:

- Some existing farming activities including minor drainage, which is defined by the act as "ditching, and tiling for the removal of excess soil moisture incidental to the planting,

cultivating, protecting, or harvesting crops, or improving the productivity of land in established use for agriculture, horticulture, or lumbering.

- Harvesting of forest products.
- Some minor road improvements if adverse effects on the wetlands are minimized and width is not added or rerouting is necessary.
- Distribution power line construction if adverse effects are minimized.
- Straightening, widening, or deepening of private agricultural drains and drains constructed or improved (not just designated) pursuant to the Drain Code of 1956, as amended, but only if necessary for agricultural production.
- Drainage of non-contiguous wetlands (unless designated as necessary for preservation by the DNR) if necessary for crop production provided that any future non-farming use requires a permit.
- Construction of farm roads, forestry roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment if adverse effects are minimized.

"There shouldn't be any DNR involvement in an agricultural activity at all, unless the wetland in question is contiguous to (adjoins) an inland lake or stream or one of the Great Lakes," said Pontz. "In my opinion,

the DNR has, in some cases, claimed jurisdiction when, in fact, they didn't have it."

Pontz added that many times, the DNR may get involved if the SCS contacts them for an opinion if they think what is being done is in violation of the wetlands act, or a neighbor may call the DNR, or if the DNR happens to see an activity they feel they have jurisdiction over.

According to Pontz, the DNR has provided testimony in opposition to the Hayes-Ridge wetlands legislation, due primarily to concerns about a classification system, longer permit approval times, as well as concern about having to reapply for assumption of Section 404 authority and, ultimately, the net loss of wetland resources.

In their written testimony, the DNR claims to have developed a model, state-assumed 404 program that other states should aspire to: "We have held this unique position since 1984 and, by widespread opinion, have developed a model program that offers a much quicker, more responsive, and more effective regulatory program than any other state or federal system in the country."

Ironically, of the 400 wetland cases from 39 states submitted to Washington, D.C., as proof of the current wetlands fiasco, 50 were from Michigan.



T & R FARMS

Tom and Rich Johnson
Standish, Bay and Arenac Counties
Farm: cash crop
Crops Grown: corn, dry beans, wheat
Size: own 180 acres, rent another 1,150 acres

The Johnsons have approximately five acres that they'd like to clear and tile to improve drainage and straighten out several adjoining fields. However, the SCS has determined the parcel to be a wetland.

"It's kind of on an angle with the way we plant," Johnson said. "We, asked if we could tile the parcel and at the same time straighten the borders of the fields up, but SCS won't let us do it."

"This year I'd say we lost \$1,500 to \$2,500 in crops because we can't plant by this wetland or tile by it," said Johnson. "It's a farce. If I'm paying taxes on it and making a farm payment on it, I should be able to do something with it."

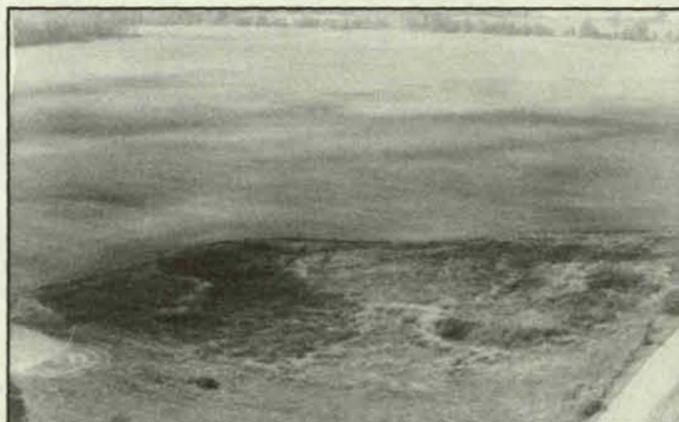
"If the government is going to start telling the farmers when they can clear their property and when they can't clear it, they should be willing to compensate the farmer for it, such as paying the property taxes," said Johnson.

Soil Conservation Service

Jim Hergott, a District Conservationist at SCS, commented on the T & R Farm situation. "We have to look at what we are doing to the farmer. If this area is considered a wetland, financial compensation from the government might be a possibility," he said. "I guess from an agency standpoint, we are not saying he can't do anything with the land. What we are saying is that if he wants government benefits, he can't do anything with it."

"What we do is look at the soil types per the soil survey and determine whether it is a hydric soil or not. If it's woody vegetation, then we call it a wetland from the office. All of our first determinations are done from the office," Hergott said.

According to Hergott, looking at the intent of the laws on wetlands is important. "Is the intent of the law to provide waterfowl habitat? Is the intent to provide for wildlife habitat? Or, is the intent of the law to keep land out of production so we don't have to have these subsidies?" he asked.



Lynn Walton

Imlay City, Lapeer County
Farm: cash crop
Commodities Grown: corn and navy beans
Size: 2000 acres

Lynn Walton has two areas on recently purchased land that are currently in dispute. "The one area is a little pond (top photo) while the other has a bunch of cattails and brush (bottom photo). The one with the pond is a man-made pond. He (the previous owner) was going to build a house there, but I don't want that pond there. I don't see why I can't fill a man-made water hole," Walton said.

"It would be different if we were trying to drain a 100 acre swamp or something," he explained. "But what I want to drain is a man-made pond. I don't see where that should be called a wetland. It's only 50 feet wide and 100 feet long."

According to Walton, the other parcel in dispute was tiled and farmed at one time, but the tile that went across the road had broken, caved in and plugged, creating an unwanted wetland.

After Walton bought the farm, he fixed the old tile and tiled the rest of the farm. However, with the new tile and additional water drainage to the low spot of the field, additional tile is needed. Walton said he would like to add more tile to dry the area up, but the ASCS declared the parcel a wetland.

"If I could just run a main through there and catch the water that we are dumping in there from the rest of the farm," he explained, "that would dry all of the area up."

"With both spots, it isn't a big acreage loss, but it is a big hassle working around those little potholes with big equipment," he said.

Walton's dispute over the pond started last year and the other conflict began about two years ago. He admitted that he is not sure what a wetland is. "Well, if there's a cattail out in a wet spot, you can't drain it, is that right? I don't think anybody really knows what a wetland is. They can't really define it," he said.

Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service

Jim Vosburgh, a District Conservationist for the ASCS, declared Walton's area with the tile problem a wetland. About the tiled area he said, "There was definitely standing water, a foot to two foot of water, with willows, cattails and other things that are characteristic of a wetland."

He went on to describe the three ASCS criteria for a wetland. The first is hydric soil, which is soil that is formed from water conditions. The second is that the spot has water loving plants or hydrophytic plants either growing or capable of growing under natural conditions. The third condition is that it has a water table up near the surface within a foot to 18 inches for at least two weeks or more out of a year.

Congressional Contacts

Your U.S. representative and senators will be home for the August recess -- an ideal time to contact your representative and encourage their cosponsorship of H.R. 1330 and your senators to encourage their cosponsorship of S. 1462. As of August 8, only four Michigan representatives had lent their support to the legislation known as the "Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991" (* indicates those in support thus far).

U.S. Senators

Donald W. Riegle, Jr. D-Flint
(202) 224-4822
Carl Levin D-Southfield
(202) 224-6221

U.S. Representatives

(202) = Washington, D.C., Office Phone
D.O. = District Office Phone

David Bonier, (D-Mt. Clemens)
(202) 225-2106 D.O. (313) 469-3232

*William S. Broomfield (R-Birmingham)
(202) 225-6135 D.O. (313) 642-3800

*Dave Camp (R-Midland)
(202) 225-3561 D.O. (517) 631-1552

*Robert Carr (D-Lansing)
(202) 225-4872 D.O. (517) 351-7203

Barbra Rose Collins (D-Detroit)
(202) 225-2261 D.O. not available

John Conyers (D-Detroit)
(202) 225-5126 D.O. (313) 961-5670

Robert Davis (R-Gaylord)
(202) 225-4735 D.O. (906) 228-3700

John D. Dingell (D-Dearborn)
(202) 225-4071 D.O. (313) 846-1276

William D. Ford (D-Taylor)
(202) 225-6261 D.O. (313) 722-1411

Paul Henry (R-Grand Rapids)
(202) 225-3831 D.O. (616) 451-8383

Dennis M. Hertel (D-Detroit)
(202) 225-6276 D.O. (313) 574-9420

Dale E. Kildee (D-Flint)
(202) 225-3611 D.O. (313) 239-1437

Sander M. Levin (D-Southfield)
(202) 225-4961 D.O. (313) 559-4444

Carl D. Pursell (R-Plymouth)
(202) 225-4401 D.O. (313) 761-7727

Bob Traxler (D-Bay City)
(202) 225-2806 D.O. (517) 752-6999

Frederick S. Upton (R-St. Joseph)
(202) 225-3761 D.O. (616) 982-1986

*Guy Vander Jagt (R-Luther)
(202) 225-3511 D.O. (616) 733-3131

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1991 State Policy Development Committee Appointments Announced



Front row l-r: Ron Bodtke, Wayne Wood; second row: James Isley, Duane Tirrell, Carol Lauwers, Barb Vander Meulen, Les Roggenbuck, Ray Baker; third row: John Bull, Judy Emmons, Carmen Cousino, Diane Horning, Ken Swanson, Ed Kosters; fourth row: Robert Desjarlais, Blaine VanSickle, Tom Fleischmann. Not pictured: Terry Bellville, Michele Lenneman.

Wayne Wood, of Marlette, operates a dairy and cash crop farm in Sanilac County in partnership with his father, brother and son. Wood, who is currently a member and vice president of the MFB board of directors, is serving as an MFB board representative and committee chairperson.

Ron Bodtke, of Grand Junction, grows blueberries, corn, soybeans and timber in Van Buren County. He represents Farm Bureau members in District I. District I counties are Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren.

James Isley, of Palmyra, Lenawee County, raises processing tomatoes, soybeans, corn, wheat and sunflowers and represents District II. District II counties are Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee.

Carmen Cousino, of Temperance, is a Monroe county sugarbeet and cash crop farmer, representing members in District III. District III consists of Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

Ed Kosters, of Caledonia, operates a dairy, beef and cash crop farm in Kent County. He represents Farm Bureau members in District IV. District IV counties are Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, and Ottawa.

Duane Tirrell, of Charlotte, operates a diversified family farm in Eaton County raising sheep, strawberries, corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. He represents Farm Bureau members in District V. District V counties are Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, and Shiawassee.

Carol Lauwers, of Capac, a cash crop farmer in St. Clair County representing District VI. District VI counties are Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, and Tuscola.

Judy Emmons, of Sheridan, operates a registered Holstein dairy farm in Montcalm County. She is the state PD representative for District VII members. District VII counties are Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oceana, and Osceola.

Kenneth Swanson, of Bannister, is a Gratiot County cash crop farmer. He represents District VIII members on the state PD committee. District VIII counties are Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw.

John Bull, of Arcadia, is a Manistee County fruit grower. He represents members in District IX. District IX counties are Benzie,

Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Northwest Michigan, and Wexford.

Terry Bellville, of Whittemore, is a cash crop farmer in Iosco County and represents District X Farm Bureau members. District X counties are Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmett, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Presque Isle.

Robert Desjarlais, of Daggett, is a Menominee County dairyman, representing members in District XI. District XI consists of Chippewa, Copper County, Hiawathaland, Iron Range, Mac-Luce and Menominee county Farm Bureaus.

Michele Lenneman, of Corunna, is a Shiawassee County dairy and cash crops farmer. She represents Young Farmers on the 1991 state PD Committee.

Les Roggenbuck, of Snover, in Sanilac County, is a cash crop farmer. He represents the Farm Bureau Young Farmers on the 1991 state PD Committee.

Raymond Baker, of Burr Oak, is a St. Joseph County livestock and feed grains producer and represents the Farm Bureau Young Farmers.

Barbara Vander Meulen, of Howard City, is a Newaygo County dairy and poultry produce, and serves an at-large position on this year's state PD Committee.

Tom Fleischmann, of Munger, is a Bay County farmer raising sugar beets and cash crops. He serves as an at-large representative on the 1991 state PD Committee.

Mark Trommater, of Hart, raises asparagus, tree fruit and Christmas trees on his Oceana County farm. He is an at-large representative on the 1991 state PD Committee. Trommater is active with the MACMA plum and asparagus marketing committees.

Diane Horning, of Manchester, is a Washtenaw County dairy farmer. She serves on the MFB board of directors and is one of the board representatives to serve on the state PD Committee.

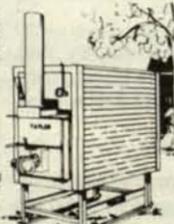
Blaine VanSickle, of Marshall, in Calhoun County, raises hogs and cash crops. He is currently serving his third term on the MFB board of directors, and has been selected as one of the MFB board representatives to serve on the state PD Committee.

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