Mobilizing Resources for Michigan’s 62-Year-Old FFA Tradition

The sun hasn’t quite peeked over the eastern horizon yet, but when 6:30 a.m. rolls around for young Becky, the wintry day is well underway. While most of her classmates are just clearing the sleep from their eyes, Becky is wide awake at school rehearsing a speech she must give that evening to a panel of judges. This time of year, this story is repeated many times over across this state as approximately 500 young FFA members in Michigan are fervently readying themselves for the annual FFA leadership contests, taking place at district and regional levels, in hopes that they may soon be able to compete at the state contest as one of the state’s best. At the same time, out of Michigan’s approximately 5,000 members, 42 are aspiring to be future state FFA officers; hundreds have applied for one of 29 proficiency awards, ranging from agribusiness to outdoor recreation; and countless others are getting involved with community service projects to strengthen their very own communities. But next year at this time, the halls of Becky’s school may be very quiet, as will many other schools, with FFA chapters when the funding for state programs and awards are gone.

The crisis began when the state FFA program was hit with a $300,000 cutback, via Gov. Engler’s line item veto on state budget proposals and continued with an $83,000 cutback from the Michigan Department of Education, by way of a reallocation in funding from the Carl Perkins Act. Unless other forms of financing are found, losing the $300,000 means losing the state FFA office and the state FFA projects consultant. Charles Snyder, when the state FFA budget reaches zero on Oct. 1, 1992. Key agricultural leaders have met recently to discuss the future of agricultural education in Michigan, including the FFA, and are working out funding proposals to support the programs in the future.

"The agricultural community needs to focus its attention on the FFA and its programs it supports," stated MFB President, Jack Lau-

ry. "The first priority should be, first and foremost, to keep the FFA program running. If FFA isn’t around, it will ruin a number of agriscience programs.

Michigan Farm Bureau began addressing the need for assisting the state FFA financially by passing resolutions last December recommending that Farm Bureau, the Department of Education, Michigan State University, and the private sector, work together to acquire adequate funding for FFA. (See related Discussion Topics, page 11.) The remaining $30,000, cut from the State of Michigan budget, funded two primary areas of the state FFA budget. Approximately half of the money went toward awards, trophies, plaques, pins, and certificates recognizing FFA members’ achievements. The remainder of the money reimbursed FFA chapters for their mileage to state FFA functions, such as the state FFA convention held in March and the agricultural leadership skills competition held in April. The Michigan FFA Foundation, formed in the early 1980s, has taken the initiative to cover the money lost for awards and reimbursement. The non-profit organization, headquartered at MSU, is raising money through private and corporate sponsors to come up with the funding.

As part of the resolutions passed by Michigan Farm Bureau, county Farm Bureaus are being asked to make a financial contribution to the FFA. Those contributions can be made payable to the Michigan FFA Foundation, and sent to the following address:

Michigan FFA Foundation
Michigan State University
412 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

A copy of the amount contributed should also be sent to the Young Farmers Department of MFB for recognition purposes and because the donated funds are going to be matched by MFB up to $2,500, as established by the MFB Board of Directors.

It’s lambing time once again across Michigan. This newborn and mother were photographed at the MSU lambing barns where the lambing season begins in early January and runs through March.

The 200 ewes and replacements housed at the research facility annually produce approximately 300 Suffolk and Rambouillet lambs, according to Kevin Weidmayer, an animal caretaker at the sheep teaching and research barns.

Unfortunately, the sheep industry continues to be plagued by its share of problems, namely poor consumer demand and depressed producer prices.

University researchers from Texas, Wyoming, and Colorado conducted a year-long study on marketing strategies to identify weaknesses and growth areas to increase producer returns. See their recommendations on page 5.

Senate Bill 643 Critical to Michigan Agriculture - Your Help Urgently Needed to Ensure Passage

A little-known U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June 1991, which states that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FFRRA) doesn’t pre-empt local units of government from regulating pesticide use, could have dramatic implications for your farm operation, if ignored.

Legislation, S.B. 643, pending in the state Legislature, would prohibit local units of government from enacting or enforcing ordinances that contradict or conflicts with the Michigan Pesticide Control Act (MPCA) and, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Vicki Pontz, will play a large role in the future of Michigan agriculture.

"Without enactment of this legislation, farmers could conceivably face different pesticide regulations in every township they do business in, making compliance impossible," said Pontz. "Since the June Supreme Court ruling, at least eight new local pesticide ordinances have been enacted in Michigan." According to Pontz, the specific timetable on S.B. 643 is questionable, as the package has met severe opposition from local units of government and environmental activists. The bill was at one time due to be voted on Feb. 4, but received numerous amendments and was ultimately sent back to the Senate Agriculture Committee for further action.

Pontz is hoping members will contact their respective state legislators (See page 10 for additional information and a legislative directory) to encourage their support of S.B. 643 as introduced. "Members should not take this issue lightly," said Pontz. "Without the passage of S.B. 643, local government officials could be making management decisions about how farmers manage their farms that could vary from minor inconveniences to the absurd."
In Brief...

Don't Be Too Quick to Price Corn, Economists Say

The recent corn price rallies have offered some attractive prices, but farmers shouldn't be in too much of a hurry to sell their 1992 crop corn, according to economists at several Midwest universities. "I think there will be better pricing opportunities a little later this spring," advises Purdue economist Bill Uhrig. He encourages farmers to wait a little longer to learn more about how the El Niño weather phenomenon now occurring over the Pacific will effect the Midwest this summer.

Darrel Good, grain specialist from the University of Illinois, shares the weather market view and says many good pricing opportunities could occur this spring. He says it's time for farmers to make marketing plans and decide what combinations of risks management tools to use. But, he adds, "this is not the time of year we expect to get price highs. We just don't get price highs in February."

Stan Stevens of the University of Minnesota, says he advises farmers to buy low-priced put options in early April to protect favorable prices for the 1992 crop. He says farmers should finish up the sales of their 1991 crop in the next eight or 10 weeks, then take pricing opportunities for the new crop.

Robert Wisner, Iowa State University's grain marketing specialist, says farmers may want to begin limited pricing of new-crop corn. He recommends use of futures and/or options to price about 20 percent of expected production in 1992. More aggressive marketing should be undertaken after the government releases its 1992 prospective plantings report in late March, Wisner says. (See page 6 for MSU's Jim Hilliker's market comments.)

Allocations for CIS Loans Announced

Along with its February supply-demand report, the USDA announced allocation of the February and March credits for the Commonwealth of Independent States. The February allocation was $95 million for wheat, $55 million for feed grains, $15 million for protein meal and $35 million for freight.

The $200 million credit for March will be distributed $80 million for wheat, $51 million for feed grains, $39 million for soybeans, $21 million for vegetable oils, $10.5 million for soybean meal, $4 million for rice, $500,000 for hops, and $25 million for freight.

Russian Farmers Get First Private Farm Program

According to a Knight Ridder News report, via British Broadcasting Corp., the Russian government and the Farmers' Association (Akkor) have signed an agreement which provides political cooperation for the improvement of agricultural production. The report said the agreement outlines the key spheres of joint work, aimed at creating favorable conditions for the development of financial support, stimulating production and food supply, and the social protection of farmers. The agreement marks the first time that relations between the government and the private farmers were given a legal status, the agency said.

USDA Sets Up CIS Food Aid Office, Sends Marketing Specialist Team

USDA is setting up an office to help coordinate food aid to the former USSR, and is also sending a team of specialists to help the region improve its food marketing system. The office will serve as a central contact point for other U.S. government agencies, Congress, businesses, voluntary organizations, and the public, said USDA. It will also advise USDA Under-Secretary Richard Crowder on coordinating assistance to the region.

USDA is also sending three representatives from its Agricultural Marketing Services and the farm industry offices to work with USSR officials to help improve their food marketing system. The team's goal is to help create a wholesale marketing system for fruits, vegetables, food grain and meat, and will be led by Wes Kriebel, a deputy director at AMS.

Brazil's 1991-92 Corn Crop Estimated Up 17 Percent

Favored by good farm credits and beneficial weather conditions, Brazil's 1991-92 (Sept.-Aug.) corn crop will rise 17 percent, said the Brazilian Geographic and Statistical Institute (IBGE), according to a Knight Ridder News report. In its first crop forecast for the year, the IBGE put production at 27.181 million tons, up from 23.234 million in 1990-91. An IBGE spokesman said corn growers had increased farm credit available in the 1991 planting season. Total farm credits for all crops during the planting season were equal to 5 billion U.S. dollars, up from 2 billion a year earlier. Also, weather conditions had been good in most corn-growing regions, with ample rain. Brazil's 1990-91 corn crop was hurt by low yields due to lack of rain during the January - February 1991 growing season.

In Brief...

Japan's beef consumption will continue to rise this year, and domestic slaughtering and exports are expected to increase. Beef production in Japan is expected to expand by 4 percent this year, rising to 3.1 million tons, according to the U.S. agricultural attache in Tokyo. Japan's pork industry is in a downsizing and domestic slaughter will drop more than expected, a Knight Ridder News report indicates.

To meet the 1992 beef demand, which is forecast at 139 million tons, domestic beef and veal production in Japan is expected to rise about 3 percent to 590,000 tons. Japan's beef and veal imports are forecast at 580,000 tons this year, 65,000 above 1991, the attache said.

Japan has liberalized its beef import markets, which has allowed more U.S. and Australian meat to enter its market. The attache said although these imports are charged a duty, the meat is still selling well and Japanese processors are turning more toward Wagyu beef from Brazil and Australia. Wagyu is premium, heavily-marbled beef that many Japanese consumers prefer.

The Japanese pork industry is having problems, the attache said. Pork producers have had to invest in expensive pollution controls and finding new farmers to replace old ones has become very difficult. Japan's pork production is forecast at 1.45 million tons, down from 1.49 million last year. To help meet 1992 demand, domestic consumption of almost 2.1 million tons, Japan will import 615,000 tons of pork, up from 565,000 in 1991.

Japan is also expected to permit imports of fresh pork from other EC countries this summer. But, Japan would only allow imports from Ireland, Denmark and Estonia, it is feared for food and mouth disease. Japanese officials have begun to visit processing plants in the Netherlands to determine if they meet domestic standards, and could become a significant supplier, the attache said.

EPA Ruling on EBDCs a Win for Farmers

The Environmental Protection Agency announced that the widely used fungicide EBDC poses minimal cancer risks and may continue to be used on all but 11 fruit and vegetable crops. EBDC is used on tomatoes, carrots, celery, collards, mustard greens, nectarines, peaches, plums, pears, radish, spinach, bean curds and turnips. In those cases "the long-term risks... outweigh the benefits," EPA said.

The action marked a sharp turnaround for the EPA, which two years ago proposed that EBDC be allowed on only a few crops. In 1990, the agency proposed the chemical be banned on 45 food crops, prompting the industry to voluntarily withdraw the fungicide for use in all but three of those crops. But EPA Administrator William Reilly said that further studies revealed that the health risks from the fungicide were less than previously believed.

Michigan Farmers Appointed to National Committees

Fifteen Farm Bureau leaders from Michigan, including some county presidents, have been appointed by AFBF President Jack Steckler to serve on the organization's 1992 commodity advisory committees. The committees come together to make important to their commodity areas and make recommendations to the AFBF board in policy implementation.

They are: James Ackron, Wayne County, Agricultural Nursery & Greenhousehouse; Steve Owings, Newaygo County, Aquaculture; Diane Howington, Westenau, Dairy; David Cook, Alger County, Cattle; Steve Solheim, Arenac County, Cereals; Dennis Gugel, St. Joseph County, Forestry; Joshua Wunsch, Northwest Michigan, Fruit and Nuts; Ray Buell, Oakland, Hay; William Hargrave, Shiawassee, Hops; Larry Poore, Enzell, Sheep and Goats; Richard Leach, Saginaw, Soybean; Dennis Netley, Gratiot, Corn; Larry Smiley, Osceola, Swine; Jim Miller, Berrien, Vegetable and Potato; and Tom Guthrie, Barry, Wheat.

Lauren Named Marge Karker Scholarship Winner

Rodney M. Lauren of Midland County has been selected as the 1992 MFB Marge Karker Scholarship winner. He is the son of Gerald and Carolyn Laurenz, who operate a 1,000-acre cash crop farm near Wheeler and have been FB members for a quarter-century. Rodney is a junior at MSU majoring in agricultural engineering/ag education and plans to teach ag engineering at the university level. While in high school, he attended MFB's Young People's Citizenship Seminar, was state FFA vice president, was selected one of the top 100 math students in Michigan, and was valedictorian of his class.

The Marge Karker Scholarship was named in honor of the woman who served as MFB's coordinator of women's activities from the time the program started until the early '60s.
The disaster assistance program, now being implemented to assist producers and processors who experienced firelight in their orchards. When filling applications for disaster payments, some local ASCS offices told apple producers that firelight losses were not eligible.

Michigan Farm Bureau had worked to include firelight in the disaster legislation so contacts have been made with Michigan ASCS personnel for clarification. The answer received is that firelight is included. However, producers must show the losses from firelight were caused by weather-related conditions, rather than management practices such as not spraying to protect against the disease.

Producers who suffered firelight losses in 1990 or 1991 may want to contact their ASCS office to see what information will be required to include these losses in their disaster assistance application.

The self-employed are allowed to deduct 25 percent of the cost of their health insurance premiums when calculating their federal income tax. However, to qualify for the deduction, they must offer health insurance to their employees. This deduction is scheduled to expire June 30, 2001.

House Resolution 784 has been introduced to make the deduction of health insurance premiums paid by self-employed persons permanent and to reduce it to 100 percent of the cost. The legislation is pending in House Ways and Means Committee, where hearings were held in late January. The bill currently has 192 cosponsors including Michigan Congressmen David Camp, Bob Davis, Paul Henry, Carl Purswell, Bob Trachler, Fred Upton and Gay Vander Jagt. Congressman Bob Carr has introduced a separate bill to increase the deduction to 100 percent.

The nonprofit research group, Health Care Solutions for America, has estimated a 100 percent deduction could reduce the number of persons without health insurance coverage by 9.8 million by making policies more affordable.

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Michigan's Dry Bean Growers Face Assessment Referendum

Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

Weak northwesterly flows in the upper atmosphere persisted during much of late January and the first week of February. The cooler than normal conditions continued driving lower temperatures than normal over most of Michigan. Occasional intrusions of arctic air, largely confined to northern areas, brought significant lake effect snowfall to favored areas of the Upper and northern Lower Peninsula and resulted in above normal precipitation during the period.

Mean temperatures ranged from slightly below normal in northeastem sections to slightly above normal in the west. The cooler than normal 30-day mean temperatures in the northeast were the first of the winter season thus far. A change in the jet stream pattern to a more southwesterly orientation during early February (the same change that was responsible for a series of storms and torrential rains in California) brought milder temperatures and the most widespread moisture to the state in almost a month on the 15th.

The National Weather Service 30-day outlook for Michigan during late February and the first half of March calls for near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. In other words, a general continuation of the conditions of the past 30 days. Unfortunately, because of disagreement between some of the computer and statistical models used in the preparation of this outlook, overall confidence is low. From a historical perspective, while both mean temperatures and precipitation are normally on the increase this time of year, the climatological records remind us that many of the lowest temperatures and heaviest snowfalls (outside of the lake snow areas) have occurred in February and March.

Michigan's Dry Bean Growers Face Assessment Referendum

The Michigan Bean Commission has asked the Michigan Department of Agriculture to conduct a referendum among growers on a proposal to increase the dry bean assessment they pay when they sell their beans from a nickel to a dime per hundredweight.

Who Can Vote?
To vote in the referendum, a grower is defined as any business unit, including a partnership, trust, or other business organization engaged in the business of producing beans for sale within the past two years.

What's Proposed?
The proposal calls for an increase in the dry bean assessment paid by growers when they sell their beans from the current 5 cents per hundredweight to 10 cents per hundredweight. This would be an additional investment by Michigan growers of approximately $200,000 for expanded domestic and international promotion.

When Will it be Held?
The referendum will be conducted during the first two weeks of March, 1992.

Where can Ballots be Obtained?
The referendum is administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Growers should receive a ballot in the mail around March 1, 1992. Elevators and Cooperative Extension Service offices will have additional supplies of ballots.

How Will the Assessment be Used?
The Bean Commission has agreed the increased grower investment will be used to:

- All for Promotion - None of the new assessment will be used for production research. The commission believes that promotion is more important than expanded research.
- Increased International Promotion - At least 75 percent of the new grower investment will be used solely for the promotion of Michigan-grown beans in international markets such as the United Kingdom, Eastern Europe, the Russian Commonwealth, and North Africa.

To Introduce Michigan Grown Great Northern Beans - A new program will be developed to introduce Michigan-grown Great Northern beans to countries where that variety is preferred. The first Great Northern variety developed especially for Michigan growing conditions will be released this year by Michigan State University. Additional funds would be used to establish demand for this production.

- Expand Use of Michigan Beans in Aid Programs - A new program will be developed to work with the government and private voluntary religious organizations to help them learn more about dry beans, and use more in these relief programs world-wide.
- Expand Domestic Promotion - Domestic promotion will continue and expand as possible, and the commission will continue to expand the domestic consumption of dry beans.
- None for Administration - None of the new funds will be used for administration. All of it will be used to promote Michigan grown dry beans.

Michigan Potato Stocks Higher

Potato growers and processors in Michigan held 3.4 million hundredweight (cwt) of potatoes on Feb. 1, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. This is 13 percent above stocks a year earlier, and represents 38 percent of 1991 fall production. Disappearance of the 1991 crop from harvest to Feb. 1, totaled 5.4 million (cwt). Crop disappearance for 1990 during the comparable period was 6.2 million (cwt). Of the total stocks on hand, 72 percent were whites, 27 percent russets and one percent reds.

Nationally, fall potato stocks totaled 179 million (cwt) on Feb. 1, up 10 percent from last year and 24 percent from two years ago. This is 49 percent of the fall potato production in the 15 storage states, compared with 47 percent a year ago. Potatoes by type are three percent reds, 17 percent whites, and 80 percent russets, with more whites and fewer russets than a year ago. Processors have used 85.5 million (cwt), down one percent from 1991 but six percent above 1990 levels. Shrinkage and loss to date was 21.2 million (cwt), five percent above the 20.1 million (cwt) last year and 17 percent above the 18.1 million (cwt) lost two years ago.

California Water Supplies Still Below Normal

Water supplies in California are up slightly from a year ago but have reached only 55 percent of normal, meaning shortages will persist for the sixth straight season, according to a California Department of Water Resources report.

On Feb. 1 of last year, water supplies in storage around the state were at 50 percent of normal. Rainy conditions in March 1991 eventually put water supplies for the water use year at 65 percent of normal.

The rain and snow that have fallen in the state since the water resources report was compiled have no doubt raised the state's water supply. However, much of the heavy rainfall reported in California has fallen along the southern coast, in the vicinity of Los Angeles. Only moderate amounts have hit the main snow and water catchment areas of the central and northern Sierra ranges.

Even before the recent rain, the South Coast water region of California was in the best shape, with its reservoirs at 110 percent of normal water content.

Future inflow into the state's water storage reservoirs will come from water currently locked up as snow. Snow surveys as of late January put the statewide water content of snow at 45 percent of normal. Current water in storage along the Colorado River ranged from 85 to 105 percent of normal. Current snowpack in the upper Colorado River Basin was 70 percent of average, according to figures supplied to the California Department of Water Resources by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.
Perception and Consumption Key - Lamb Marketing Study Concludes

American lamb is perceived differently by all key players determining its selling power, including producers, retailers, and consumers, said Dr. Gary Williams, Texas A&M, who presented the results of a lamb marketing study at the American Sheep Industry Association annual convention in Orlando, Fla.

Texas A&M, along with the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University, jointly conducted the year-long study to assess marketing strategies to enhance returns to lamb producers. A total of 140 key industry people, including feeders, packers, brokers, non-breaking wholesalers, retailers, and food service groups spanning the entire United States, participated in the study.

"Consumers are telling us they want smaller, leaner cuts of lamb, but producers aren't getting that message," said Williams. "We also have a whole set of consumers out there that don't eat lamb due to changes in the ethnic base, that is, even though they're more ethnically inclined to eat lamb, they've gotten away from it usually because they have relocated to another part of the country where lamb is not popular. It's a matter of ethics in your industry, and I guess the industry eroding because of today's less traditional lifestyle."

Williams added that lamb consumption is also affected by price and right marketing emphasis is on "light and healthy foods" which people mistakenly approach with a diet containing little or no meat.

On the retail side of lamb sales, retailers are saying they don’t want to spend a lot of time making lamb more appealing to consumers by trimming excess fat and offering a wider variety of cuts as lamb volume is too low to warrant such attention to detail. So why not increase volume to up profit margins? "It's not that retailers don't make money off the lamb they stock and sell," said Williams. "They just make more money off of other meats, mainly beef, chicken and pork. For a retailer, lamb is a very small part of the business."

"The key to a better lamb market, said Williams, is getting more people to eat lamb and getting the people who already eat lamb to purchase more. We need increased consumption," said Williams. "And the sheep industry should change the situation to where retailers need to carry more lamb. This, in turn, would call for more breakers to be in business, which would result in competitive pricing. If that happens, prices to consumers come down while prices to producers go up because we're narrowing the price margin currently." But producers get too little for their products for which consumers feel they pay too much.

Bottom line, said Williams, "There is little wrong with the lamb industry that cannot be resolved by increased consumption." Steve Raftopoulos, ASI Lamb Council chairman, agreed with Williams and touched on a variety of solutions that should better position the industry to sell more lamb. "We'll be emphasizing consumer education from selection to preparation," said Raftopoulos. "We'll also continue to urge growers to participate in the yield grade program so that we can show them they'll ultimately get paid for producing lean lamb."

Other key points, said Raftopoulos, include improved merchandising and display/promotion techniques at the retail level that would put lamb in the spotlight; more focused education directed toward younger, trendy consumers who often have not even tried lamb; pre-packaged and processed lamb products to provide retailers with a variety of more uniform cuts tailored to consumer preferences without the cost and time involved in back-room preparation; national coordination of lamb marketing activities to reduce the fragmentation of current marketing activities in the lamb industry. "We'll be looking closely at the food service sector," said Raftopoulos. "If we can offer a wider variety of cuts at lower prices, the food service industry could be a powerful force in helping us prepare lamb in a number of ways that could appeal to all age groups, especially the younger crowd. Chances are they'll order it again and then possibly purchase it at the retail level."

Designing Facilities for Pesticides and Fertilizers?

Properly designed and maintained facilities are the backbone of a safe, responsible chemical facility, Wilkinson says. Whether the site is a single operator farm, a wholesale distributor business, or a wholesale/ manufacturing plant, farm chemical storage and handling sites represent high risk for point-source pollution of land and water. Until now, however, there hasn't been a clear concept of what features are important to an attractive, safe, responsible chemical facility. The WestMid Plan Service has filled that void by publishing a new edition Designing Facilities for Pesticide and Fertilizer Containment, MWPS-37.

The handbook compiles the best available information for storing, handling and using agricultural pesticides and fertilizers. It's intended as a desk reference for consulting engineers, contractors, builders, state agencies, dealers, applicators, farmers, and educators, with recommendations based on accepted engineering principles and practices.

While the emphasis is on the facility itself, MWPS-37 necessarily considers the impact of laws, regulations, and safety concerns on layout, design and maintenance. Major chapters consider the impact of laws, site selection, functional system design, worker safety area, storage, secondary containment, mixing/loading facilities and equipment, concrete, emergency response planning, rinse/waste management and waste disposal, and facility maintenance. Also included are a glossary of terms and a variety of appendixes with additional references and specialized information.

MWPS was written by agricultural engineers with experience in this complex arena. It has been reviewed extensively by experts, specialists and government officials to ensure accurate, authoritative information.

To order Designing Facilities for Pesticide and Fertilizer Containment, MWPS-37, contact Plan Service Secretary, 217 Farrall Hall, Ag Engineering Dept., Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. The cost of S15 includes shipping and handling.

Saginaw Bay RC&D Area Approved

Approval of the Saginaw Bay Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) application was announced at the National Association of Conservation Districts' annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, by Soil Conservation Service Chief Bill Richards.

The Saginaw Bay Resource Conservation and Development area was one of 27 area-approvals announced at the meeting. It is the sixth such area in Michigan.

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For more information on the complete NA-CHURS Program, call 1-800-NA-CHURS, ext 421 Leader Street, Marion, Ohio 43302 or write to NA-CHURS, P.O. Box 1383, Plant Food Company, 80A-038130 Plant Food Company, Marion, Ohio, 43302.

Michigan Farm News
South African corn crop was cut 80 million acres as a terrible drought hangs over all of southern Africa, and grains in March would be $51 million. Given the relative prices of crops, it now appears 1992 corn acres planted will be up over 3 million acres. As shown in the last column of Table 1, that would increase ending stocks significantly.

While a large corn price spring rally on a weather scare is a definite possibility due to the low projected ending stocks, another strong possibility is a nice spring, large corn acreage numbers, and lower corn prices. The point is don't hold all of your risk into spring. A top may have been hit in the wheat market until there is more solid information on how the wheat looks in the field once it starts growing again, and in Texas, that time is not far off. Table 2 shows the projected supply/demand situation.

If the crop develops nicely, harvest prices could fall below $3.50 and present pricing opportunities; if the crop has trouble, we could see harvest prices around $4. Consider lowering some of your 1992 new crop price risk with some forward pricing on a portion of your expected summer harvest. Hog slaughter the first two weeks of February was up 8-9 percent compared to last year, and while this was still higher than the 5 percent the Hogs and Pigs Report would have indicated, it is down from the 14 percent increases we saw in January. Take advantage of the increase in hog prices we have seen by keeping very current. The annual USDA January 1 Cattle Inventory Report, released Feb. 7, showed all cattle and calves were up 1 percent. While this does show expansion, it was lower than expected. The report also lowered the expansion shown in last year's report from 2 percent to 1 percent.

Beef cows on Jan. 1, 1992, were up 2 percent and heifers kept as replacements were shown as up 3 percent; again while this represents expansion, it was less than expected. The other surprise in the report was that the 1991 calf crop didn't increase from 1990. The preliminary July report had indicated it would be up 2 percent. By combining the information in the Inventory Report with the information in the 13-State Report, it appears that available feeders are up 11 percent from last year due to the low placements of lightweight cattle, the second half of last year.

What this report tells us, along with the 13-State Report discussed in the last issue, is that steer prices will likely stay in the upper $70s through April or May and then fall off sharply in the second half of the year as the supply increases.

Keep very current and watch for rallies in the out month futures to consider forward pricing opportunities. Dr. Jim Hilker, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University

### Market Outlook

#### Seasonal Commodity Price Trends (long term)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Corn</th>
<th>Soybeans</th>
<th>Hogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td>+ Higher Prices</td>
<td>- Lower Prices</td>
<td>TP= Topping</td>
<td>BT= Bottoming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Wheat**: The supply/demand situation for 1991-92 for both the U.S. and the world was left basically unchanged by the USDA in their February report.
- **Corn**: Soybeans are up by a 50 million bushel decrease in expected exports. The USDA lowered projected domestic use, exports due to a larger South American crop. As can be seen in the last column of the soybean table, the fundamental picture is not expected to change much from this year. However, the new crop soybean pricing opportunities available now are much better than the fundamentals shows here would suggest.

### Table 1

**SUPPLY DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR CORN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hilker's Proj.</th>
<th>1990-91</th>
<th>91-92</th>
<th>92-93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn Acreage (Million Acres)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Set-Aside and Diverted</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Planted</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>79.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Harvested</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu./A. Harvested</td>
<td>118.5</td>
<td>108.5</td>
<td>120.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Supply</td>
<td>9282</td>
<td>9016</td>
<td>9700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>4669</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>5100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed/Seed</td>
<td>1367</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Domestic</td>
<td>6036</td>
<td>6400</td>
<td>6535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>1727</td>
<td>1525</td>
<td>1650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Use</td>
<td>7791</td>
<td>7921</td>
<td>8189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Stocks</td>
<td>1321</td>
<td>1091</td>
<td>1015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Use</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Loan Rate</td>
<td>$1.57</td>
<td>$1.62</td>
<td>$1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Season Average</td>
<td>$2.20- $2.10-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Price, S/Bu.</td>
<td>$2.28</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: USDA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2

**SUPPLY DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR WHEAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hilker's Proj.</th>
<th>1990-91</th>
<th>91-92</th>
<th>92-93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Acreage (Million Acres)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Set-Aside and Diverted</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Planted</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Harvested</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu./A. Harvested</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Supply</td>
<td>3309</td>
<td>2882</td>
<td>2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Domestic</td>
<td>1375</td>
<td>1217</td>
<td>1060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>1275</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Use</td>
<td>2444</td>
<td>2210</td>
<td>2210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Stocks</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Use</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Loan Rate</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$2.04</td>
<td>$2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Season Average</td>
<td>$3.00- $3.10-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Price, S/Bu.</td>
<td>$2.61</td>
<td>$3.10</td>
<td>$3.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: USDA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3

**SUPPLY DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR SOYBEANS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hilker's Proj.</th>
<th>1990-91</th>
<th>91-92</th>
<th>92-93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soybean Acreage (Million Acres)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Planted</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>57.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Harvested</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu./Harvested Acre</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks (Million Bushels)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beg. Stocks</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Supply</td>
<td>2167</td>
<td>2220</td>
<td>2250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crushings</td>
<td>1187</td>
<td>1225</td>
<td>1240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed, Feed and Residuals</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Use</td>
<td>1838</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Stocks</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Stocks, Percent of Use</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Loan Rate</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
<td>$5.02</td>
<td>$5.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Season Average</td>
<td>$4.25- $4.30-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Price, S/Bu.</td>
<td>$5.75</td>
<td>$5.75</td>
<td>$5.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: USDA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4

**BALANCE SHEET FOR COMMODITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Topping</th>
<th>Bottoming</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good News for Roundup Users

As part of a longer-term market expansion plan, Monsanto has reduced the price for the second straight year in a row for Roundup, making the product available at $39.50 suggested retail in the 30-gallon drum, according to a Monsanto release.

With the price reduction, Monsanto says that farmers can now treat many perennials for under $10 per acre, and under $5 per acre for many annual weeds. Monsanto is hoping to capture more of the reduced tillage market as the 1995 conservation compliance deadline nears, saying the product is ideal for pre-plant and no-till conditions.

Monsanto is planning to release a dry form, Roundup WSD, in coming years, as well as more returnable containers, bulk and water soluble packaging, and finally, Roundup-tolerant crops starting with soybeans by the mid-1990s to boost sales and market share.

Michigan Cattle Numbers Stable

Michigan's Jan. 1, cattle herd totaled 1,200,000 head, unchanged from a year ago, according to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. However, some shifting did occur between classes.

The Jan. 1, milk cow inventory, 338,000 head, was down 5,000 head from 1991. Milk cow replacement heifers, at 159,000, were up 1,000 head. Beef cows at 106,000 head, were down one percent. Beef replacement heifers increased to 30,000 head, a three percent increase. The 1991 calf crop was 280,000 head, 10,000 fewer than the previous year.

Cattle on full feed for slaughter totaled 210,000 head, dropping Michigan into a 14th place tie with Indiana. Steer numbers, at 252,000 head, decreased 6 percent and other heifers, at 45,000 head, increased 18 percent. Calves on hand at 252,000 head, were up five percent from last year. Michigan has 20,000 operations with cattle.

USDA Predicts Little Farm Debt Growth in 1992

USDA's Agricultural Income and Finance report is predicting that total U.S. farm debt will rise only 1 percent to 2 percent in 1992 as farmers remain cautious about acquiring additional debt, according to Knight Ridder Financial News.

Total farm debt, excluding households, stood at an estimated $139.3 billion at the end of 1991, up 2 percent from a year earlier, but still 29 percent below the 1984 peak of $193.8 billion.

Although farm income declined in 1991, "farmers and lenders were much better prepared to handle financial difficulties" because of adjustments they made in the 1987 through 1990 period, USDA said.

"All lender categories report that agricultural credit demand was not particularly strong in 1991, while the capacity to lend remained high," USDA said. Expected loan rates are income again in 1992 and modest farm asset growth suggests only minimal increases in farm real estate and non-real estate borrowing this year," concludes USDA.

"Commercial agricultural lenders indicate they would like to make more new high-quality loans, but competition for those loans remains keen," USDA said. Interest rates on new agricultural loans declined about 1 percentage point in 1991 and are expected to fall by another 1 percentage point in 1992.

USDA is predicting farm debt will rise only 1 percent to 2 percent in 1992 due to reduced farm asset growth and modest farm income.

The Farm Bureau MemberLine Visa & Gold MasterCard. Two good reasons why it pays to compare before you apply for a credit card...

New Bale Handling Accessories Now Available From White-New Idea

White-New Idea Farm Equipment Co. has added three round bale handling accessories to their new Idea product line: a front loader bale spike, a 3-point hitch bale spike and a 3-point hitch bale fork.

The front loader bale spike features a 2000 lb. capacity spike with two smaller stabilizer spikes. It adjusts to fit any front loader.

The 3-point hitch bale spike features a 1500 lb. capacity spike with two smaller stabilizer spikes. It fits both category I and II hitches. The 3-point hitch bale fork is versatile so it can be used for more than moving bales. Pallets, feed bunks and other flat items can also be carried. It handles 1500 lbs. and fits both category I and II hitches.

Other New Idea products include round balers, disc mowers and mower condi-

New Product Profile

Front Loader Bale Spike Now Available

The Model 486-0021 (above) features three spike design to stabilize round bales. Adjusts to fit any front loader. 2000 lb. capacity.

Two 3-point hitch models also available from White-New Idea Farm Equipment Co. Other brands are White (planters & tillage), UNI (harvesting systems) and Ag ONE (parts and supplies). For more information call 1-800-767-3251.

Compare the interest rates. The interest rate on the MemberLine Visa and Gold MasterCard is just 15.9% A.P.R. — one of the lowest interest rates available. In addition, you pay no interest on new credit card purchases when your full balance is paid by the due date.

Compare the fees. The MemberLine Visa has no annual fees, no membership fees and no application fee. The annual fee for the Gold MasterCard is $20 — far lower than the fee charged for most gold cards. For added savings, the $20 fee is rebated every year that you make $3,000 or more in net purchases.

Compare the premiums. Both the MemberLine Visa and the Gold MasterCard offer a wide array of complimentary features and options for your protection and peace of mind. And when you carry a Gold MasterCard, you’ll enjoy the added advantages of a higher credit line, executive travel privileges, emergency road assistance, purchase protection insurance and a warranty extension program — valuable "extras" you and your family can depend on.

Easy to apply for. Simply remove this page from the magazine and fill out the application on the reverse side. Letterfold and staple the form with the mailing address on the outside. No postage necessary!
### Overhead Wires, Electric Motors Safety Tips

**Michigan Farm Bureau Membership Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status State</th>
<th>1991/92</th>
<th>1990/91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New</td>
<td>9,818</td>
<td>10,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewals</td>
<td>91,659</td>
<td>88,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101,477</td>
<td>98,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>114,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Goal</td>
<td>84.56%</td>
<td>86.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need</td>
<td>18,523</td>
<td>15,789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Target** Michigan Farm Bureau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a.</th>
<th>o</th>
<th>t:</th>
<th>o</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>r:</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>r:</th>
<th>w</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Overhead Wires**

- Although many utility companies are installing new distribution lines underground in the city, overhead wires remain a fact of life in rural areas. A few commonsense precautions can mean life or death around these installations.
  - Don't tip irrigation pipe sections upwards near a distribution line.
  - Don't build grain storage facilities or any other buildings near a distribution line.
  - Lower elevators and augers when transporting.
  - Don't refuel or park large machines under a high-voltage transmission line (one that's on steel towers rather than poles).
  - Don't allow riders on loaded hay wagons when passing under distribution lines.

**Motors**

- Any farm uses electric motors to supply mechanical power to elevators, fans, augers, and other similar devices. Here are some things to remember:
  - Choose a proper enclosure. Open or drip-proof motors are seldom appropriate for the farm environment. Totally enclosed, fan-cooled (TEFC) units are usually much better, while dust ignition-proof and explosion-proof motors may be required under some circumstances. Rely on a competent electrician for the choice.
  - Choose the horsepower rating of the motor to be at least 125 percent of the requirement of the load according to the manufacturer's information on the road.
  - Pay careful attention to the ventilation requirements of your motors. Motors generate heat when operating.
  - Make sure drive belts and couplings are aligned properly and adequate shields are in place.

### APPLY NOW for a Farm Bureau MemberLine® VISA or Gold MasterCard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Farm News</td>
<td>1-800-929-0000</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Farm News</td>
<td>1-800-929-0000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Credit References

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Farm News</td>
<td>1-800-929-0000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Optional Group Credit Insurance

The card you get, the Farmer's Group Visa (applicable, is $9.00 to $10.00 per month's average debt rate). The insurance will be at some effective when your credit begins. You must to take that day to the at the bottom to every credit card application. The insurance will be part when your credit application is approved. Underwrite by The Farmers Group Company of America, New Jersey, and Farmer's Group Credit Insurance Company, New York, New York. Those are for the accounts, which are not considered a part of any other farm, and do not include the use of secured credit in most cases. The coverage is in effect for a period of 1 year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Farm News</td>
<td>1-800-929-0000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NA-CHURS Double-OK Liquid Potassium – an Attractive Alternative

Today's grower is concerned about the quality of fertilizer placed in the soil. NA-CHURS Plant Food Company has responded to this concern by developing a chloride-free liquid potassium. NA-CHURS Double-OK Liquid Potassium (6-0-30) does not contain chlorine and has a low salt index.

"All across the U.S., growers are switching from a dry potassium chloride to NA-CHURS Double-OK," said Tim Bailey, NA-CHURS Market Development Manager. "Double-OK Liquid Potassium gives growers an alternative to dry application. The product has gained a great deal of attention and wide acceptance in a very short period of time."

"There is a growing consciousness among farmers about potassium chloride," said Gerald Engels, owner of Maxgrov Distributors in Fayette, Iowa. "This product gets you away from that, which is a real plus."

Double-OK Liquid Potassium may be planter-applied, side-dressed, and used as a foliar fertilizer. Growers are seeing excellent results after foliar feeding their alfalfa. "I had my best second crop (cutting) of alfalfa ever with NA-CHURS Double-OK. I've gotten on extra tons per acre after adding NA-CHURS Double-OK to my current program," said George Goslin of Wisconsin.

Potassium, an essential nutrient, plays an important role in plant nutrition. Adequate potassium helps increase root growth, improves drought resistance, aids in photosynthesis and food formation. It also provides better overall crop quality, including the crop's physical condition, resistance to diseases and feeding value of grain.

NA-CHURS Plant Food Company, established in 1946, is the nation's leading manufacturer and marketer of high quality, true solution liquid fertilizer. Over 200 NA-CHURS distributors across the country serve the fertilizer needs of agriculture.
MACMA's Feeder Pig Marketing Program Enters the Computer Era with MLSE and PMA

After closely watching the successes of similar programs in Indiana and Minnesota, the Michigan Agricultural Cooperation Association's (MACMA) Feeder Pig Division, and the Michigan Livestock Exchange (MLSE), entered into a joint venture with the Indiana Producer's Marketing Association (PMA) to market feeder pigs in Michigan via computer.

According to MACMA Feeder Pig Division Manager Bill Haas, the joint venture with the Indiana Producer's Marketing Association (PMA) was in operation as early as April 1991, according to MACMA. Michigan officially became an active member of the network Jan. 15 of this year, with sales held every other Wednesday afternoon.

With the program in place, feeder pig producers and buyers can now take advantage of competitive bidding and feeder pigs move directly from farm to farm, reducing stress and possible disease exposure, explained Haas.

"As far as the seller is concerned, he can offer his pigs to a larger number of buyers and develop his reputation for the type of pigs he produces. From the buyer's point of view, he has a larger selection of pigs to choose from, and can take advantage of current market conditions," he said.

To take advantage of the network, producers must contact MACMA, MLSE, or PMA, and make arrangements for herd inspections and evaluations. Once the evaluation is completed and approved, producers may list foreign feeder pigs to the network a few days in advance, providing information such as the number to be sold and the average weight.

According to Haas, the seller is then responsible for transporting the pigs to a certified feedlot, usually within 10 miles of the MACMA or MLSE facilities.

In no-till plots, starter fertilizer that was placed in the soil near the seed produced better corn yields than broadcast fertilizer, research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has shown. Double disk openers had a hard time staying at a set depth in no-till and chisel-plowed plots, but the variation in depth didn't seem to affect yields when compared with single disk openers, according to Kevin Shinners and Ron Schueller, agricultural engineers.

Shinners studied how fertilizer placement, tillage system and opener type affected corn emergence, growth rate and yields. In no-till and chisel plots, placement 2 inches offset and 2 inches below seed, or 2 inches offset and 4 inches below seed, all the phosphorus and potassium requirements, as determined by soil test, were applied at planting as a starter treatment.

In no-till plots, placement 2 inches offset and 2 inches below seed produced an average of 139.5 bushels per acre, which was significantly higher than the other placements. In chisel plots, placement 0 inches offset and 2 inches below seed produced significantly lower yields that the other placements. Average yields ranged from 127.6 to 139.5 bushels per acre in these trials.

In the chisel plow system, placement of starter fertilizer directly in the seed row slowed emergence and growth rate and resulted in the lowest yields. The other placements produced about the same emergence, growth rate and yields. In the no-till system, an intermediate placement, 2 inches offset and 2 inches below seed, produced the fastest emergence and greatest yields.

In-soil Placement Best for No-Till Starter Fertilizer

In soil-till plots, starter fertilizer that was placed in the soil near the seed produced better corn yields than broadcast fertilizer, research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has shown. Double disk openers had a hard time staying at a set depth in no-till and chisel-plowed plots, but the variation in depth didn't seem to affect yields when compared with single disk openers, according to Kevin Shinners and Ron Schueller, agricultural engineers.

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In-soil fertilizer application generally produced slightly faster emergence and growth and greater grain yields than broadcast application.

Fertilizer was placed either 0 inches offset and 2 inches below seed, 2 inches offset and 2 inches below seed, or 2 inches offset and 4 inches below seed. All the phosphorus and potassium requirements, as determined by soil test, were applied at planting as a starter treatment.

In no-till plots, placement 2 inches offset and 2 inches below seed produced an average of 139.5 bushels per acre, which was significantly higher than the other placements. In chisel plots, placement 0 inches offset and 2 inches below seed produced significantly lower yields that the other placements. Average yields ranged from 127.6 to 139.5 bushels per acre in these trials.

Depth of operation varied widely—always shallower than desired—for the double disk opener, especially in the chisel plow and no-till systems, Shinners reports. Despite careful adjustment, the equipment didn’t reach desired depths in the field. However, the single disk opener didn’t improve emergence, growth rate or yields in these trials.

The researchers applied 208 pounds per acre of 6-24-24 in 1989, 216 pounds/acre in 1990, and 28,300 pounds of anhydrous ammonia per acre in 1991. The plots were planted during the first week of May.

The land was gently rolling with a 2 to 6 percent grade on Plano silt loam soil. Rows were 30 inches wide. Researchers planted 27,000 seeds per acre in 1989 and 1990, and 28,300 in 1991. The plots were planted during the first week of May.

In soil-till plots, starter fertilizer that was placed in the soil near the seed produced better corn yields than broadcast fertilizer, research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has shown. Double disk openers had a hard time staying at a set depth in no-till and chisel-plowed plots, but the variation in depth didn't seem to affect yields when compared with single disk openers, according to Kevin Shinners and Ron Schueller, agricultural engineers.

Shinners studied how fertilizer placement, tillage system and opener type affected corn emergence, growth rate and yields. In no-till and chisel plots, placement 2 inches offset and 2 inches below seed, or 2 inches offset and 4 inches below seed, all the phosphorus and potassium requirements, as determined by soil test, were applied at planting as a starter treatment.

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Questions and Answers Regarding S.B. 643

Ask Your State Legislators to Support S.B. 643 to Prohibit Local Pesticide Ordinances

Michigan Farm Bureau members are encouraged to review the information provided below and then ask their respective state Senators and Representatives, either by phone or by letter, to support passage of Senate Bill 643. If you’re unsure who to call or write, refer to the district maps below. The serious nature of this issue has made it a high priority issue of Michigan Farm Bureau. Protect your farm’s future and call now.

Q. Why is it so important to prohibit local units of government from enacting pesticide ordinances now?

A. On June 1, 1991, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that PFRA does not preempt local units of government from regulating pesticide use. This impact of the Supreme Court ruling could be devastating to agriculture.

Environmental groups are focusing their efforts on local units of government promoting 17 states to adopt preemption laws. In 20 more states with 20 more in the process.

Q. Why shouldn’t local units of government pass pesticide ordinances that are inconsistent with the Michigan Pesticide Control Act (MPCA)?

A. Pesticide use is currently regulated through a partnership between federal and state governments. This regulation is based on scientific analysis and the weighing of risks and benefits. The result of these state and federal efforts is responsible pesticide use.

Pesticide regulation must be based on sound science and not subject to politics or emotion. Agriculture needs a state wide comprehensive, responsible pesticide regulation program.

Q. What is wrong with allowing local units of government to enforce the Michigan Pesticide Control Act?

A. The science of pesticide use is complicated and highly technical. Enforcement agents should be adequately trained and knowledgeable about pesticides. If local personnel are going to enforce MPCA, they should be trained and certified by MDA.

Pesticide regulation must be based on sound science and not subject to politics or emotion.

Q. Where is Farm Bureau so set on diluting local control?

A Farm Bureau has a long tradition of supporting local control. This philosophy has not changed. The issue of local control and notification needs for comprehensive, responsible pesticide regulation, not dilution of local control.

The face of agriculture continues to change as urban populations move out to the countryside. Farmers no longer hold the majority of seats in township or county government.

Local policy makers who are unfamiliar with agriculture are making decisions that could be devastating to the agricultural industry.

Why not allow local units of government to enact ordinances to regulate pesticide use except agricultural use?

A. There is a need for comprehensive regulation of all pesticide use, including agriculture. Local units of government have passed ordinances that were not intended to impact agriculture, but in fact do.

MPCA Regulation 637, soon to be enacted, establishes a statewide program for posting and notification. To have each local unit of government determine specific requirements for posting and notification would send inconsistent and confusing messages to citizens of this state about pesticide use.

Q. What is in Regulation 637 and how will it address notifying people who are sensitive to pesticides when pesticide applications are being made?

A. Amendments to the MPCA in 1988 directed the PDA to promulgate rules regarding pesticide use. Regulations 637 is in response to this direction.

All commercial applicators must inform a customer when applications are going to be made and leave markers up for 24 hours after spraying. These requirements also apply to application made to a commercial or public buildings, golf courses, community right-of-way applications, etc. Special requirements are set for pesticide applications made in or around public schools, public buildings, and health care facilities.

Regulation 637 is expected to be passed by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and in effect by this coming spray season.

District/Party/Senator/Telephone (517)

33 R Arntz, Chuck 373-1623
34 D Barlow, James A 373-1777
11 R Borrow, Michael J 373-2523
9 R Botz, Garry 373-7870
29 D Cherry, John 373-1636
14 R Clay, Jerry 373-1760
25 D Conroy, Joseph 373-0142
28 R DeJongh, Don L 373-7752
30 R Dillingham, Frederick 373-2420
42 R Dishman, George 373-0811
7 D Dingel, Christopher 373-7800
9 R Driehm, Matt 373-3760
32 R Ehlers, Vernon J 373-1801
35 R Endick, Lawrie 373-5700
12 D Feust, William 373-7500
15 D Fox, Jack 373-7886
22 R Garry, Harry 373-6900
6 R Beake, R. Robert 373-1107
10 D Hort, George 373-6800
4 D Holmes, David S 373-0996
17 R Hornig, David 373-1758
60 R Kelly, John 373-0800
38 R Koval, Donald 373-7840
37 R McManus, George 373-1725
32 R Miller, Arthur J 373-8300
7 R O'Brien, Michael J 373-0856
12 R Olds, Larry 373-7700
31 R Posthumus, Rick 373-0760
36 R Proctor, Dick 373-0797
20 R Schwarz, John M 373-3447
19 R Smith, Doug 373-2425
2 D Smith, Virgil 373-7748
24 R Striegel, Debbie 373-7660
29 R Van Renegmon, Grant 373-6900
3 D Vaughan, Jackie III 373-7918
21 R Watters, Paul, Jr 373-0154
13 R Welborn, Jack 373-0793
Senators written comments to: Senators
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7506

State Representatives

House District/Name/Parties/Telephone (517)

77 R Allen, Dick 373-2476
105 D Amundsen, Jim 373-0826
128 R Beene, Michael 373-1977
34 D Bennett, John 373-1776
9 R Bobrow, William 373-0863
33 R Brokaw, Howard 373-0797
44 R Brackenridge, Robert 373-1406
13 R Brys, Tim 373-0154
63 R Burck, William 373-0824
60 R Bullard, Willis, Jr 373-0858
58 R Bush, etc., 373-0854
73 D Cassamitrou, Nick 373-0654
9 D Clack, Floyd 373-0805
16 R Clarke, Hanssen 373-1778
75 D Delleastatea, Ken 373-0920
19 R DeSoto, Walter 373-0855
28 D DeMarte, Robert 373-0855
19 R Doberneck, Jay 373-0647
31 R Dobrzeniek, Agnes 373-0847
66 R Dobson, Pete 373-1793
69 R Dolan, Jan 373-1793

Michigan's 110 House Districts

For detail of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties, see map.
The Michigan FFA plays a crucial role in developing leaders for the state's agricultural industry. But despite a strong tradition, the future of this important program is clouded by the tight state budget and uncertainties in federal funding.

For the past 47 years, the programs and activities of the FFA have been funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). The grant totaled nearly $15,000 for the previous year to MSU for the FFA project. But, even with that funding, the project was still short approximately $10,000 because of increased costs.

The bad news is that starting in October 1992, the board will not be able to fund this project at an adequate level. So, additional funds from other sources will be needed to just maintain the current FFA activities.

Another source of funding for FFA has been the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The Perkins Act and other federal legislation have provided support since 1972 for Michigan's six vocational student organizations, one of which is the FFA. This allocation to Michigan from the federal legislation has been granted by the Michigan State Board of Education to provide for Michigan State University to provide for Michigan State Board of Education grant for 1991-92 to Michigan State University to provide for Michigan State Board of Education grant. However, the 1991-92 grants were vetoed by the governor.

For the first six months of this fiscal year, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at MSU has been able to continue these specialists positions out of the MSU budget. At this writing, these funds will be depleted by March 30, 1992.

Several options are being considered to provide for the long-term future of the FFA program and the specialist positions. Of major importance is policy approved at the 1991 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting that recommends Farm Bureau work with the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan State University, the private sector, and the FFA organization, to address the need for adequate funding for the FFA.

As a result of this policy, Michigan Farm Bureau on Jan. 3 held a meeting with state agricultural groups to examine the FFA and agricultural education program funding crisis. The groups will meet again in early April to hear a report on funding alternatives by a subcommittee chaired by Fred Poston, vice provost and dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources at MSU.

Michigan Farm Bureau policy also suggests that county Farm Bureau make a financial contribution to FFA, and that Michigan Farm Bureau match the contributions up to $2,500 as determined by the MFB board of directors. County Farm Bureaus are also asked to assist in state and local youth activities and help local FFA chapters with community projects and events.

Another policy dealing with the revitalization of agriculture education supports the concept of establishing a Michigan Agricultural Education Foundation. The foundation would bring together agricultural organizations, agri-business and educational institutions to develop and fund agricultural education programs in support of the leadership of Michigan Farm Bureau. This foundation could play an important role in state FFA activities.
Agricultural Institute for Educators Now at Two Locations

Summer Institute for Educators, originally created and sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, Michigan State University, is going through growing pains.

That’s good news for teachers interested in learning how to integrate agriculture into their K-12 classroom curriculums, according to MSU’s Dr. Eddie Moore, professor, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, MSU, at (517) 355-6580.

"Teachers can now either attend a summer institute in central Michigan at the Kinawa Middle School in Okemos, June 22-30, or in southeastern Michigan at the Michigan State Fair Exhibition Center, July 7-15," explained Chamberlain. “Through a series of lectures, presentations and tours, participants will have the opportunity to examine concepts and materials drawn from the food and fiber industry, natural resources, economics and life sciences.”

The institute originally kicked off three years ago with approximately 25 teachers participating. One of those teachers, Lansing’s Northwest third-grade teacher Mary Schultz, has integrated a tremendous amount of those ideas learned at that first institute into her curriculum. According to Chamberlain, agriculture has become a recognized award in 1991 from the Michigan FFA during their state annual meeting for her agricultural literacy efforts.

Schultz’s classroom was also recently visited by a delegation of teachers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to learn more about her teaching process. While visiting, the CIS teachers were able to witness first-hand, how Schultz utilizes agriculture and natural resources into her third grade curriculum.

According to Chamberlain, the institute is intended for K-12 teachers, school administrators, counselors, librarians, and yes, even school board members. While gaining exposure to some great ideas to take back to the classroom, teachers can also earn three MSU continuing education credits.

Topics covered include national public education goals, science and technology, global international education programs for gifted students, international trade, economics of the food and fiber system, classroom activities that work, Michigan’s food and fiber system, and new and emerging career opportunities.

Teachers interested in learning more about the 1992 Summer Institute can contact Chamberlain at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3213, or Dr. Eddie Moore, professor, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, MSU, at (517) 355-6580.

Chamberlain suggests, however, that farmers, in particular, can be extremely helpful by personally urging teachers within their local school system to consider attending the institute. "I can’t think of a better way to help educate the non-farm public about agriculture," said Chamberlain. If teachers attend and adopt the curriculum ideas presented at the institute, agriculture in general will experience long-term benefits.

Going Global Starts With March 17 Workshop

The Cooperative Extension Service and the International Business Development Center will be conducting a workshop March 17 at Smith Hall, located on the Clinton County Fairgrounds, according to Linda Olson of MSU’s Agricultural and Extension Education Department.

The program is designed to introduce would-be exporters to available resources and steps to take when considering international marketing, and using the Going Global computer network in international marketing.

The workshop includes entreprenuers experienced in international marketing speaking on topics such as:

- The International Marketplace - Words of Experience, Dale Kuenzi, Valley Marketing
- Assessing Your Readiness to Export - Using Expert Systems to Help, Dave Zischke, MSU International Business Development Center
- Finding Markets and Wading Through the Paperwork - Gen Roff, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and Ron Bannon, freight consolidator for the Roberts Company of Toronto
- Going Global - Finding your Market via Computer - Giles Roehl and Steve Poindexter, MSU CES
- Getting Started - What we Learned, Bob Mitchell, Aerotech

If you have any questions, please call Giles Roehl at (517) 244-5240 or Linda Olson at (517) 355-6580. Please register before Thursday, March 12. The $10 per person registration fee includes lunch.