C

SARA Title III Compliance and Emergency Planning Made Easy

Complying with SARA Title III, a piece of federal legislation in existence since 1987, will be easier with the recent approval by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to utilize a standard planning form for farm operations, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Howard Kelly. Kelly also represents agriculture on the SERC, along with MDA Toxicologist Dr. David Wade. Kelly said he was extremely pleased with SERC's decision.

SARA, an acronym for Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, has seven different titles. SARA Title III, known as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, requires that persons who use as well as store extremely hazardous substances at or above threshold planning levels, report the quantity and location of those materials to emergency responders for planning purposes.

According to Ruby Harpst, Emergency Planning Specialist with the Michigan Department of State Police, approximately 750 Michigan farms are in compliance with SARA, an acronym for Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, revision, Monroe has also developed a total package concept that includes the use of Computer-Assisted Management of Emergency Operations or CAMEO for short.

Working closely with Monroe County Cooperative Extension Agent Paul Marks, and individual farmers, utilizing CAMEO allowed Monroe County to develop a custom-designed, site-specific response plan for each farm operation, based on the data supplied by the farmer on the new planning forms that can easily be updated annually. Each farmer receives the following:

- A copy of the Response Information Data Sheets (RIDS) for each chemical on that farm.
- A Farm Hazard Description/Population Vulnerability report from the farm plan which applies to their farm site.
- A Notification/Warning procedures from the farm plan.

Kelly says that farmers in counties without CAMEO can still develop emergency response plans with the joint effort of the farmer, the LEPC and the CES Agent. "Even members who don't have chemicals at or above the threshold planning levels should consider working with their LEPC and CES agent in developing an emergency response plan," Kelly said. "It's a great asset to rescue personnel to have that information, and it shows the concern farmers have for their family, employees and their community as well as the environment."

Michigan's Maple Syrup Story - Bigger Than You Might Think!

Ah, the ideal fantasy breakfast! Freshly squeezed orange juice. Hot coffee. A stack of fluffy pancakes drenched in butter and pure maple syrup. The maple syrup literally tops it all off. Those weak, store-bought pure maple syrup. The maple syrup literally drenches just won't do the job.

Native Americans were the first to discover the sweetness of maple sap, according to the International Maple Syrup Institute. The Algonquin word for maple syrup is "xirinbuckawud," which means "drawn from wood." They would use their tomahawks to make V-shaped cuts in the maple trees. Reeds or concave pieces of bark of the maple tree. Reeds or concave pieces of bark would serve as the tap. A metal spile would then be driven into the tree, as well as soil and weather. Some individual trees are even genetically sweeter than neighboring ones, according to Fogle. "We have devices to test the sugar content of sap," he said. "That way you can selectively tap the trees to skip the ones that produce the thinnest sap."

The first settlers and fur traders introduced wooden buckets to the process, as well as iron and copper kettles. Later, they bored holes in the trees and hung their buckets on homemade spouts.

A hundred to a 150 years ago, most Michigan farms tapped trees for maple syrup, said George Fogle, owner of Sugarbush Supply Company of Mason. His company is one of the Midwest's leading suppliers of maple syrup equipment.

"In the days before sugar was widely available, maple syrup was the staple sweetener of rural people," he said.

Maple syrup is big business in Michigan, with 300 commercial producers selling 90,000 gallons a year. But producing your own syrup can be a rewarding and tasty hobby.

Start with sugar maple trees. "Maybe a dozen trees will produce all the syrup a family can use," said Fogle.

The quality and quantity of the sap depend on the variety, age, health and size of the tree, as well as soil and weather. Some individual trees are even genetically sweeter than neighboring ones, according to Fogle. "We have devices to test the sugar content of sap," he said. "That way you can
**In Brief...**

**GATT Ruling on Canadian Countervailing Duties Good News for U.S. Corn Growers**

American corn growers won a major victory in a battle to overturn a decision by the Canadian government to charge countervailing duties on U.S. corn. An international dispute resolution panel established by GATT at the request of the U.S. decided the Canadian ruling violated international trade rules concerning countervailing duties. American Farm Bureau and the National Corn Growers were instrumental in persuading the U.S. government to press the case at GATT and in providing critical background information and analysis of the issue.

At issue was a 46-cent per bushel duty on U.S. corn, imposed by the Canadian government’s International Trade Tribunal five years ago, because they felt the 1985 Farm Bill’s price supports had seriously lowered the world price of corn.

By disregarding the requirement under GATT that countervailing duties be imposed only when actual imports cause or threaten price injury, the Tribunal set a dangerous precedent for future Canadian and European cases against U.S. agricultural exports.

Farm Bureau argued that countervailing duties should not be imposed against U.S. agricultural exports simply because the U.S. plays a dominant role in shaping world prices. The recent decision should serve as a warning to other countries that are considering using countervailing duties to block U.S. commodities from their markets.

**Where’s Your Planter Placing Fertilizer?**

As part of a study of fertilizer placement and tillage systems, University of Wisconsin-Madison agricultural engineers Kevin Shinnors and Ron Schuler examined yield variation in different tillage practices and varied species used as cover crops. They found that fertilizer placement varied greatly, even with identical planting and tillage procedures. Every 1/8 inch offset among various plants, with variations of up to 2 inches on individual plants.

“This showed that some planters aren’t placing the fertilizer where you think they are,” Shinnors says. "Every planter, new or used, should be checked for correct adjustment before it goes into the field this Spring. As you adjust planters before spring work, it’s appropriate that you determine fertilizer opener position relative to the seed opener.”

**Farm Bureau Member Writes Urges Farmer Participation in an Organ Donor Program**

What a welcome sight the January issue of “Health Harvest” was. I believe it’s time we farmers begin paying a little more attention to our health. Grain pricing and futures outlooks are very important to the health of the farm, but what about the operator? The spouse? Even the children’s health can effect the entire operation.

I speak from experience. Four years ago, I received a kidney transplant, after waiting 10 months because of a lack of organ donors. Today the waiting list has grown to 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years. Every 20 minutes a new name is added to the list of those waiting. Sadly, every day, five to seven people die while waiting.

Farmers as a group don’t consider organ donations very often. Is there something we can do regarding this? I believe Health Harvest could make an impact. I’ve been promoting organ donation for the past year by speaking at meetings for the Organ Procurement Agency of Michigan (OPAM), and with the Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

Ed Heyn
Baroda, MI

**Editor’s Note:** Thank you for your comments and suggestion, Mr. Heyn! Turn to page 4 of this issue’s “Health Harvest” insert for more on Ed’s story, as well as what you can do to prevent unnecessary waiting for those needing organ transplant surgery in the future.

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**Canadian National Breeders School**

**MAY 27 - 31, 1992 • UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (ONT.)**

From the blackboard to barnyard ... this 5th annual school focuses on:
- an all-star teaching line-up to include the following three anchors:
  - Dr. Roger Hunsley, executive secretary - American Holstein Association; Dr. Harlan Richie, milk science professor, Michigan State University; Dr. Gary Minish, animal science professor Virginia Tech University.
  - presentations by contemporary beef industry speakers covering topics such as marketing, reproductive performance, herd health, cattle management, selection, etc.
  - a lively school format including classroom sessions and hands-on instruction in the cattle barns giving you the opportunity to apply the blackboard knowledge to the barnyard.

The total registration fee is $395 Canadian (plus applicable taxes) Your registration includes all meals and accommodation at the university, all school activities, printed copy of school proceedings, and a Canadian National Breeders School shirt and cap. Contact the Canadian Charolais Association, or the following people for more information:

**Canadian Charolais Association**

2320 - 41 Avenue N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 6W8

Brian Pogusch, (OMAP) 519/846-0941
Dr. Harlan Richie, Ph. 517/555-8409

Clip and Return this registration form as soon as possible - space is limited to the first 50 applicants.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Zip Code: __________ Phone: _______

Enclose a $100 deposit with this form (Make checks payable to the Canadian Charolais Association). Mail to the Canadian Charolais Assoc., 2320 - 41 Ave. N.E., Calgary, Alta. T2E 6W8

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**USDA Puts Positive Spin on Dunke l Plan**

The compromise plan for free international trade submitted by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel would provide exclusion in a $4 billion to $5 billion expansion of U.S. exports and farm net income would likely rise by about $1 billion, according to USDA’s assessment of the Dunkel proposal.

Knight-Ridder News reports higher gains sales would account for about half the increase for the increase also going to producers of tobacco, cotton, meat, poultry and eggs, tree nuts and vegetables, and greenhouse products. USDA said.

The U.S. would be the only country with the technical and resource capabilities to meet the increased demand for medium-grain rice, according to the USDA.

Under the current proposal, non-tariff barriers, such as quotas and import bans, would be converted to equivalent tariffs and the tariffs reduced over a period of time.

The Dunkel plan also would require domestic crop production subsidies to be cut by 20 percent over six years, based on outlooks made between 1986 and 1988. Credit would be even for crops already made, so most U.S. commodities would not be affected, according to the USDA.

**Hay and Forage Experts to Meet In Grand Rapids**

The latest research and farm practices related to the production of livestock forages will be detailed April 5-8 in Grand Rapids. The American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) will hold its annual meeting at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Scientists and forage producers from many areas of the United States will take part.

The meeting is open to farmers and agricultural advisors. The program will include presentations and workshops on the latest research being conducted by business agronomists and discussion by farmers about their innovations in forage harvesting and preservation. Among the tours planned for the meeting are: tours of U.S. dairies will be conducted by dairy farmers and a review of agronomic research trials at the Michigan State University Kellogg Biological Station.

The meeting will be a visit to one of Michigan’s most modern dairy farms and a review of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board awards up to 20 scholarships each year to students in their junior or senior year. Students receive a $5,500 scholarship check and plaque.

Graduates "return to their communities with the knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm for participating in the democratic process. Eligible students are: high school seniors and juniors in the 1992-93 school year; interested in government, social and economic issues, and/or; political; potential leaders or those who participate well in large group settings; articulate and willing to speak to groups about the seminar; and from either a farm or non-farm background.

During the conference, over 200 young men and women will participate in mock voter registration drives, political party conventions, campaigns, and voting. Dynamic speakers, recognized as experts in the fields of economics, world cultures, government, and personal growth, will background the students on their role as citizens of the United States and the world.

County Farm Bureau pay registration fees with the support of local businesses, leaving only transportation costs to be covered by the students themselves. For application and program information, contact your county Farm Bureau office. But hurry! Registration deadline is May 1, 1992.
A total of 25 bills dealing with veto restoration has faced in Lansing. The bills all call for restoration of fundings vetoed by Gov. Engler. The initial bill, Senate Bill 213, restores an amount apparently agreed to by the governor. In addition, the other package of bills totaling 15, two of which impact agriculture, S.B. 522 and S.B. 527, have been reported out of the Senate. A series of 20 bills are detailed line item appropriations for a number of restoration projects vetoed by the governor.

Special Notes: Current year budget is anticipated to be 7 to 12 percent short, 10 to 25 percent short if the adjustment is taken in the last half of the year. Further adjustments in current year budget projections will be required. This may impact the ability to pass current bills.

A House of Representatives work group of seven legislators has identified approximately 19 different PA 116 issues of interest and concern. The intent apparently is to develop recommendations following discussion and evaluation which may result in bill draft and proposed amendments to PA 116. Members of the committee include Rep. Hickner, Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, and Rep. Lynn Jondahl, Chairman of the House Taxation Committee. Other members include Representatives Bobier, Gnodtke, Munsell, Kosteva and Niederstadt. A bill draft is anticipated shortly after Easter recess with action prior to the summer recess.

Rep. Beverly Bodem (R-Alpena) is sponsoring HB 5315 which would exempt "feed storage locations" from the Scrap Tire Regulatory Act. Feed storage location means a location on one or more pieces of adjacent real property containing a commercially operated farming operation where not more than 3,000 scrap tires are used for the purpose of securing stored feed. The Scrap Tire Regulatory Act of 1990 requires a person who accumulates scrap tires at a collection site to register with the Department of Natural Resources for $200 annually, and to establish a program for mosquito control. A person accumulating tires is also required to maintain a record from a surety company, a certificate of deposit, a cash bond, or an irrevocable letter of credit sufficient to cover the cost of removing the tires from the tire storage area. HB 5315 (H-1) passed the House, and was reported out of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Committee on March 19, with a full Senate vote expected soon.

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The Department of Labor has already increased its investigations of child labor law violations and will recommend that the president veto this bill if approved by Congress.

Sen. Ben Matzenbaum (D-OH) has introduced child labor amendment, S. 600. The senator, apparently not satisfied with the recent tenfold increase in the maximum penalties for child labor violations, stated, "Hundreds of children in this country are being exploited. They work at too young an age, for too many hours, and in unsafe environments.

Under Matzenbaum’s proposal, repeat offenders of child labor laws would lose eligibility for any grant, contract, or loan provided by the federal government; or, the ability to pay the minimum training wage (which agriculture is excluded from anyway for migrant and seasonal workers).

Pesticide handling would be added to the list of hazardous occupations for which children under 16 may not be employed. The new restrictions would be placed on the employment of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers under the age of 14. Children on family farms would remain exempt from the law’s provisions.

The U.S. Senate Labor Committee reported S. 600 out of committee on a straight party-line vote of 10-7. The bill fundamentally changes the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) child labor laws as they affect farmers. Major provisions are as follows:

1. Prohibits hiring 14 year-olds and younger as migrant and seasonal agricultural workers.

2. Prohibits employers to obtain a state issued certificate of employment prior to hiring for minors under the age of 18 who have not received a high school diploma.

3. Requires employers of 16-18 year-olds to keep extensive records. Requires states to submit to local school lists of employees who violate federal child labor laws.

4. Prohibits minors under 18 from handling pesticides, or working in seafood or poultry processing, by requiring the Secretary of Labor to declare these hazardous activities.

5. Does not affect the present exemption for children employed on farms owned or operated by their parents.

The Department of Labor has already increased its investigations of child labor law violations and will recommend that the president veto this bill if approved by Congress.

**MFB Position:**
AFBF policy under FARM LABOR is: "Farm family members of any age should be able to be employed by their parent or person standing in place of their parent at any time and in any occupation related to a farming business or a farm owned or operated by their person or parent standing in place of their parent.

The child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are outdated and should be modernized. Young people 10 to 12 years of age should be able, with parental consent, to do certain kinds of safe work on farms during non-school days and those ages 12 to 13 should be allowed more latitude in working on farms with parental consent.

MFB policy under WAGES is: "We recommend... The current law mandating that the minimum wage be paid all workers is unfair for special workers (family groups, students, retires, handicapped individuals and other seasonal employees) as it restricts their employment opportunities."

**MFB Contact:**
Howard Kelly, Ext. 2044

**ACTION NEEDED** Contact Senators Riegel and Levin and oppose the proposed Child Labor Amendments. AFBF has already told the committee that farm employment is good employment and strongly opposes any attempt to reflect otherwise. AFBF also advised the committee that claims by the bill’s sponsors that child labor violations are widespread in agriculture are false and cited results of the U.S. Department of Labor Operation Child Watch which showed negligible violations.

Sen. Donald Riegel (202) 224-4872
Sen. Carl Levin (202) 224-6221

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**Local Wetlands Ordinances**

**MFB Position:**
Farm Bureau policy supports legislation that would prohibit local wetlands ordinances that are more stringent than the state Wetlands Protection Act and supports state-wide standards for wetlands determination. SB 522 (Substitute-3) does not allow a local unit of government to require permits for any agricultural activities that do not require a permit under the state law and requires local units of government to adopt the state definition. Farm Bureau is supporting the substitute (S-3).

**MFB Contact:**
Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046

Sen. Paul Wartner (R-Portage) has sponsored Senate Bill SB 522, which would prohibit local units of government from enacting or enforcing a wetlands ordinance. However, a new version of SB 522 (Substitute-3) would allow local units of government to regulate wetlands within its boundaries, by ordinance, only if the ordinance complies with all the following:

(a) The ordinance shall not provide a different definition than is provided in the Goemere-Anderson Wetland Protection Act.

(b) The ordinance may regulate a wetland less than five acres in size but, in no case, shall the area be less than two acres in size unless the municipality determines that the wetland is essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the municipality.

(c) The ordinance shall not include provisions that allow a landowner to request a revaluation of the affected property for assessment purposes to determine its fair market value under the use restriction if a permit is denied.

(d) A municipality that wishes to adopt an ordinance shall complete and make available to the public an inventory of all wetlands within the municipality. The municipality shall make a draft of the inventory map available to the public, provide public notice of the ordinance, and shall respond in writing to written comments received.

(e) An ordinance shall not require a permit for uses allowed without a permit by the state act. These uses include farming activities such as plowing, irrigation, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting, or upland wolf and water conservation practices.

A House of Representatives work group of seven legislators has identified approximately 19 different PA 116 issues of interest and concern. The intent apparently is to develop recommendations following discussion and evaluation which may result in bill draft and proposed amendments to PA 116. Members of the committee include Rep. Hickner, Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, and Rep. Lynn Jondahl, Chairman of the House Taxation Committee. Other members include Representatives Bobier, Gnodtke, Munsell, Kosteva and Niederstadt. A bill draft is anticipated shortly after Easter recess with action prior to the summer recess.

**Appropriations and Budget**

**MFB Position:**
MFB supports restoration of funding for Soil Conservation Districts and horse racing revenue.

**MFB Contact:**
Ron Nelson, Ext. 2043

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**Michigan Farm News**

March 30, 1992

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Unseasonably dry weather since mid-April allowed spring planting and other fieldwork to progress at a rapid pace statewide. However, extended dryness hindered germination establishment of recently planted crops as topsoil moisture levels fell to abnormally low levels.

Precipitation during the last 30 days was generally below normal across the state except for east central and southeast sections.

Temperatures began the period below normal but finished above normal, with the exception of the 30-day mean temperatures generally somewhere close to the long term average. The exception for average temperatures was across the Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan, where frequent sunny days led to relatively warm maximum temperatures and above normal mean temperatures.

The last 30-day forecast from the National Weather Service calls for above normal temperatures over the entire state. Precipitation is expected to average near normal statewide.

**Michigan Farm News**

**Crop Updates - Planting on Schedule, Moisture Concerns Grow**

**Michigan**

- Corn planting was progressing rapidly, with 66 percent planted as of May 19, compared to 50 percent last year. Soybean planting has ground to a halt as soil temperatures were below the 70 percent normal average. Soybean planting was 20 percent complete, on track with the 5-year average.

Sugar beet acreage was reported 98 percent complete, well ahead of last year’s 57 percent figure, and even ahead of the 5-year average of 96 percent. Potato plantings continued to lag behind normal with 50 percent planted compared to 60 percent on average. Wheat was rated 15 percent excellent, 50 percent good, 25 percent fair, 10 percent poor to very poor.

- Fruit: Apples were reported in full bloom, as were cherries, and about 10 percent of the early strawberries. Michigan’s blueberry crop will reportedly be down considerably from last year, with many fields showing only 20 percent of potential blossom left, after frost damaged the other 80 percent.

- Vegetables: Asparagus harvest was picking up due to warmer spring weather, with harvest estimated at 15 percent complete for the season. Plantings of tomatoes, sweet corn, onions, carrots, and other vegetables continued at a rapid pace. Celery was developing slowly due to cool weather, but planting was nearly on schedule.

**Indiana**

- Indiana’s Agricultural Statistics Service reports corn 89 percent planted, compared with 79 percent last year and 76 percent on average of May 19, 1991. Soybean was rated 6 percent excellent, 51 percent good, 40 percent fair, and 3 percent poor.

- Soybeans were 51 percent planted, compared with 48 percent last year and 40 percent on average. The crop was 10 percent emerged compared to 23 percent last year and the average 20 percent. Wheat was rated 1 percent excellent, 17 percent good, 48 percent fair, 28 percent poor, and 6 percent very poor. Pastures were rated 84 percent of normal compared with 96 percent last year.

- Topsoil moisture was rated 32 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 28 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

- Illinois

Corn planting was reported 98 percent complete as of May 19, compared to 88 percent last year. The average height of corn was reported at 2 inches.

- Soybean planting was 66 percent complete, well ahead of last year’s 46 percent and the average 49 percent. Word is, however, that soybean planting has ground to a halt as farmers wait for moisture to assure germination.

- Soil moisture supplies were 54 percent short, and 46 percent adequate.

- Wheat was rated 43 percent good, 35 percent fair, 12 percent poor, and 10 percent very poor. The crop was 48 percent planted, compared to the average 59 percent.

- Iowa

Iowa’s Agricultural Statistics Service reports that corn planting was nearly complete, but they need moisture to get the crop off to a good start. Corn was 53 percent emerged, compared with 21 percent last year, and 45 percent on average. The crop is rated 15 percent excellent, 67 percent good, 17 percent fair, and 1 percent poor.

- Soybean planting was 63 percent complete, well ahead of 1991’s 13 percent and 35 percent on average. Soybeans were 10 percent emerged compared with 9 percent last year, and 5 percent on average.

- Winter wheat was rated 2 percent excellent, 27 percent good, 41 percent fair, 24 percent poor and 6 percent very poor.

- Topsoil moisture was rated 79 percent short, and 21 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture was rated 1 percent short, and 99 percent adequate.
Farmers looking for ways to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat and lock in 10 years of problem-free rental payments, should sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during the next enrollment period from June 15-26, at your county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office.

The CRP bid process offers long-term rental payments and cost-share assistance to eligible farm owners or operators who convert eligible land to permanent vegetative cover. Eligible land includes any cropland in Michigan used to produce an agricultural commodity in two of the last five years.

Nationally, the CRP currently has over 33.5 million acres in the program, approximately 247,700 of which are in Michigan. Hillsdale County ranks first in the state with almost 30,000 acres enrolled.

The application process involves submitting a bid based on the relative productivity of the soil, the prevailing local cash rental rate, and costs the participant will incur by establishing a permanent vegetative cover. Each eligible bid is further evaluated by comparing it to a bid cap determined by the federal ASCS office. Any bids exceeding the bid cap are refused.

Bids are then evaluated by environmental benefits per dollar (EB/$). Some of those environmental factors include surface water and groundwater quality, soil productivity maintenance, conservation compliance, and cropland conversion. Only bids providing the highest EB/$ are accepted.

But you had better be sure to sign up for this round of the CRP. When the 1985 Farm Bill created the program, it limited the enrollment to 45 million acres and almost 79 percent of those acres are used up.

“Our participation in the program is not as high as in other states,” explained Bob Payne, ASCS conservation program specialist. “But with the addition of water quality benefits as an EB/$ factor, it makes the CRP more attractive in Michigan.”

Payne estimates that the average bid price paid to CRP participants ranges between $54 to $58, depending largely on the geographic region they are in. The change to EB/$ factors in March 1991 didn’t have very much impact on the price paid to farmers. But in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula, EB/$ did moderately influence the bid price, due to escalated environmental factors, according to Payne.

USDA Funds Two Michigan Water Quality Projects

Special water quality projects in Mason and Alcona counties were among 35 projects selected nation-wide for federal assistance through USDA’s Agricultural Conservation Program recently.

John Stevenson, associate administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said USDA will provide cost-share and technical assistance for remedial actions to improve water quality, minimize the impact of agricultural non-point source pollution of ground and surface water, and support state efforts in the watersheds.

The Van Etlan Creek Watershed in Alcona County was allocated $12,800 for conservation practices to be installed in 1992, 1993 and 1994. The practices include re-establishment of permanent vegetative cover, pasture protection, stream protection, grassed waterways, animal manure control facilities and reforestation. The Lichte Creek Watershed is a 2,086 acre area in Mason County. Water quality concerns include high nitrate levels in ground water, and agricultural chemicals and plant nutrients in surface runoff.

Cost-share funds totaling $33,000 will be used to help vegetable, fruit and other crop producers to more effectively utilize nutrients and pesticides, while minimizing possible contamination of surface and groundwater. Lichte Creek is a warm-water tributary to the Pere Marquette River.

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Market Outlook

Corn
The USDA made no changes to the 1991-92 U.S. Supply/Demand Report for corn in March update shown in Table 1. The USDA did make some changes in the world projections, lowering the South African corn crop size and increasing the Argentine corn crop size. For the U.S., new information dictated that I make some changes in the 1992-93 U.S. projections shown in Table 1. Due to the relative prices of corn and soybeans, I increased corn plantings another half million acres from my March number. Some forecasts have projected as many as 80.6 million acres will be planted. While today's soybean/corn price ratio for old crop is about 2.3, which would mean higher returns for growing corn, thus more acres, the new crop forward contract price ratio is about 2.45, which is a toss-up.

When the USDA corn plantings projection is released, plug it into Table 1 in the last column. Then subtract 1.5 to get an estimate of harvested acres. Then multiply harvested acres times the 120 bu. yield projection to get a new production estimate. For the more daring, complete the adjustments for all of 1992-93. Also, check the effects of 110 bushel yield versus the 120. We can then compare projections in the next issue.

Soybeans
With corn and soybeans competing for the same acres with the added flexibility in the government programs, soybean planted acres would be expected to go in the opposite direction as corn planted acres.

While the USDA made no changes in its report, I did lower soybean acres slightly, to 57.5 million acres, in my 1992-93 projections labeled "Hilker's" in Table 2. Once again, when the March 31 acreage report comes out, put in their number and see what it shows you.

USDA raised its projection of Brazil's soybean crop by 35 million bushels relative to their February projection due to good growing conditions. The Argentina soybean production estimate was unchanged. These numbers affect U.S. export projections for 1992-93 more than for 1991-92.

The 1992-93 soybean supply/demand projections in Table 2, project an annual average price next year of around $5.55 per bushel, with an average yield. Compare that with new crop contracts for soy.

<table>
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<th>Crop</th>
<th>Acres Harvested</th>
<th>Acres Set-Aside and Diverted</th>
<th>Acres Planted</th>
<th>Acres Harvested</th>
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Table 1: SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR CORN

Table 2: SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR WHEAT

Wheat
The key to the winter wheat crop is moisture levels in Kansas and Oklahoma. As of the middle of March, the conditions were looking much improved compared to last fall and prices were reflecting it.

On the demand side, the CIS is still coming in with more requests for credits. The political situation in both the U.S. and the CIS Republics makes more credits likely. Also, we have continued to be timely on their repayments.

If there was a rally from the March 20 C-O-F report, look at the pricing opportunities for cattle through June, and perhaps through the end of the year, given the levels and your ability to take risk. The key for feedlots now is to keep very current. Stocker prices will probably peak in April.

Sow slaughter indicates that expansion may have leveled off, but it does not yet show liquidation. The December report indicated spring numbers would be up about 4-5 percent, summer 6-7 percent, and fall 1-2 percent. Watch for the Hogs and Pigs Report to be released March 27 to compare the reports and make plans for your operation.

Cattle
Cattle slaughter has followed the January 13-State Cattle-On-Feed report fairly well. Slaughter has been running down 1-3 percent weekly, compared to last year, for the past several weeks. Weights are still up about 2 percent relative to a year ago, but that is a big improvement over the up 6 percent we saw last fall.
The idea of pulling on a pair of sneakers and jumping into a pool to go jogging may sound absurd.

But consider this: walking, running, or doing aerobics in water provides a safer and, in most respects, a more effective workout than the very same exercise on land.

Water workouts can burn calories faster and work your heart harder than similar land-based exercises. That's because your body encounters much more resistance in all directions - your arm doesn't just drop by itself, for example. More muscles get exercised. (To add even more resistance, cup your hands or use special webbed gloves, paddles, or fins, available at some pools and athletic stores.)

In addition, water workouts are easier on the joints. On land, your foot strikes the ground with the force of two to five times your weight. That impact can strain your back, hips, knees, or ankles. In waist-deep water, you weigh only about half as much as on land; in shoulder-deep water, only one-tenth as much. The milder impact is especially good for pregnant women, overweight people, older people, and anyone with an aching back or stiff joints.

Shoes protect the soles of your feet, ensure good traction, and offer extra support - both in and around the pool. Traditional cotton sneakers with non-marking soles work fine for most people. You can also buy shoes designed expressly for water workouts.

One caution: Don't substitute water workouts for all the exercise you may already be doing on land. Research suggests that weight-bearing exercise is necessary to help prevent bone loss.

Water walking or jogging

You can get a complete workout just by walking or jogging in the water. These exercises will give your upper body in particular a far better workout than they'd provide on land. Here are some pointers for the pool:

- Start in waist-deep water; work up to deeper water as you get in better shape.
- To work your muscles evenly and add variety to the workout, walk or jog forward and backward for equal amounts of time. You can also work your muscles more fully by moving sideways.
- Fight the natural tendency to stay on your tiptoes in the water, that stresses the lower legs.
- Don't lean forward.
- Swing your arms.

Water aerobics

The following water aerobics routine, suggested by water fitness pioneer Jane Katz, methodically exercises the muscles in your upper body, midsection, and legs. You can get a complete water workout with these four exercises alone. Or you can mix in some walking or jogging to add variety and intensity.

Leg swings

Stand with your back against the corner of the pool, one hand on either edge. Lift your legs to create an "L" with your body. Then swing your legs from side to side. If that's too hard, try it with your knees bent.

Jumping jacks

Stand in chest-deep water with your arms at your sides and your feet together. Rotate your palms forward and then outward. Keep your arms straight, force them up out of the water and touch them overhead. At the same time, jump up to spread your legs in an inverted "V" position. Then turn your palms outward again and bring your arms back to your sides as you bring your legs back together.

Arm swirls

Stand in shoulder-deep water, then bend your knees slightly so that your arms and shoulders are fully submerged. Extend your arms out to the side and rotate them forward in a circular motion, then backward. You can increase the intensity by flexing your wrists up and down, by cupping your hands to increase resistance; by making larger, more vigorous circles; or by walking or jogging as you move your arms.

Leg lifts

Stand in water slightly above your waist with your back against the pool wall. Lift your legs one at a time as high as they'll comfortably go, keeping your legs straight. For an easier workout, bend your knees. To increase resistance, use a special float.
'LIGHT' Snack Foods

When marketers call their chips "light," they may mean weight. Fat content remains high.

Believe the labels on salty snack foods these days and you'd think food companies had turned them into carrot sticks. They're light! They're wholesome! They're nutritious! They're no such thing! Nearly all the major "light" brands of chips, puffs, and popcorn are as oily as their advertising.

The best way to judge the fat content of a food is by the % of total calories that comes from fat.

To calculate the percentage of total calories from fat in. a food, first check the package label for the number of grams of fat per serving. Convert fat grams to fat calories by multiplying by nine. Then divide the result by the total number of calories in the serving. According to guidelines from health organizations and Government agencies, no more than 30% of your daily intake of calories should come from fat.

Chips

On average, regular potato chips get 49% of calories from fat; cheese puffs, 57%; corn chips, 52%; and tortilla chips from chips that are first baked then fried—also 52%.

The major brands of "light" chips or puffs may be lighter than their "regular" brandmates, but they're hardly "low" fat foods. Except for Doritos Light Tortilla Chips, which get around 30% of calories from fat, the major "light" chips get around 40% or more from fat. Bachman's All Natural Thin 'n Light Potato Chips get 56% of calories from fat, almost the same as regular chips. One specialty brand of cheese puffs, Health Valley Cheddar Utes, boasts: "We DON'T drown our kernels in oil." But between the cheese and the oil added to the air-popped corn, cheddar Utes total fat gets 58% of its calories from fat.

Even in fruit chips (such as Nature's Favorite Apple, Peach, and Pear Chips, and Tastee Apple Chips) around 40% or more of the total calories are provided by fat.

The package also says that Sun Chips have less than American cheese. That's not saying much. American cheese gets 78% of its calories from fat. Sun Chips weight in at 68% from fat.

Some manufacturers, however, soak the karmes in oil after air-popping them. As a result, air-popped popcorn can get as much as two-thirds of its calories from fat. That's more than most "popcorn chips," which average around 50% of their calories from fat.

The package of Frito-lay's "totally natural" Cheese puffs, Health Valley Cheddar Utes, boasts: "We DON'T drown our kernels in oil." But between the cheese and the oil added to the air-popped corn, cheddar Utes total fat gets 58% of its calories from fat.

Prezels

You can now get pretzels that contain no fat at all, such as Fat Free Mister Salt, Pretzels and Snyder's Hard Sourdough pretzels. But pretzels never had much fat to start with, and most brands highlight their low fat content—about 5% of their calories come from fat. For example, Mister Potato "lite" pretzels contain just 22% of its calories from fat compared to 45% for regular pretzels.

Ordinary pretzels do have a high sodium content (see box). However, the many new lower-sodium brands make pretzels a sensible snack for just about everyone, including those who are watching their sodium intake.

The Salt Story

Chips, puffs and popcorn taste saltier than they actually are, probably because at the salt lies on the surface. Actually, potato chips and tortilla chips, with respective averages of 133 and 140 mg of sodium per ounce, meet the current FDA definition of a moderately low-sodium food. Corn chips average 233 mg and popcorn, 235 mg less than Cheerios or Rice Krispies (290 each). Cheese puffs average 344 mg.

Pretzels are relatively high in sodium. They average 459 mg per ounce, and range as high as 900 mg. Eat several ounces of pretzels, and you could easily reach the daily limit of 2400 mg recommended by the National Academy of Sciences.

Chips, puffs, popcorn, and pretzels that claim to have no salt or less salt (generally half the amount in regular brands) are now commonly found in grocery stores. By and large, these claims are reliable.

To Drink
The calcium in milk and other dairy products may do more than help build strong bones and teeth. It looks more and more as if that mineral also plays a role in keeping down blood pressure, a theory scientists have been looking into for years. The latest evidence suggests a calcium/blood pressure association even for children.

Upon monitoring the diets of nearly 80 three- to five-year-olds, researchers at Boston University found that those who took in the most calcium had the lowest blood pressure. Specifically, for each 100 milligrams of the mineral consumed per 1,000 calories, there was an average drop of two millimeters in systolic pressure. Systolic pressure is the top number in a blood pressure reading of, say, 140 over 90 and a measure of the pressure exerted on the artery walls each time the heart contracts to pump blood out to them.

Calcium may also keep down the blood pressure of pregnant women. A report published in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that expectant mothers who take calcium supplements have a reduced risk of high blood pressure during the nine-month stretch.

Babies born to mothers who take in plenty of calcium might benefit too. Scientists working in Providence, Rhode Island, discovered that mothers-to-be who ate relatively large amounts of foods rich in calcium (as well as magnesium and potassium) bore babies whose blood pressure readings were lower than those of other babies throughout the first year of life.

If should be pointed out that all the evidence is still preliminary, certainly not definitive enough to persuade experts to make blanket recommendations to pregnant women or very young children to take calcium supplements. But consumers would do well to view the findings as further inspiration to eat at least three daily servings of high-calcium foods, including not only milk, yogurt and other dairy products but also broccoli, kale and turnip greens as well as canned salmon and sardines with bones.
High Blood Pressure & Your Kidneys

High blood pressure and kidney problems pose a double threat to your health. On one hand, high blood pressure can lead to problems with your kidneys; on the other hand, kidney problems can cause high blood pressure. A combination of the two conditions can create a downward spiral that can actually take years off of your life.

What is high blood pressure?
First of all, let’s define normal blood pressure. Blood pressure is the force of the blood against the walls of the arteries. When the pressure within these blood vessels becomes too high, a person is said to have high blood pressure or hypertension. High blood pressure and hypertension mean the same thing. However, having hypertension does not necessarily mean you are a hyper individual.

How many people have high blood pressure?
Approximately 23 million people in the U.S. have high blood pressure. It affects about 15% of the white population and 25% of the black population.

Who gets high blood pressure?
Anyone can have high blood pressure (even children, although it is not as common as in adults). Those in a high risk group are people who are overweight, have a family history of high blood pressure, are older than 50 years and/or black.

What causes high blood pressure?
Although there are many different diseases that may cause high blood pressure, 90% of the time no cause is known. These individuals have “primary” or “essential” hypertension. There is evidence which shows the importance of the kidneys in blood pressure regulation. In the remaining 10%, an underlying process can be identified to explain the high blood pressure. These persons have what is referred to as “secondary” hypertension. Among the causes are obstruction of a renal artery (renal refers to the kidney), congenital renal abnormalities, various kidney disease and conditions, and frequently from drugs, such as birth control pills.

Why is high blood pressure so dangerous?
Left untreated, it can take years off of your life. Life insurance companies have studied the relationship between high blood pressure and life expectancy. Their studies revealed that mild high blood pressure, untreated, can mean actual years of life lost.

High blood pressure left uncontrolled, can damage vital organs—in particular, the heart, brain and kidneys. It affects the heart by causing heart attacks and heart failure. High blood pressure, in affecting the brain, is a leading cause of strokes.

What effect does high blood pressure have on the kidneys?
High blood pressure can cause kidney disease. The type of high blood pressure causing this damage is called “primary” hypertension, and is incurable, but can be controlled. High blood pressure in the blood vessels of the kidneys causes them to become sclerotic (thickened). As this reduces the blood supply to the kidneys, they can no longer function efficiently. They become less effective in removing waste products from the body. Salt is retained instead of being properly eliminated, which causes the body to hold fluid. This extra fluid puts a burden on the heart, causing it to fail. which in turn creates a vicious cycle, as the heart then supplies the kidneys with less blood, causing the kidneys further damage.

How do the kidneys work?
The major function of the kidneys is to filter wastes from the body into the urine. Kidney damage from high blood pressure can also include the gradual destruction of the minute filtration units of the kidney (called nephrons) where the urine is formed. Along with the process mentioned above, this destruction of nephrons leads to further decline of kidney function. Eventually, total kidney failure may follow, with uremic poisoning and death. This type of kidney damage happens if the blood pressure is uncontrolled. However, it can be prevented if high blood pressure is controlled.

What can I do about high blood pressure?
First of all, find out if your blood pressure is normal. Since high blood pressure has few symptoms, many people have high blood pressure and do not realize it. If your first blood pressure reading is high it is important to have it measured again. A single abnormal reading does not necessarily mean you have high blood pressure.

If you do have high blood pressure, your doctor will probably prescribe medication. It may be necessary to try several different medications to get your blood pressure under control. It is very important that you take your medications as ordered. In most cases, you will need to take medication for the rest of your life.

Farm Bureau Member Urges Donor Awareness

For most of us, 10 months slip by in the blink of an eye. For Berrien County Farm Bureau member, Ed Heyn, 10 months in 1987 and 88 seemed like a lifetime-literally.

It’s important to remember that most forms of high blood pressure can be treated successfully. Early detection and long term treatment are the keys to a longer and healthier life by preventing kidney failure, heart disease and stroke.
Disaster Relief Program Debated

The American Farm Bureau Federation expressed farmer frustration at delays and inadequacies in the USDA Disaster Assistance Program.

Ronald Anderson, president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau and member of the AFBF Board of Directors, said farmers filling claims for crop losses for 1990 or 1991 have found delays in availability of funds, and inadequate amounts of appropriations, financially damaging and psychologically frustrating.

Expressing Farm Bureau support for programs that provide aid for disaster losses of both programs and non-program crops, Anderson added, "We cannot fail to point out that the need for disaster assistance measures would be significantly diminished if crop insurance were more effective and attractive to farmers."

The Louisiana farmer stressed farmer disappointment that not enough funds were appropriated, making it necessary for decreased payments from one-half to two-thirds of the amount for which farmers would otherwise qualify.

Other complaints were of department failure to provide payments to reflect the economic losses suffered by producers whose commodities were harvested, but severely discounted as a result of loss of quality.

Finally, Anderson argued, there is need for disaster assistance measures to allow farmers to upgrade and verify their yields, to improve yields frozen at some historic level now outdated.

Study Shows Wetlands Conversion Slowing Down

A study by the USDA Soil Conservation Service of wetlands on non-federal rural lands shows conversion has slowed over the past five years—than in previous reports. (The study was officially released March 4, though excerpts of the report have been available for the past few months.)

From the spring of 1987 to the spring of 1991, a total of 431,000 acres of wetlands on private land were converted to other uses. The average rate of conversion over the five years was 110,000 acres. The national conversion rate of wetlands on this study was down 21,000 acres compared to the period from 1982 through 1987.

James Mosely, assistant USDA secretary, said about 1.1 million acres of Wetlands have been converted to other uses during the full nine-year period from the spring of 1982 through the spring of 1991. "A third of the total acreage converted in that time was agriculturally related," he said.

This is dramatically different from earlier data, which showed that 87 percent of wetland conversions from 1954 through the mid 1970s were ag related. SCS updates its National Resources Inventory every five years.

About 50 percent of recent conversions are attributable to urban development, according to Mosely. He said swampbuster provisions in the 1985 and 1990 farm bills helped reduce the conversion of wetlands on farms, as has the new Wetlands Reserve Program with its target of spending $46.2 million in fiscal 1992 to purchase easements on 50,000 acres in eight states to restore farmed and converted wetlands.

For more information, contact Farmhand, Inc., P.O. Box 1500, Excelsior, MN 55331 or call the Sales Center at (515) 236-6571.
Maintain Machinery and Farm Shop For a Safe Spring Planting Season in 1992!

- Keep children and nonworkers out of work areas.
- Wear well-fitting work clothing with no loose ends to catch moving parts or snag on projections.
- Wear personal protective equipment - safety shoes, bump caps, goggles, gloves, etc. - As needed to protect you from the various hazards of a job.
- Provide plenty of ventilation in indoor work areas, especially when using solvents, painting, or tuning engines.
- Relieve all hydraulic pressure before disconnecting lines.
- Make certain equipment is securely blocked when removing wheels. Never rely on hydraulics to hold up any component.
- Get help when removing and handling heavy equipment wheels. Unless you have the tools and know-how, let professionals replace tires.
- Repair or replace worn, malfunctioning, or damaged components that affect safety - brakes, tires, controls, shields and guards, exhaust systems, wipers, lights, reflectors, and SMV emblems.
- Check ROPS mounting bolts and tighten to specifications. You must replace damaged parts of the ROPS if you are ever in an overturn. Don’t try to straighten or weld ROPS.
- Follow the recommended hookup and starting procedures when jump starting an engine. Never bypass safety interlocks by connecting directly to starter terminals.

Farm Shop Safety Checklist

- Are electrical outlets the three-hole grounded type? Are all stationary power tools properly grounded? Are portable power tools either the double-insulated or three-wire-grounded types?
- Is there ample electrical capacity so that power tools can be operated without blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers?
- Are portable power tools unplugged when not in use? Are equipment switchboxes locked out to keep children from starting machinery?
- Are stationary tools such as grinders and saws properly shielded with shields always in place when in use?
- Is a proper fire extinguisher readily available?
- Are the shop floor kept clean? Are benches tidy, and drawers kept shut?
- Are cutting tools kept sharp? Are tools stored so they cannot fall on someone? Are handles free of flaws?
- Are portable power tools unplugged when not in use? Are equipment switchboxes locked out to keep children from starting machinery?
- Are all stationary power tools properly grounded? Are portable power tools either the double-insulated or three-wire-grounded types?
- Is there ample electrical capacity so that power tools can be operated with.

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Dear Farm Bureau Traveler:

Welcome to our world of travel! We invite you to join us on any one of the exciting and unique tours provided just for you in 1992. Our tours will provide you the best value for your travel dollar. On a Farm Bureau Tour, you will experience the best and major attractions as you will experience the best and major attractions as you will experience the best and major attractions as

Sincerely,

James L. Schmidt
Hill Agricultural Assoc. Director
IBF Travel Program

Canadian Rockies/Calgary Stampede
July 12-19, 1992

Check RapS mounting bolts and retorque to specifications. You must replace damaged parts of the RapS if you are ever in an overturn. Don’t try to straighten or weld RapS.

Follow the recommended hookup and starting procedures when jump starting an engine. Never bypass safety interlocks by connecting directly to starter terminals.

Provide plenty of ventilation in indoor work areas, especially when using solvents, painting, or tuning engines.

Canadian Rockies/Calgary Stampede
July 12-19, 1992

This unforgettable, 12-day tour of the Canadian Rockies will not only visit the great and growing cities of Calgary and Edmonton, but also includes many features designed to give it special appeal. Special attractions include the Calgary Stampede Celebration – rodeos, chuckwagon races, state show spectacular, a ride on a giant mechanical bull, and evening stays at the beautiful Lake Louise Chateau and Banff Springs Hotel.

Our package includes round trip transportation from Chicago; first class or deluxe hotel accommodations; 20 meals, all light lunches and dinners, and a professional guide. Member price is $2,449 and nonmember price is $2,469.

The Alps of Switzerland & Austria
October 1-9, 1992

Come join us as we visit two of the prettiest and most picturesque countries in Central Europe. Experience the charm and beauty of Salzburg, Munich, and Oktoberfest, Oberammergau, the Lindau Castle, Lake Zurich and much, much more.

Our package includes round trip air service, deluxe motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, European-style buffet breakfast, and a welcome dinner, all for $1,253 per person.

Best of Italy, France & Greece Cruise
September 15-27, 1992

Sail the beautiful blue Mediterranean, studded with shining Isles and gaily-painted shores. Our cruise combines the French and Italian Rivieras with ancient Athens, the dramatic Corinth Canal, the scenic beauty of Venice & Portofino, and the world’s most alluring islands - Mykonos, Santorini, Corfu, Rhodes, Kefalonia, and Capri. We travel upon the Golden Odyssey - "large enough and luxurious enough to be a cruiser, yet roomy enough for your friendly lifestyle and genuine hospitality of her Greek staff.

Our cruise package includes 22% discount on all cabins, all meals and entertainment, free air transportation from the U.S., $25 Bar/Tip-slip on all shipboard parties, 1 bottle of wine per cabin, plus prepaid, on-board tip gratuities. Cabin prices begin as low as $3,174.

Brochure Request Form

Please send, without obligation, the detailed information for the tours indicated below:

[ ] Canadian Rockies/Calgary Stampede
[ ] Alaska
[ ] Best of Italy, France & Greece Cruise
[ ] The Alps of Switzerland & Austria

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
April Discussion Topic: "Medical Liability Reform"

Farmers who have to pay for their own health insurance are acutely aware of the covers court costs and attorney fees. According to the coalition: Michigan’s medical liability system. Michigan doctors and hospitals pay $500 million per year for liability coverage, among the highest rates in the world, according to the Michigan Med. Liability Reform Coali- tion (of which MFB is a member.) In addition, according to the coalition:

- Only 37 cents of each liability dollar goes to the injured party. Most of what’s left (of a patient’s settlement)
- Reform could redirect millions of dollars currently in the state House. A nearly identical Michigan Medical Liability Reform Coalition. To make sure there is an opportunity for the legislation would also:
  - Require better qualified expert witnesses at trials.
  - Place no limits on the amount of economic awards (lost wages and medical and reha-bilitation costs) that a patient can collect. It does limit non-economic "lottery type" awards to $250,000. This could mean that the same injury would be treated more equally statewide, instead of receiving a multi-million dollar award in one part of the state and nothing in another part of the state.
  - Require patients to officially notify doctors, hospitals and other providers 180 days before filing a suit.

These bills strongly conform with 1992 Farm Bureau policy on improving the avail-ability and affordability of health care. It’s important for Farm Bureau members to take action now. The legislation is cur-rently in the House Judiciary Committee. Write or call your state representative to express support for the efforts of the Michigan Medical Liability Reform Coalition. Also ask your legislator to urge Speaker of the House Lewis Dodak to use his influence to make sure there is an opportunity for the bills to be voted on by the full House. If this medical liability reform package can be pushed through the legislative process, it will help set a precedent for moving other important Farm Bureau-backed health legis-lation as well. Write or call your state representative today.

Discussion Questions:
1) How have members of your group been affected by a lack of convenient access to health care?
2) Has your community had difficulty in recruiting health care professionals? What has been done to attract these people?
3) What is the financial condition of your local hospital?
4) Is there a lack of access to certain medi-cal specialties in your community? If so, what are they?

Be sure each member of your group contacts their state representative to express support for the efforts of the Michigan Medical Liability Reform Coalition. In addition, groups should advise their local doctors, hospitals and medical soci-eties that Farm Bureau is working to help solve the medical liability problem.

**Crop Rotation Best Option for Corn Needle Nematode Control**

Corn needle nematode concerns should not influence selection of a corn rootworm insecticide, says Michigan State University Nematologist Fred Warner. According to Warner, granular rootworm insecticides/nematicide don’t control corn needle nematodes, the nematodes most commonly associated with significant reduc-tions in Michigan corn yields. Corn needle nematodes exist primarily in soils con-taining more than 90 percent sand. They are microscopic organisms which can cut yields by up to 50 bushels per acre. Symptoms include severely stunted plants, swollen root tips, and diminished feeder roots. Warner’s experience indicates that granular rootworm insecticides are ineffective against other nematode species.

In addition, MSU research trials show gran-ular rootworm insecticides/nematicide offer only erratic, unpredictable results against other nematode species. "In our research with granular corn root-worm insecticides, we’ve seen yield in-creases, but no change in nematode levels, suggesting that rootworm control led to higher yields," explained Warner. "We’ve also seen decreased nematode populations, but no change in yield which points to insignif-icant nematode populations to begin with. As a result, we don’t generally recom-mend a granular insecticide for nematode control on corn acres because we can’t guar-an tee a response."

Warner says growers concerned about nematodes should work with an independent lab to determine which species exist in their fields, to monitor their populations and to select a non-host crop if necessary, as op-posed to using an insecticide for control.

"Growers will likely find populations at elevations that pose no threat to corn yields," Warner said. "We tested 48 samples last fall and with every sample we recommended against any chemical treatment aimed at nematodes in 1992 corn fields except on trials basis."

**THE FINAL STEP...**

Discover a new way to plant up to 20% more acres before refilling your JD 750 Drill - and still have time to relax at the end of the day. Your neighbors will wonder how you’re getting done so quickly! Watch soon for more information!
Boiling the sap is a simple, but time (and food) consuming process. "It doesn't have to be any more elaborate than a shallow pan on the backyard grill," Fogle said. Does tapping harm the trees? "If we get trees in our woods that I'm sure have been tapped for 125 years," says Fogle. "It is important to randomize the placement of the tapping holes so you don't girdle the tree. The amount of water lost in the tapping process is miniscule. A tree can lose more water from one day in the middle of the summer than it would from tapping for sap all spring," he said.

So the only guilt associated with maple syrup may come from over-indulgence in this delicious, natural treat. It's the preferred pancake topping, but don't neglect the dozens of maple-syrup recipes. They include maple syrup pie, maple bars, maple ham, maple egg nog, maple cream puffs, maple tapioca, maple mousse, maple fritters, maple cookies, maple bread pudding, maple pralines and maple fruit sauce.

Maple Syrup Pie

2 cups pure Michigan Maple Syrup
4 eggs
1/4 tsp. salt
Set oven at 350 degrees. Beat ingredients together. Pour into an unbaked 9 inch pie shell and bake for 30-35 minutes. Top with 1 cup chopped nuts if desired.

Maple Bars

1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
2/3 cup flour
1 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup shortening
1 cup pure Michigan Maple Syrup
1 cup chopped nuts
1/2 tsp boiling powder
1/2 cup coconut

Set oven at 350 degrees. Mix ingredients thoroughly. Spread in an 8x8 square greased pan and bake for 30-35 minutes. While warm cut into squares.

Recipes courtesy of Michigan Maple Syrup Producers Association

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TODAY'S FARM EQUIPMENT ON PUBLIC ROADS

A FEW DEFINITIONS:

"Vehicle - every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway." (MCL 257.78)

"Farm Tractor - every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry." (MCL 257.16)

"Implement of Husbandry - means a vehicle which is either a farm tractor, a vehicle designed to be drawn by a farm tractor or an animal, a vehicle which directly harvests farm products, or a vehicle which directly applies fertilizer, spray or seeds to a farm field." (MCL 257.21)

GENERAL

1) A Driver's License - not required for operating an implement of husbandry. (MCL 257.302(3))

2) A License Plate - not required on any implement of husbandry (refer to definition). (MCL 257.216c)

3) Self-propelled farm implements - must not be operated on freeways or limited access highways. (MCL 257.725(3))

4) Crawler or track-type tractors - must not be operated on roads unless owner has a special permit from State Highway Commissioner, county road commission or other authority having jurisdiction. (MCL 257.725 (3))

5) Impeding Traffic - A person, without authority, shall not block, obstruct, or otherwise impede the normal flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic by means of a barricade, object, or device or with his or her person. (MCL 257.703)

Comment: Vehicles including implements of husbandry, are not allowed to be parked on the main traveled portion of the highway. Highway includes a paved or unpaved roadway.

"Syrup" - Continued from page 1

It takes 30 to 50 gallons of sap to yield one gallon of maple syrup, depending on the sugar content of the sap. Sugar content tends to start low, increase and then taper off through the tapping season.
Farmers are growing more no-till soybeans which opens the crop up to disease problems, especially brown stem rot, according to University of Wisconsin-Madison plant pathologist Craig Grau. "You certainly don't want to be unaware of the disease, it often hits growers who have had success with high yields over several years."

Populations of the brown stem rot fungus build up in fields over years as susceptible soybean varieties are grown there. The best ways to control the disease are careful variety selection and rotating away from susceptible varieties. "Growers shouldn't assume that they can switch to no-till and plant the same variety," Grau says. "With resistant varieties, such as BSR 101, the disease is only slightly more severe when growers shift to no-till. But susceptible varieties, such as Corsoy 79, really perform poorly in no-till fields." Although variety selection can nearly eliminate brown stem rot problems, growers should remember that some varieties resistant to brown stem rot may be susceptible to phytophthora root rot or other diseases. Long rotations keep brown stem rot under control because most other crops, including other legumes, are poor hosts to the fungus, Grau says. "You certainly don't want to plant soybeans year after year." Grau cautions that a corn-soybean rotation, with soybeans planted every other year, is not a long enough rotation to prevent brown stem rot problems.

He says if you are going to stay with that rotation, you'll need to rotate varieties - plant a brown stem rot-resistant soybean variety every other time soybeans come up in the rotation. Such a rotation also reduces the chances that the fungus will evolve new strains capable of harming currently resistant soybean varieties.
Michigan Farm News

MLSE Annual Meeting Concludes: Change or be Changed!

Following a theme of market orientation instead of a production orientation, Michigan Live Stock Exchange (MLSE) members met for the organization's 70th annual meeting in Lansing, reflecting on past accomplishments, and discussing anticipated changes in the livestock industry.

According to CEO Tom Reed, although MLSE did cut staff in 1991, a corresponding growth in efficiencies throughout the organization resulted in a net margin of $784,641 in 1991. The exchange also launched an aggressive effort in 1991 to develop and upgrade its computer network to provide quicker and better service.

High on the list of the accomplishments was the Farm Fresh Feeder Pig Marketing Program, a joint effort between the Michigan Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Association, MLSE and the Indiana Producers Marketing Association, to market feeder pigs electronically via computer.

"Farm Fresh Program grew to account for 20 percent of our hog sales activity in the past year, and I'm predicting it will be closer to 50 percent in 1992," said Reed. "That growth is because of a need that's out there that previously wasn't being met."

Reed claimed the growth in the Farm Fresh Program is as good for the packer as it is for the producer, in developing a better relationship that provides feedback from the packer to the producer to grow the product they need. He also predicted tremendous growth opportunities in other aspects of the MLSE's Indiana operations.

Reed explained that 1991 marked a change in attitude of packers/processors who have finally started to pay for quality, instead of requesting quality, but accepting anything just to keep slaughter floors at capacity.

Unfortunately, pressure to keep those floors at full capacity, and the risk that exists in trusting the market to provide the quality and quantity of product they want, Reed said packers are opting to remove that risk by implementing what he called "backward integration."

"We've seen packers in the Midwest with large kill floors recently go by the way-side, and we will see more because I don't believe we can increase production fast enough to meet their needs," Reed said. "Packers, like everyone else, get very aggressive, and will fill their floors until the money runs out."

Reed cited an example of a processing plant in Delphi, Indiana, operated by Central Iowa and Mitsubishi, that has lost "millions and millions of dollars, simply because they've attempted to change the market structure by aiming for total integration and operating their own production units.

"It's a mixed bag - you have to have a high-capacity kill floor and a quality kill floor that's efficient," Reed said. "Packers, like everyone else, get very aggressive, and will fill their floors until the money runs out."

Reed said the slower growth in 1991 of MLSE's Livestock Feeding program and Payment Plus was due largely to economic conditions in 1991. Reed anticipates that those two programs will serve as a model in future years in other parts of the country.

MGA Additive Receives New Clearances

The heifer feed additive MGA (melengestrol acetate) has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for combination use in single pellet Type B medicated feeds (supplements) with Tyloxylon, Tylan and Rumensin (monensin); and Tylan and Bovatec (falanoxic). The approval allows feed manufacturers to produce and sell Type B feed products, commonly referred to as "supplements," containing all two or three drugs in the same bag or bulk. The approval extends to dry pelleted feeds only.

"The significance of these combination approvals is convenience for the producer who feeds heifers," says Douglas Ricke, beef products manager for the Upjohn Company. MGA previously has been granted combination clearances with Rumensin and Bovatec, making it easy for beef producers to feed MGA in combination with ionophores.

MGA, approved for use in feedlot heifers since 1968, is the only feed additive on the market that delivers improvement in rate of gain and feed conversion along with estrus suppression.