

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



March 30, 1992

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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 Title III reporting requirements. Harpst claims, however, that Michigan's agricultural industry is ahead of other states and other industries on a percentage basis in complying with the law.

The SARA Title III deadlines required that by May 17, 1987, farmers were to have notified their Local Emergency Planning

Committee (LEPC) and SERC if they stored extremely hazardous substances above threshold planning levels. The LEPCs, were then supposed to have gathered information from farmers and developed an appropriate emergency response plan.

The growing concern in the emergency/rescue community over the lack of compliance with the law and appropriate planning, as well as inadequate funding, could be bad news for those who experience a farm fire.

"Recent experiences with rescue personnel being exposed to farm chemicals fighting farm fires resulted in trips to the hospital and rescue equipment being contaminated," explained Kelly. "That, in turn, has some adapting a 'let it burn' outlook, rather than face exposure and contamination."

Counties that have experienced that scenario must also contend with the liability for non-funding and non-compliance, in what is known as "Deliberate Indifference," meaning the county had full knowledge of the law, but failed to comply with it.

Keeping It Simple

According to Kelly, the recently approved and simplified emergency planning form will resolve one of the biggest roadblocks to reporting compliance and adequate planning. "Previously, each farmer had to start from scratch in providing information to the LEPC, and each operation was treated sim-

ilar to a factory," he said. "The new form will prevent each farmer from having to re-invent the wheel, and it will standardize the information gathered for emergency response planning."

The SERC approved the use of a form developed by Monroe County Emergency Management Division's Cyril J. Keiffer and MSU's Pesticide Education Coordinator Larry Olsen. In addition to the form revisions, Monroe has also developed a total package concept that includes the use of Computer-Aided 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 re-

In This Issue....

You'll find an 8-page bulletin containing the necessary reporting cards to meet the reporting compliance portion of SARA Title III, and a copy of the simplified farm emergency planning form. Members should work with their CES agent, as well as their LEPC, in completing the plan. In addition, members should also obtain the following Extension bulletins from their CES Office.

* E-2173 "SARA Title III: The Farmers Responsibilities under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Law"

* E-2334 "SARA Title III: Farm Response Planning"

sponse 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 sugary syrup-blends just won't do the job. For the very best, you simply must have the 100 percent pure gourmet treat from the Michigan sugarbush.

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 "sinzibuckwud," which means "drawn from wood." They would use their toma-

hawks to make V-shaped cuts in the maple trees. Reeds or concave pieces of bark would direct the dripping sap to birchbark buckets.

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 home-made 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

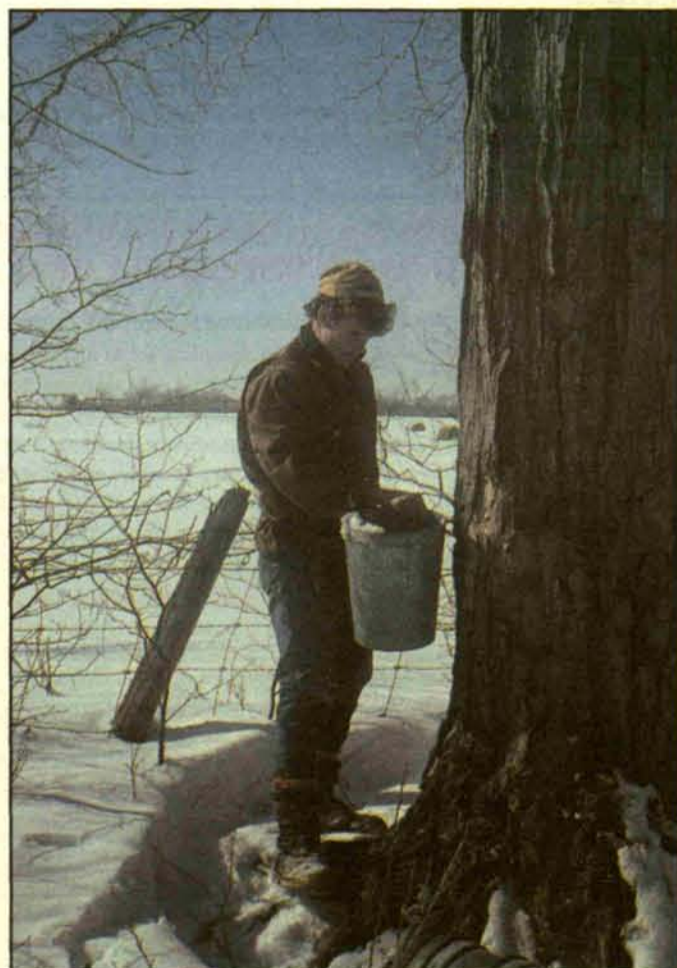
selectively tap the trees to skip the ones that produce the thinnest sap."

Next, you need at least a few spiles, which are the taps that go through the bark of the maple tree. Larger trees can handle multiple taps. Buckets or plastic bags are hung from the spiles to collect the dripping sap.

You can buy more elaborate equipment from suppliers. That can include state-of-the-art plastic tubes connected to all the trees in your woods, along with a vacuum system to increase sap flow.

The tapping season begins when the daytime temperatures rise enough to get the sap running. That can be anywhere from the middle of February to the first part of March. Sap flow needs the alternate freezing and thawing commonly found in north temperate regions this time of year.

Photo: Mark Eifert



See "Syrup" continued on page 10

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P.O. Box 30960, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909

2

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 dangerous Canadian ruling regarding 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 Shinnars and Ron Schuler examined a variety of new and used planters. They found that fertilizer placement varied greatly, even with individual planters. Placement ranged from 0 inches offset to 4.5 inches offset among various planters, with variations of up to 2 inches on individual planters.

"This showed that some planters aren't placing the fertilizer where you think they are," Shinnars 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 donations for the past three years by working with 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.

CANADIAN NATIONAL BREEDERS SCHOOL MAY 27 - 31, 1992 • UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (ONT.)



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- an all-star teaching line-up to include the following three anchors:
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Dr. Harlan Ritchie, animal 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 fee includes all meals and accommodation at the university, all school activities, printed compendium of school proceedings, and a Canadian National Breeders School shirt and cap. Contact the Canadian Charolais Assoc. or the following people for more information:



Canadian Charolais Association
2320 - 41 Avenue N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 6W8
(403)250-9242 Fax (403)291-9324

Brian Poguc, Ph. (OMAF) 519/846-0941

Dr. Harlan Ritchie, Ph. 517/355-8409

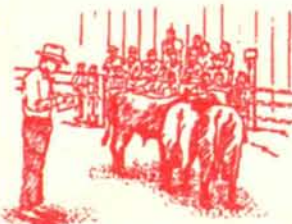
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Address: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

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



USDA Puts Positive Spin on Dunkel Plan

The compromise plan for freer international trade submitted by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel would result in a \$4 billion to \$5 billion expansion of U.S. farm 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 gain sales would account for about half the increase with benefits 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 outlays made between 1986 and 1988. Credit would be given for cuts 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 of research by university and business agronomists and discussion by farmers about their innovations in forage harvesting and preservation. Among the tours planned for the meeting will be a visit to one of Michigan's most modern dairy farms and a review of agronomic research trials at the Michigan State University Kellogg Biological Station.

Spouses' tours include visits to the Grand Rapids historic district and museum and a visit to the Dutch Village and Manufacturers' Market Place in Holland. Registration, excluding lodging, meals and tours, is \$75 for all three days of the program or \$25 for one day. Student registration is \$40.

The AFGC meeting is being sponsored by the Michigan Hay and Forage Council and the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service. **Details of the annual meeting can be obtained from John Durling at MSU by calling (517) 355-0264, or by writing to: Dana Tucker, AFGC, P.O. Box 94, Georgetown, TX 78627.**

Young People's Citizenship Student Search is On

Outstanding high school students eligible to attend the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar, June 15-19 at Olivet College will be participating in one of the finest programs offered for young people in Michigan. YPCS "graduates" return to their communities with the knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm for participating in the democratic process.

Eligible students are: high school juniors and seniors in the 1992-93 school year; interested in government, social and economic issues, and/or politics; potential leaders or those who participate well in large group settings; articulate and willing to speak to groups after 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, 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 Bureaus 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.**

National Dairy Board Offers Scholarships

The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board awards up to 20 scholarships each academic year to students in their junior or senior year. Winners receive a \$1,500 scholarship check and plaque.

Scholarship selection is based on academic performance; evidence of leadership ability; evidence of initiative, character and integrity; and apparent commitment to a career in dairy science technology, marketing, or a food-related science with an emphasis in dairy products.

This effort is funded by America's dairy farmers through the National Dairy Board. **Applications are due April 15, 1992. Write the National Dairy Board, 211 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201, or call (703) 528-4800.**

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Editorial: Dennis Rudat, Editor and Business Manager. Staff Contributors: Mike Rogers; Connie Turbin; Donna Wilber; Henry Huisjen.

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Child Labor Amendments

FB 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 parent or person standing in place of their parent."

"The child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are outmoded 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 aged 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, retirees, handicapped individuals and other seasonal employees) as it restricts their employment opportunities."

FB Contact:
Howard Kelly, Ext. 2044

ACTION NEEDED

Contact Senators Riegle 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. Labor Department's 1990 Operation Child Watch which showed negligible violations.

Sen. Donald Riegle
(202) 224-4822

Sen. Carl Levin
(202) 224-6221

Sen. Metzenbaum (D-OH) has introduced child labor amendment, S. 600. The senator, apparently not satisfied with the recent ten-fold 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 Metzenbaum'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 or seasonal agricultural workers. Eliminates provisions in current law which permit the hiring of 10-12 and 13-14 year olds to perform limited agricultural activities. Eliminates the hiring of children 14 and younger on farms where their parents are employed.
2. Requires 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 schools lists of employers 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.

Scrap Tires

MFB Position:
Farm Bureau supports HB 5315 (H-1).

MFB Contact:
Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046

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 bond 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.

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 (S-3) does not allow a local unit of government to require permits for any agricultural activity that does 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 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 of 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 not 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) A municipality that adopts a wetlands ordinance shall include provisions that allow a landowner to request a re-valuation 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 wetland within the municipality. The municipality shall make a draft of the inventory map available to the public, provide for public notice and comment, 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 soil and water conservation practices.

P.A. 116 Revisions

MFB Position:
Farm Bureau policy has been presented to the committee which addresses several areas of concern already identified by the work group.

MFB Contact:
Ron Nelson, Ext., 2043

A House of Representatives work group of seven legislators has identified approximately 19 different P.A. 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 P.A. 116.

Members of the committee include Rep. Hickner, Chairman 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

A total of 25 bills dealing with veto restoration has surfaced in Lansing. The bills all call for restoration of funding 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 totalling three, 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.

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4

Weather

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 resulting 30-day mean temperatures generally somewhere close to the long term averages. 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 latest 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.

30-Day Outlook, Warmer Than Normal With Average Rainfall

4/15/92 to 5/15/92	Temperature		Growing Degree Days		Precipitation	
	Observed	Dev. From	Actual	Normal	Actual	Dev. From
	Mean	Normal	Accum.	Accum.	(Inch.)	Norm
Alpena	48.3	+1.6	114	141	1.61	-1.16
Bad Axe	50.3	-0.1	158	213	3.24	+0.42
Detroit	55.0	+1.8	258	247	4.02	+0.83
Escanaba	44.0	-0.8	36	68	1.77	-1.12
Flint	53.6	+1.7	235	247	2.81	-0.38
Grand Rapids	53.9	+1.6	236	273	3.20	-0.22
Houghton	47.6	+3.8	130	126	2.07	-0.73
Houghton Lake	50.4	+0.9	164	141	1.34	-1.43
Jackson	53.4	0.0	241	267	2.28	-1.04
Lansing	53.1	+0.7	229	267	2.81	-0.51
Marquette	46.4	+2.7	134	126	1.81	-0.93
Muskegon	51.7	+0.5	181	200	2.03	-1.06
Pellston	50.1	+3.7	160	154	1.51	-1.24
Saginaw	52.6	+1.0	202	213	3.09	+0.27
Sault Ste. Marie	46.4	+2.1	88	68	2.71	-0.18
South Bend	54.6	+0.3	309	273	1.22	-2.20
Traverse City	51.9	+3.9	186	154	1.00	-1.75
Vestaburg	50.4	-1.3	182	218	3.20	-0.08

Observed and normal growing degree day totals are accumulated from March 1. Normals are based on district averages.

Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

Crop Updates - Planting on Schedule, Moisture Concerns Grow

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Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	5/30.....6/15	5/30.....7/31
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	A.....N	A.....N
W. Corn Belt	A.....N	A.....N
E. Corn Belt	A.....N/B	A.....N
Wint. Wheat Belt	A.....N	A/N.....N/B
Spr. Wheat Belt	A.....N	A.....N/B
Pac. NW Wheat	N.....N/A	A.....N
Delta	A.....N/B	N.....N
Southeast	N.....N	N/A.....N
San Joaquin	N/A.....N	A.....N

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

Michigan Field Crops

Corn planting was progressing rapidly, with 60 percent planted as of May 19, compared to 50 percent last year, but still behind the 70 percent 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 75 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.

Ohio

According to Ohio's State Agricultural Statistics Service, about 1 million acres had been planted statewide as of May 19, with corn planting quickly nearing completion. Just 42 percent of the soybeans had been planted, down from 62 percent a year ago, and slightly behind the 5-year average of 48 percent.

Corn was reported 83 percent complete, down from 93 percent in 1991, but still ahead of the 80 percent average. Of the corn crop emerged thus far, stands were reported to look good.

Winter wheat was rated 8 percent excellent, 38 percent good, 35 percent fair, 14 percent poor, and 5 percent very poor. Some areas of the state were reporting powdery mildew problems.

Pasture and hay conditions remained fair to mostly good. The first cutting of alfalfa hay was 2 percent done, with 1 percent of other hay cut.

Topsoil moisture was rated 20 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Moisture shortages are reported generally occurring in a line across central Ohio, with north central areas also dry. South central and southwest Ohio were reporting moisture surpluses.

Indiana

Indiana's Agricultural Statistics Service reports corn 89 percent planted, compared with 79 percent last year and 76 percent on average, as of May 19. The crop 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 headed, 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 1 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.



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5 Conservation Reserve Program Sign-Up June 15-26

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 35.5 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 farm-

ers. 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

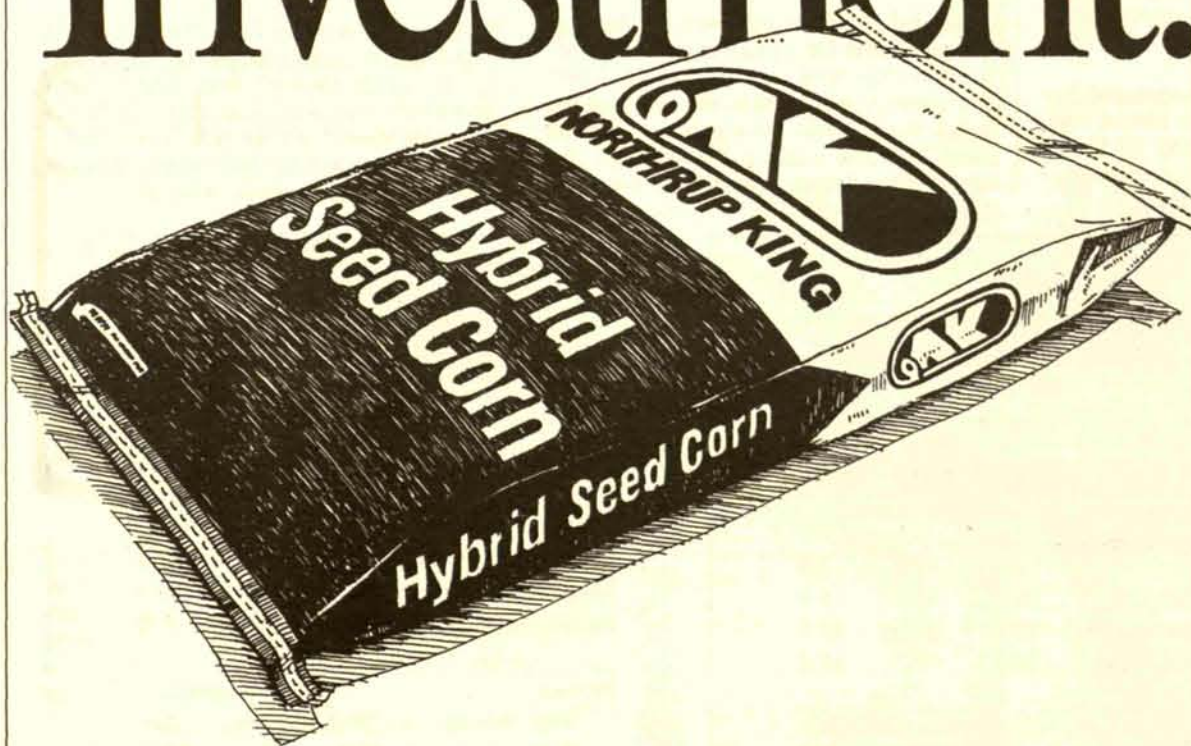
Special water quality projects in Mason and Alcona counties were among 35 projects selected nation-wide for federal assistance through USDA's Agricultural Conservation Program recently.

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 Ettan Creek Watershed in Alcona County was allocated \$128,000 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

FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

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

Spring is often a time of agricultural price turbulence. Wide price fluctuations increase risk, but often they can offer pricing opportunities. Besides watching the weather to try and predict opportunities, there are four major USDA sets of reports that could give new information to the markets and have dramatic price effects, up or down. Producers need to look at the new information and try to analyze it themselves or find others' educated opinions. This column will not be able to address these issues until the mid-April issue. The **Prospective Planting Reports** and the quarterly **Grain Stocks Reports** for corn, wheat, and soybeans will be released March 31. The quarterly **Hogs and Pigs Report**, released March 27 and the monthly **7-State Cattle-On-Feed Report**, released March 20.

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends (long term)

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

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

Rumor Has it.... \$600 Million of New Credit Requested by CIS

At presstime rumors are circulating around Washington, D.C., that Russia has formally requested \$600 million in new U.S. credit guarantees, with the bulk to be used for wheat, and the rest of it for corn, according to Knight Ridder News.

Grain buying officials from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States held a round of talks in mid-March with members of Congress, USDA and U.S. commodity groups. The talks have reportedly

centered around a \$600 million request which would be used for commodity shipments in May and June, if approved.

According to congressional sources, Russia's official request for the \$600 million would be include 60 percent for wheat and 40 percent for corn, with a little soy meal included in the package.

Corn

The USDA made no changes to the 1991-92 U.S. Supply/Demand Report for corn in its 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 Argentina 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 forecasters 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 7.3 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.

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 soys.

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 make more credits likely. Also,

they have continued to be timely on their repayments.

When the spring wheat and durum planting estimates come out, add them to the 50.2 acres of winter wheat planted and make adjustments to the total planted in Table 3 for the 1992-93 crop year. Generally, about 86 percent of the wheat acres are harvested. I expect spring wheat growers to go all out.

Hogs

Slaughter over the December-February period was considerably higher than the 5 percent the December Hogs and Pigs Report projected. Hopefully the March survey of growers will be more accurate. However, the report is only as accurate as the information from growers which goes into it.

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.

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.

Table 1
SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR CORN

	Hilker's		
	1990-91	91-92	92-93
Corn Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Set-Aside and Diverted	6.3	4.7	3.5
Acres Planted	74.2	75.9	79.5
Acres Harvested	67.0	68.7	72.2
Bu./A. Harvested	118.5	108.8	120.0
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	1344	1521	1091
Production	7934	7474	8664
Imports	3	20	5
Total Supply	9282	9016	9760
Use:			
Feed	4669	5000	5100
Food/Seed	1367	1400	1435
Total Domestic	6036	6400	6535
Exports	1725	1525	1700
Total Use	7761	7925	8235
Ending Stocks	1521	1091	1525
Ending Stocks Percent of Use	19.6%	13.8%	18.5%
Regular Loan Rate	\$1.57	\$1.62	\$1.72
U.S. Season Average Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$2.28	\$2.50	\$2.50
Source: USDA			

Table 2
SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR WHEAT

	Hilker's		
	1990-91	91-92	92-93
Wheat Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Set-Aside and Diverted	3.2	10.0	3.5
Acres Planted	77.3	69.9	71.0
Acres Harvested	69.4	58.1	61.0
Bu./A. Harvested	39.5	34.1	37.0
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	536	866	390
Production	2736	1981	2257
Imports	37	35	35
Total Supply	3309	2882	2680
Use:			
Food	796	775	800
Seed	90	92	95
Feed	489	350	165
Total Domestic	1375	1217	1060
Exports	1068	1275	1125
Total Use	2444	2492	2185
Ending Stocks	866	390	495
Ending Stocks Percent of Use	35.4%	15.6%	22.6%
Regular Loan Rate	\$1.95	\$2.04	\$2.21
U.S. Season Average Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$2.61	\$3.10	\$3.90
Source: USDA			

Table 3
SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE SHEET FOR SOYBEANS

	Hilker's		
	1990-91	91-92	92-93
Soybean Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Planted	57.8	59.1	57.5
Acres Harvested	56.5	58.0	56.3
Bu./Harvested Acre	34.1	34.3	34.0
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	239	329	325
Production	1926	1986	1914
Imports	2	5	6
Total Supply	2167	2320	2250
Use:			
Crushings	1187	1235	1240
Exports	557	665	595
Seed, Feed and Residuals	94	95	95
Total Use	1838	1995	1930
Ending Stocks	329	325	315
Ending Stocks, Percent of Use	17.9%	16.3%	16.3%
Regular Loan Rate	\$4.50	\$5.02	\$5.02
U.S. Season Average Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$5.25-	\$5.30-	\$5.90
Source: USDA			

HEALTH HARVEST

A Health and Wellness Publication of Michigan Farm Bureau

Mar. 1992 VOL 2, No. 1

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 direction - 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.

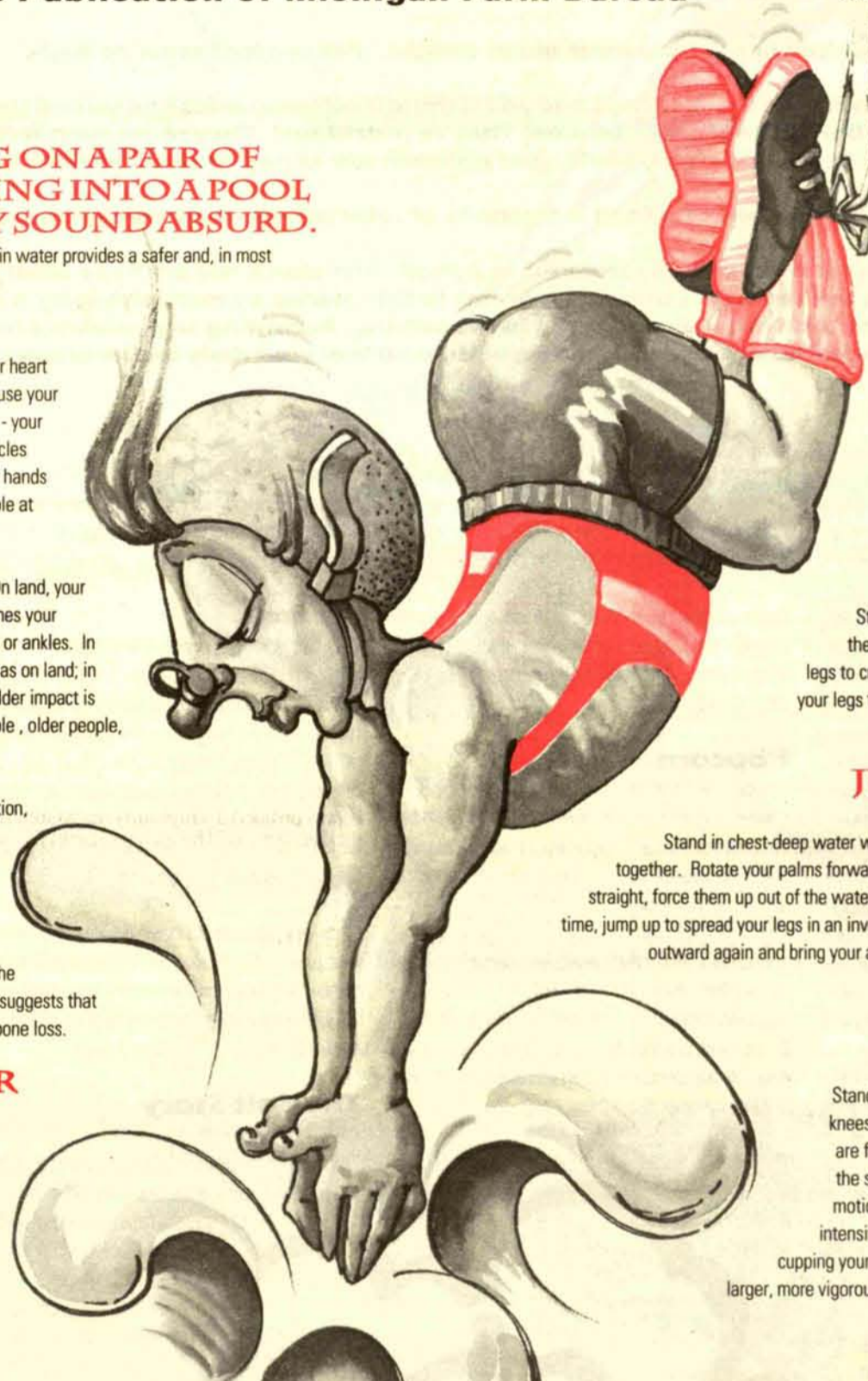
Shoes protect the soles of your feet, ensure good traction, and offer extra support - both in and around the pool. Traditional cotton sneakers with non-marking soles work fine for most people. You can also buy shoes designed expressly for water workouts.

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. Those 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. Keeping 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.

DIVE IN



NEW

'LIGHT' SNACK FOODS

When marketers call their chips "light" they must 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 61% 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 "lights" all 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 Lites, boasts: "Only 2 calories per puff! Baked not fried!" But those puffs add up: An ounce of them contains 160 calories, about the same as regular puffs. And baked does not mean grease free: A hefty 45% of those calories comes from fat.

Some manufacturers have tried to make their chips nutritionally respectable by using whole grains, fruits or vegetables. Frito-Lay's new Sun chips Multigrain Snacks, for example, claim to be "a special blend of whole wheat, corn, and other natural grains." But the smaller print in the ingredients list, where stricter labeling laws apply, gives an entirely different order: Corn and oil come before the whole wheat, rice, and oat flour. That means the two main ingredients are the same as those in corn chips. The modicum of added whole wheat doesn't add a noticeable amount of fiber: Sun chips have 1.1 grams per ounce, compared with about 1 gram in regular corn chips.

The package also says that Sun Chips have less fat than American cheese. That's not saying much: American cheese gets 76% of its calories from fat. Sun Chips weigh in at 48% 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.

Popcorn

Popped in hot air rather than oil, popcorn makes a great snack, averaging only 8% of calories from fat and 4 grams of fiber per ounce. So "air-popped" has become a label come-on for "light" popcorn.

Most manufacturers, however, soak the kernels 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 oil-popped brands, which average around 50% of calories from fat.

The package of Frito-Lay's "totally natural" Smartfood Kentucky Popcorn with White

Cheddar Cheese claims: "We DONT drown our kernels in oil." But between the cheese and the oil added to this air-popped corn, cheddar Smartfood gets 56% of its calories from fat.

Pretzels

You can now get pretzels that contain no fat at all, such as Fat Free Mister Salty Pretzels and Snyder's Hard Sourdough pretzels. But pretzels never had much fat in the first place-an average of 8% of their calories comes from fat. Two brands that highlight their low fat content-Bachman Thin 'n Light Pretzels and Frito-Lay Rold Gold Pretzel Rods are actually somewhat fatter than average, with 16% from fat.

Ordinary pretzels do have a high sodium content (see box). However, the many new low- or no-salt 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 all 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.

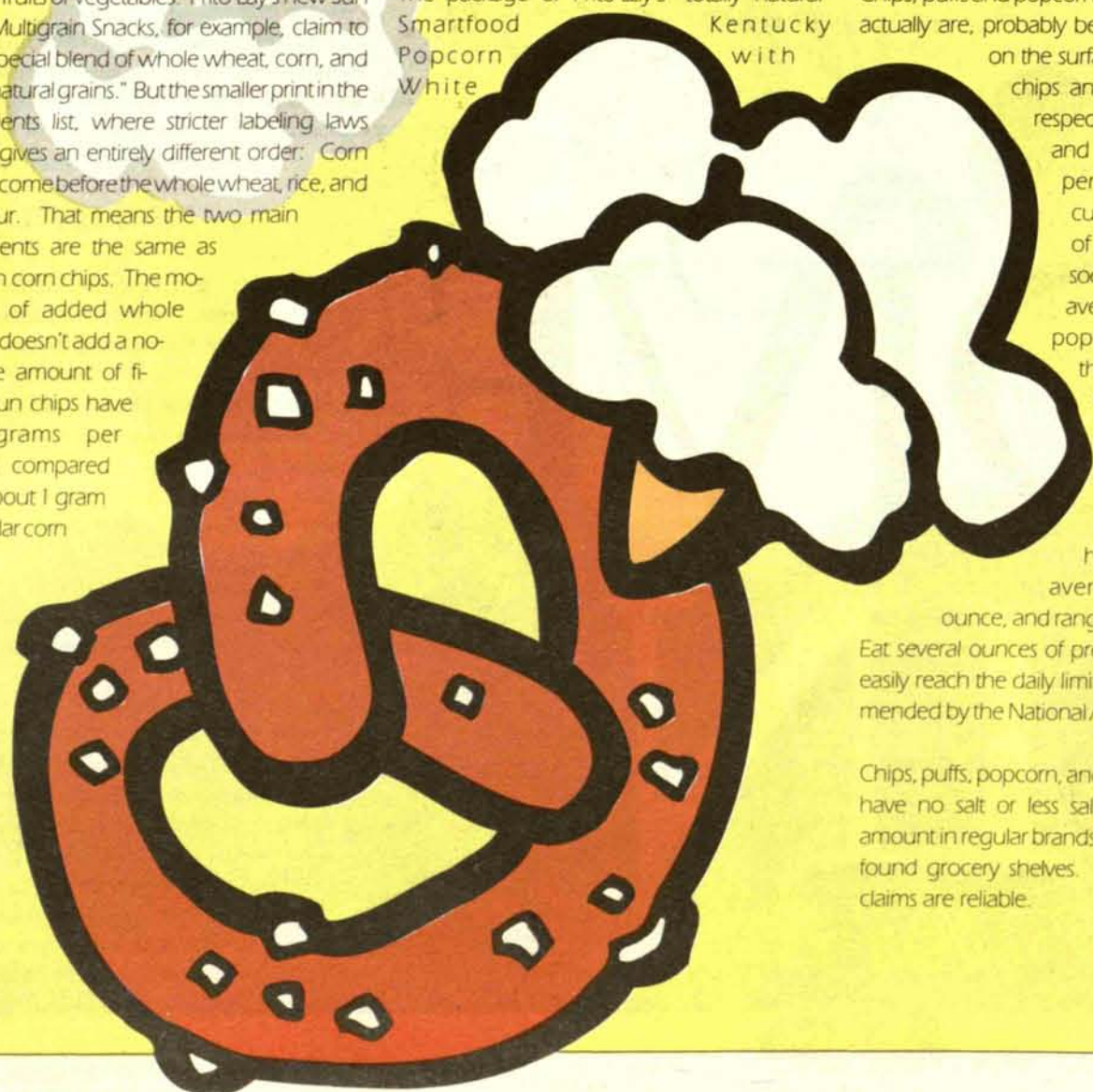
Pretzels are relatively high in sodium. They average 459 mg per ounce, and range as high as 900 mg. Eat several ounces of pretzels and you could easily reach the daily limit of 2400 mg recommended by the National Academy of Sciences.

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 grocery shelves. By and large, those claims are reliable.

Life

To Drink

Another Reason



Style

Your Milk

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 suggest 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 amount 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.

MICROWAVED EGGS...

If you cook a sunnyside up in your microwave oven but don't pierce the yolk before turning on the power, you're in danger of getting egg on your face-literally. Staffers from a hospital in Birmingham, England, report two incidents in which women burned their eyes because they waited until after their eggs were heated to pierce them. The first stuck her fork into the yolk of an egg she had microwaved at full power for one minute, whereupon it exploded in her face and caused severe pain around her eye socket as well as burned her eyelids and caused enough other damage to reduce her vision from 20/20 to 20/200. It took six days of treatment with an antibiotic ointment along with double padding for her vision to return to normal. The second woman, who pierced her microwaved egg with a knife, also suffered eye pain along with excess secretion of tears and abnormal sensitivity to light. Her vision, too, went from 20/20 to 20/200 and took not six but a full eight days for a complete recovery.

Eggs microwaved in their shells can be at least as dangerous as those microwaved without them. A young Ohio man, as he sat down to a plate of seven eggs in their shells that he had microwaved a full power for five minutes, suffered second degree burns to his eyes, nose, and forehead when six of the exploded almost simultaneously. His eyelids were swollen shut and had to be opened with cotton-tipped applicators. It took 4 weeks for his eyes and facial skin to heal completely.

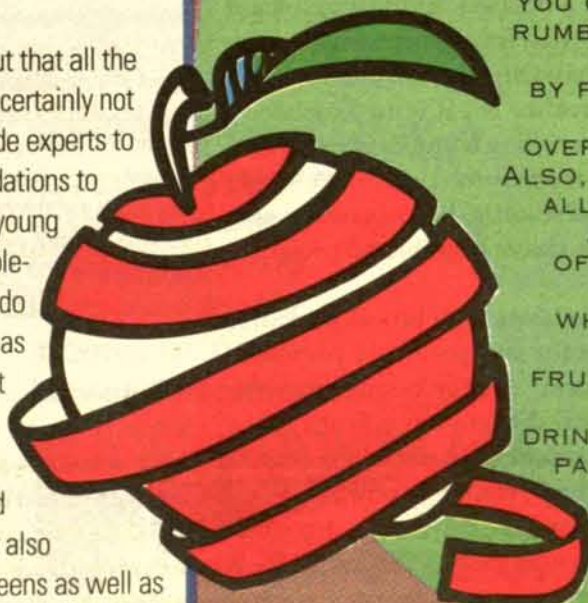
The moral, of course is to remove eggs from their shells before microwaving them as well as to pierce the yolks. The yolk has an outer membrane that puts pressure on its contents during heating, pressure whose sudden release with the prick of a fork or knife after cooking can cause those contents to spray through the air and into the face.

... REQUIRE EXTRA CAUTION

FANS FOR FIBER

ADDING MORE FIBER TO YOUR DIET IS A GOOD MOVE FOR KEEPING YOUR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM MOVING (FIBER HELPS EASE CONSTIPATION) AND HELPING TO LOWER YOUR CHOLESTEROL LEVEL. A HIGH-FIBER DIET ALSO MAY HELP TO LOWER YOUR RISK OF SOME CANCERS.

BEFORE YOU FEAST ON A LOT OF FIBER, HOWEVER, JUST KEEP THIS TIP IN MIND: YOU CAN AVOID TOO MUCH "RUMBLING AND GRUMBLING" IN YOUR INNARDS BY PHASING IN THE FIBER GRADUALLY OVER FOUR TO SIX WEEKS. ALSO, DON'T GET YOUR FIBER ALL FROM ONE SOURCE; AIM FOR A VARIETY OF FIBER-RICH FOODS, INCLUDING WHOLE-GRAIN BREADS AND CEREALS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. ALSO, DRINK PLENTY OF LIQUIDS, PARTICULARLY WATER, TO KEEP YOUR SYSTEM RUNNING SMOOTHLY.



•The Harder They Fall•

Each year, more than 250,000 people fracture a hip in falls. The risk of those debilitating fractures, which can cause fatal complications in older people, rises with age. That increase has been attributed to the fact that older people are more likely to fall and their bones are more brittle. New research suggest there's a third, potentially more important, reason for hip fractures: the way that you fall.

Harvard Medical School's Wilson C. Hayes, Ph.D., studied falls among some 1000 people in nursing homes. Most of those who fractured their hip fell to the side, landing directly on the hip. They generally didn't break their fall by stretching out their hands; nor did they have enough fat on their hips to absorb the shock.

Hayes is now studying the use of protective hip padding for older people at greatest risk of fracturing a hip. For now, he suggests trying to sit down as you fall. That way, you'll land on your natural padding. If you can't pull off that maneuver, cushion the blow with your hands. Better a fractured wrist than a fractured hip.

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 health 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), certain hormonal abnormalities, various kidney disease and infrequently 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 reveal that mild high blood pressure, untreated, can mean actual years of life lost.

High blood pressure left uncontrolled, can damage vital organs -- namely 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 damage. The type of high blood pressure causing this damage is called "primary" hypertension, and is incurable, but can be controlled. High 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.

Heyn was working full-time off the farm and farming as well, growing a variety of vegetables, cherries and alfalfa hay when, in 1987, doctors informed him that his kidneys were only 37 percent functional. Within six months, Heyn's kidneys had failed him completely.

As a result, Heyn's life experienced turbulence most only imagine. He gained 30 pounds in 30 days, was put on kidney dialysis, and eventually had to go on disability in November of 1987. "I was 46 years old and this doctor was telling me 'I don't think you're ever going to work again,'" explained Heyn. "I told him he was crazy, and that I'd be back to work within 3 months."

Heyn's optimism dwindled while waiting for a suitable kidney donor. After a 10 month wait, a

MEDICAL FOCUS

transplant operation and a bout with an organ rejection that now requires daily medication, Heyn is on disability, but hopes that he can someday return to full employment.

Improved matching of potential recipients and organs along with new anti-rejection medication such as Cyclosporine, have boosted the success rate of organ transplants dramatically. Kidney transplants experience a 90% to 95% success rate, liver transplants are 75% to 85% successful, and heart transplants are now getting into the 90% range, claims Heyn.

Unfortunately growth in success rates has not been accompanied by growth in donors, says Heyn. "Right now there are 25,000 people on a waiting list at the United Network of Organ Sharing, in Richmond Virginia," he said. "In 1991 there were only a total of 4,500 organ donors, during which time 2.2 million people across our nation died. We need more public awareness."

Most people assume that once they sign the back of their drivers license, that they will be willing participants in an organ donor program. Not so, says Heyn, explaining that hospitals need a signed consent form from the next of kin before surgically removing organs.

"I've had experiences in my discussions about the importance of organ donors, where spouses didn't even know that their mate had signed the back of their drivers license," Heyn exclaimed. "It's important that people tell their next of kin that they want to be an organ donor at the time of death, or their good intentions will not be fulfilled."

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 filing 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 program 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. Also supported by Farm Bureau is the need to allow farmers to upgrade and verify their yields, to improve yields frozen at some historic level now outdated.

Finally, Anderson argued, there is need for a waiver of the use of farm numbers to identify claims for either 1990 or 1991, in cases where a farm has been operated by different people in each year and suffered losses in each of the two years.

Produce a Quality Seedbed in High Residue Fields

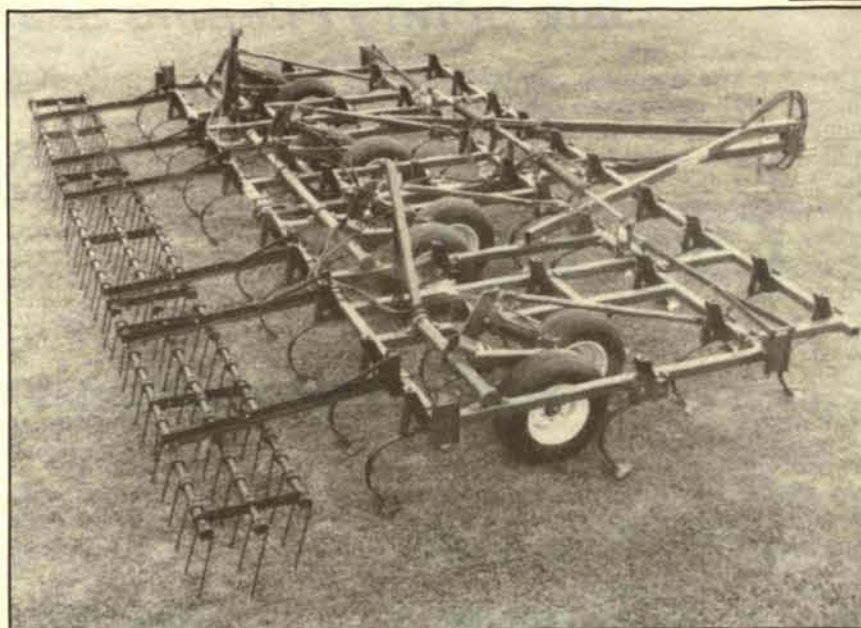
Farmers can meet compliance requirements and produce a quality seedbed in high residue fields with the new Glencoe FC3500 Field Cultivator. The FC3500 has excellent trash clearance with shanks mounted on 5 bars with 30" spacing between rows and 7" on center, with an underframe clearance of 21".

Choose from several ground tools to thoroughly aerate the soil, incorporate fertilizer and herbicides, and create a level uniform seedbed for excellent plant germination and development.

The rugged FC3500 has 3" square main frame and a heavy-duty 4" hitch that extends the full depth of the machine for added strength. Walking tandems with bolt-in spindles and the positive mechanical depth control assures smooth machine operation and uniform depth control.

Seven models of the FC3500 are available in widths from 21' to 44'. All models carry Farmhand's new 5-year frame and shank leaf guarantee. Optional leveling attachments include a 5-bar flexible spike tooth harrow and 3-bar and 5-bar coil tine harrows.

New Product Profile



For more information, contact Farmhand, Inc., P.O. Box 1500, Excelsior, MN 55331 or call the Sales Center at (515) 236-6571.

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 annual conversion rate of wetlands on this study was down 21,000 acres compared to the period from 1982 through 1987.

James Moseley, 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 Moseley.

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.



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8 Maintain Machinery and Farm Shop For a Safe Spring Planting Season in 1992!

You have a lot invested in your farm machinery--and it's up to you to keep it in good running order. You'll get the most from your investment and reduce your accident risk as well if you:

- Service, adjust and repair your tractors and machinery according to recommendations in their operator's or service manuals.
- Have the right tools for the job. Handle them properly to avoid skinned knuckles, strains, pinched fingers and the like.

- 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 cap, 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 retorque 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 with-



From Farm Bureau Insurance

- out 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?
- Is the shop floor kept clean? Are benches tidy, and drawers kept shut? Are tools, chemical products, and paints put away after use?
- Are cutting tools kept sharp? Are tools stored so they cannot fall on someone? Are handles free of flaws?
- Is the welding area well ventilated? Are flammable or combustible materials kept or moved safely away during welding?



Nearly 30 Ingham County farmers received first aid training from county emergency/rescue personnel at a program sponsored by the county Promotion and Education Committee. The "First on the Scene Safety Seminar" was held at the Cheney farm near Mason, and included basic first-aid training, what to and what not to do if first on the scene of a farm accident.

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 well as have the opportunity to meet some of the people and learn more of their culture and lifestyles. But perhaps the best feature of our Farm Bureau World Tours is the great people you meet and get to know while on the tour - people like yourself. Thank you for your consideration of a Farm Bureau World Tour for 1992. Please mail us your request form today to learn more about the best travel values available. Happy Travels!

Sincerely,

Jim Schmidt
James L. Schmidt,
Illinois Agricultural Assoc.
Director
IFB Travel Program

Doug Fleming
Douglas E. Fleming,
Michigan Farm Bureau
Manager
Field Operations Division

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Canadian Rockies/ Calgary Stampede July 1-12, 1992

This unforgettable, 12-day tour of the Canadian Rockies will not only visit the great and growing cities of the northwest and majestic beauty of the Rockies, but also includes unique features designed to give it special appeal. Special attractions include the Calgary Stampede Celebration -- rodeo, chuckwagon races, state show spectacular, a ride on a giant snowmobile on Athabasca Glacier, a gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain, and overnight stays at the beautiful Lake Louise Chateau and Banff Springs Hotel. Our package includes round trip jet transportation from Chicago, first class or deluxe hotel accommodations, 20 meals, all sightseeing and admissions, and a professional guide. Member price is \$2,449 and nonmember price is \$2,469.

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April Discussion Topic: "Medical Liability Reform"

Farmers who have to pay for their own health insurance are acutely aware of the cost of medical care. And all rural people, whether they pay for their own insurance or not, are affected by the availability of medical specialists of even general health care.

Cost and availability are two elements helping to drive the debate over reforming Michigan's medical liability system. Michigan doctors and hospitals pay \$500 million every year for liability coverage, among the highest rates in the world, according to the Michigan Medical Liability Reform Coalition (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 covers court costs and attorney fees.
- Approximately \$300 of the average hospital bill goes to cover liability costs.
- Small, rural Michigan hospitals pay higher per bed rates than large hospitals in major U.S. cities.
- Large awards and lawsuits have forced many hospitals and physicians to stop delivering high risk services, particularly obstetrics, orthopedics and neurosurgery.
- Ninety-three percent of Michigan's smaller and rural hospitals are having difficulty recruiting health care professionals, especially obstetricians, primarily because of liability costs.

- Reform could redirect millions of dollars now spent on insurance premiums and legal costs to medical care for patients.

Michigan Farm Bureau is supporting a two-bill medical liability reform package currently in the state House. A nearly identical package has passed the state Senate.

HB-5435 and HB-5435 would eliminate long, drawn-out litigation by providing an alternative for resolving claims before going to court. The legislation would also:

- Create a sliding scale contingent fee system for attorneys, replacing the current system that allows lawyers to receive one-third of a patient's settlement.

- Require better qualified expert witnesses at trials.

- Place no limits on the amount of economic awards (lost wages and medical and rehabilitation 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 availability and affordability of health care.

It's important for Farm Bureau members to take action now. The legislation is currently 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 legislation 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 medical 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 societies that Farm Bureau is working to help solve the medical liability problem.

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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 reductions in Michigan corn yields. Corn needle nematodes exist primarily in soils containing more than 90 percent sand. They're 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 these pests, while fumigation is cost-prohibitive in corn. Therefore, crop rotation is the best option to reduce needle nematode populations in corn, suggests Warner.

"If corn growers have significant populations of needle nematodes, they should rotate to poor-host or non-host crops such as soybeans, dry beans or potatoes," Warner says. "Generally, one year in a non-host crop significantly reduces needle nematode populations, if growers implement good weed management practices, but two or three years may be necessary depending on initial nematode populations."

In addition, MSU research trials show granular rootworm insecticides/nematicide offer only erratic, unpredictable results against other nematode species.

"In our research with granular corn rootworm insecticides, we've seen yield increases, 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 insignificant nematode populations to begin with. As a result, we don't generally recommend a granular insecticide for nematode control on corn acres because we can't guarantee 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 opposed to using an insecticide for control.

"Growers will likely find populations at levels 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 a trial basis."

THE FINAL STEP...

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10 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 257.79)

"Farm Tractor - is 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. (2))

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 257.679a)

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 257.676b)

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

LIGHTING AND WARNING EQUIPMENT

1) Lights must be used from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, or when visibility is reduced to less than 500 ft. (MCL 257.684)

2) Minimum lighting is at least one white light visible for a distance of 500 ft. in front and at least one red light visible for a distance of 300 ft. to the rear. (MCL 257.695)

However, traveling less than 20 mph, your vehicle may use reduced lighting requirements. (MCL 257.703)

3) When lights are required, implements of husbandry shall have a rear red light or be accompanied by an escort vehicle which follows behind at a distance of not more than 50 ft. and illuminates the implement of husbandry with the escort vehicle's headlights and displays on the rear of the escort vehicle lighted rear lamps as required by law. (MCL 257.686 (4))

4) A farm tractor may be equipped with flashing amber light in addition to the 4-way flashers which may be used after dark and when visibility is poor. (MCL 257.698 (5)(e))



5) When operated on the highway, a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem is required for:

- every vehicle which has a maximum potential speed of 25 miles an hour,
- an implement of husbandry,
- farm tractor, or
- special mobile equipment. (MCL 257.688g)

LIGHTING AND WARNING EQUIPMENT

(a) An equilateral triangle must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, broad base down, not less than 3 ft. nor more than 5 ft. above the ground and as near the center of the vehicle as possible. In addition, red reflectors or reflectorized tape is required on rear at each side of equipment. (MCL 257.688g)



SIZE, WEIGHT AND LOADS

1) The provisions governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to implements of husbandry incidentally moved upon a highway. (MCL 257.716 (2))

2) A person may operate or move an implement of husbandry of any width on a highway as required for normal farming operations, so as to minimize the interruption of traffic flow. However, a person must not operate or move an implement of husbandry to the left of the center of the roadway:

- from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise;
- when approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve when the driver's view is obstructed within a distance as to create a hazard in the event a vehicle might approach from the opposite direction;
- when the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 ft. of a bridge, viaduct, or tunnel; or
- at any time visibility is substantially diminished due to weather conditions. (MCL 257.717 (2) & 257.639 (1))

"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.

Boiling the sap is a simple, but time (and fuel) 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? "I've got 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 minuscule. 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.

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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 tsp: vanilla
1/2 cup shortening
1/2 cup pure Michigan Maple Syrup
1 cup chopped nuts
1/2 tsp baking 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



STATE LAWS THAT APPLY TO FARM MACHINERY

11

SIZE, WEIGHT AND LOADS

Comment: Traveling "left of center" after dark or during poor visibility is never permitted. Impeding the flow of traffic, at any time, is a violation.



3) A truck-tractor (semi) shall not haul more than one trailer and one semitrailer or more than two semitrailers in combination at any one time, **except that a farm tractor may haul two wagons or trailers.** The total combination of farm tractor and two wagons cannot exceed 55 ft. in length, and must not travel at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour. (MCL 257.719 (3))

4) However, a vehicle (car, truck, or pickup truck) shall not haul more than **one farm wagon or trailer.** (MCL 257.721 (1))

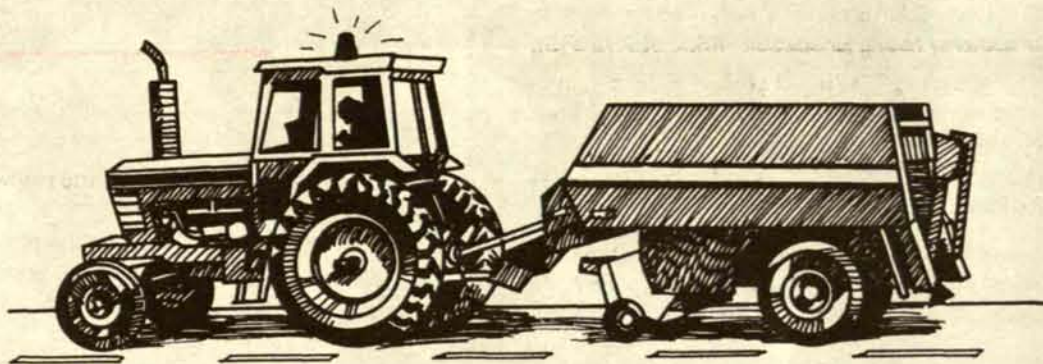
5) A person operating a vehicle to transport agricultural commodities in the normal operation of a farm is not required to cover the load. (MCL 257.720)

6) A person operating a vehicle to transport agricultural commodities in the normal operation of the farm shall not spill. (MCL 257.720)

7) However, it is not considered spilling when a vehicle transporting agricultural or horticultural products including hay, straw, silage, or residue from the product, escapes from the vehicle in an amount that does not interfere with other traffic on the highway. (MCL 257.720(1))

DID YOU KNOW???

- 1) That "driving and drinking" laws apply to implements of husbandry. (MCL 257.625)
- 2) That anhydrous ammonia tanks or other vehicles carrying hazardous materials on which a placard is required shall stop at all railroad crossings. (MCL 257.669)
- 3) That when pulling a farm wagon or trailer with a vehicle (such as a truck or farm tractor) safety chains are required. (MCL 257.721)
- 4) That a person riding an animal on the roadway shall have all of the rights and responsibilities as the operator of other vehicles. (MCL 257.604)
- 5) That SMV emblems cannot be used to mark driveways, mailbox or any other stationary object within the highway right-of-way. (MCL 257.688)
- 6) That no white light may be displayed to the rear of an implement of husbandry, (MCL 257.689) nor white lights to the front that blind on-coming traffic. (MCL 257.700 and 257.696)
- 7) That any time an implement of husbandry or farm tractor is operated on the roadway, a SMV emblem must be displayed and clearly visible on the rear of the implement. (MCL 257.688 (g))
- 8) That your SMV emblem must be clean and highly reflective. (MCL 257.691 (g)) Most experts agree that SMV's become faded within 2-5 years and should be replaced.



Control Brown Stem Rot in No-Till Soybeans With Variety Selection, Long Rotations

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 scientists.

"If you're going to grow soybeans no-till, be aware that diseases, particularly brown stem rot, may be more severe," says plant pathologist Craig Grau. "You can minimize the problem through variety selection and long rotations.

"Brown stem rot is probably a greater problem in no-till fields because more of the fungus survives in soybean debris left on the fields to slow soil erosion," Grau says. "The disease also seems to like cool temperatures. No-till fields are usually a few degrees cooler than fields tilled with a conventional moldboard plow."

The fungus gums up the water transporting vessels in soybean stems just as plants get to the pod-fill stage. The plants dry prematurely, Grau says. Yields can drop from 10 to 25 percent.

The optimal conditions for soybean growth also seem to favor the growth of brown stem rot, according to Oplinger. The factors that maximize potential yield - narrow rows, early planting dates, proper fertility, weed control and irrigation - lead to a greater likelihood of brown stem rot infection.

Although growers are becoming more aware 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.



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MLSE Annual Meeting Concludes: Change or be Changed!

12



MSLE President Jack Sill addresses members during the organization's 70th annual meeting. Among other items of business, members unanimously approved Keith McKenzie of Cassopolis, Bill Pridge of Montgomery, and Fred Ruggles of Kingston, for re-election. The afternoon program consisted of panel discussions with speakers from MSU, packer representatives, producers and managers of large-scale operations, on how individual growers and cooperatives can stem the tide of processors opting for total vertical integration, and respond properly to market demands.

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 Soya 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. "You also have to have a quality program that allows the producer to stay in control."

"The Midwest does not need corporate farming. We have a tremendous quantity and quality of producers that can supply that need if we can get the feedback from the packer directed to the producer that allows changes in the genetics and meet that critical production mass that they need," he said.

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

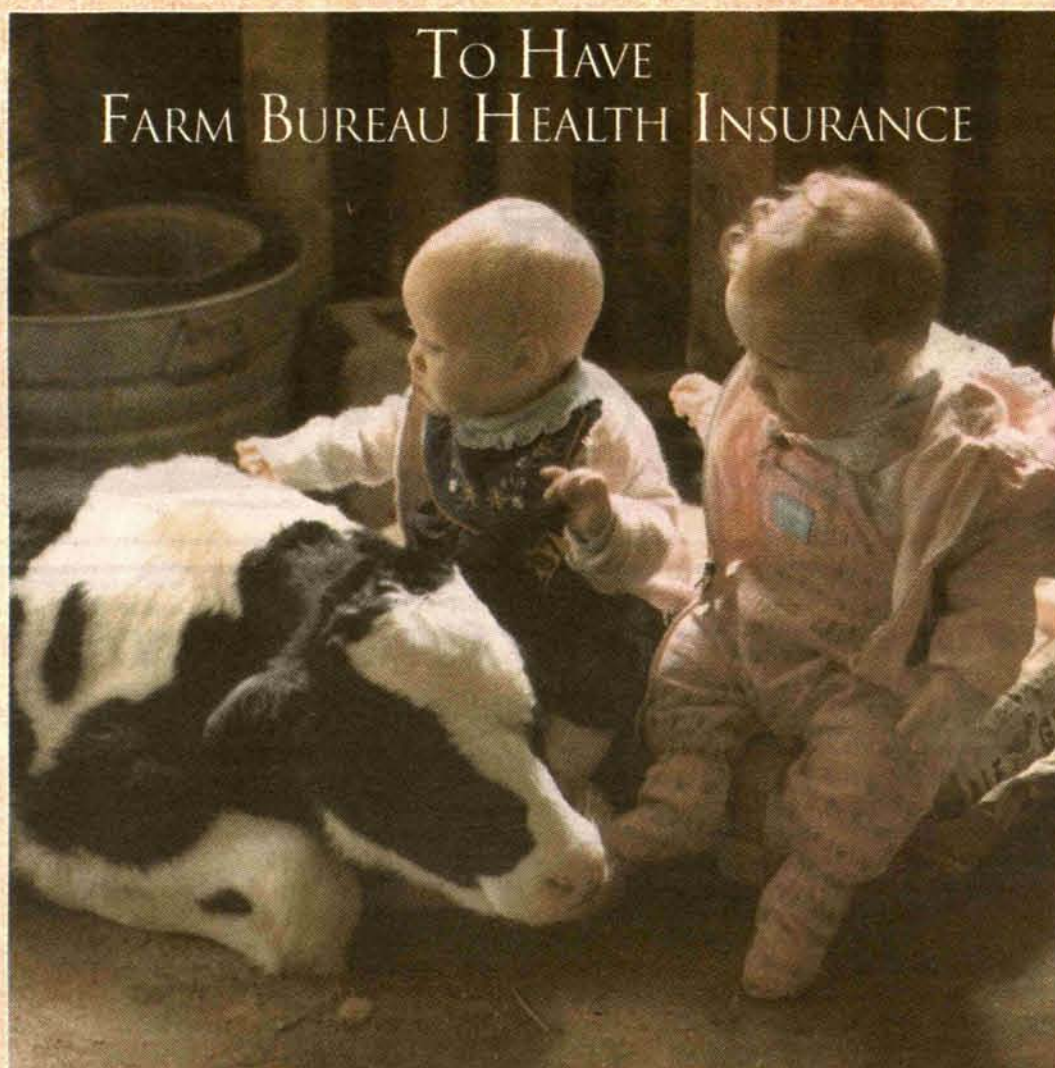
The heifer feed additive MGA (melengestrol acetate) has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for combination use in single pelleted Type B Medicated feeds (supplements) with Tylan (tylosin); Tylan and Rumensin (monensin); and Tylan and Bovatec (lasalocid).

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 Rieke, beef products manager for the Upjohn Company. MGA previously was 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.

A FEW SMALL REASONS



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