North American Free Trade Agreement Almost a Reality

It's now up to Congress and the countries of Mexico and Canada to approve the recently negotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In reacting to the announcement of the agreement, American Farm Bureau President Dean Kleckner said, "The expected trade expansion in farm products between the U.S. and Mexico will benefit producers in both countries." Since 1989, U.S. agricultural exports to Canada have increased by 125 percent while Canadian sales to the U.S. have grown by 29 percent.

Michigan Farm Bureau President Jack Laurie voiced similar sentiments, but added that Michigan's diverse agricultural commodity mix will require a careful analysis of the final trade pact.

GAO Urges FDA to Halt Milk Sales From BST Test Herds

In an apparent move to raise consumer fears over the safety of the nation's milk supply, the General Accounting Office (GAO) has issued a report condemning the Food and Drugs Administration's current milk inspection system and another recommending that milk and beef from BST test herds be withheld from market.

The first of the two reports criticized the FDA for a number of perceived shortcomings in the milk inspection system, saying that only a small number of the drugs currently used to treat mastitis are routinely tested for under the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance. The report recommended that FDA develop a comprehensive strategy to monitor milk quality and recommend state and industry monitoring under the PMO.

The GAO based its observation on reports from several veterinarians who treat dairy cows, totalling ignoring a study which showed that less than 0.8 percent of the milk samples tested for residues and were rejected, according to MFB dairy specialist Kevin Kirk.

"Milk is one of the most inspected and regulated food products grown," said Kirk. "It's the only product that requires producers to be licensed before they can sell what they produce. The dairy industry has established a number of voluntary quality assurance programs, including the Milk and Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program, that the GAO didn't take into consideration."

The second GAO report calls on FDA to halt sales of milk and beef from BST test herds and also urged FDA to withhold commercial approval of BST because of increasing concerns about indirect health effects on humans.

The GAO report acknowledges that BST itself poses no human health threat, but expressed concern that cows receiving BST could have more cases of mastitis and, consequently, receive more antibiotic treatments, and ultimately increase the likelihood of antibiotic-tainted milk.

The report on BST raises no new concerns or presents no new information about the product, but it does attempt to use food safety fears to further delay the approval process," explained Kirk. "To my knowledge, the FDA is the only organization with data from ongoing research projects in place since 1986, not the GAO, to determine the exact consequences of BST use." Michigan Farm Bureau News

Crop Maturity Shaping Up to be a Tight Race

Michigan farmers will make Las Vegas casino gambling look like child's play as the success of this year's crop and profitability are coming down to a narrow race of time for crop maturity versus the first killing frost this fall.

Michigan's corn crop is estimated to be two to three weeks behind, as are soybeans and drybeans, which were 20 to 25 percent behind in setting pods.

Only 20 percent of the corn crop was reportedly able to set in the milk stage compared to the five-year average of 57 percent as of this weekend. According to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service, just 1 percent of the corn crop had reached the dough stage, compared to the 35 percent five-year average. Southern areas of Michigan were reporting excellent yield potential if they were blessed with a late frost.

Oat maturity was lagging behind normal as well, with just 50 percent of the crop reported ripe compared to the five-year average of 87 percent. As of August 17, 20 percent of the oats had been harvested compared to the five-year average of 80 percent.

Generally, commodities not subject to immediate trade liberalization after the accord takes effect will be afforded declining levels of protection over five, 10, or 15 years. In addition, there will be safeguards such as "snap-back" tariffs to protect against import surges of certain commodities. The U.S. currently has a $500 million positive balance in farm trade with Mexico.

"Farm Bureau will be deciding its position on the NAFTA after a careful analysis of its terms and conditions," said Kleckner. "We may have some concerns with specific aspects of the agreement which will need to be addressed. Overall, however, our studies have shown that a NAFTA will be a positive development for U.S. agriculture and we hope this agreement is one that we will be able to support."

See page 9 for further commodity specifics analysis of NAFTA.
The Michigan Corn Checkoff -- an Industry's Self-Help Opportunity

We live in a rapidly changing world where consumer preferences seem to shift in the blink of an eye. So, one of the major challenges facing the agricultural industry is finding alternative sources of financing for the product development needed to meet the fickle desires of the marketplace.

As farmers, we want to control our own destiny. We want to have a say in the research and promotion that will result in useful new products for consumers, and perhaps a little more profit for us. That's why I'm enthusiastic about the opportunities presented by the Michigan Corn Marketing Program.

Michigan Corn Bureau has been working closely with the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) to increase the support of corn farmers. The program is funded under P.A. 230. If approved, the program would place a one cent per bushel assessment on the first sale of corn and deposit those funds in a statewide pool. All funds collected would go toward promotion, research and market development for corn. A nine-member board of corn growers, appointed by the governor, would control the funds.

Corn producers will vote on this checkoff at county Extension offices or county ASCS offices between Nov. 30 and Dec. 11.

The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors recently adopted a resolution urging Farm Bureau members to vote "yes" on the Michigan Corn Checkoff. The resolution was approved after the board heard presentations by the MCGA and a positive recommendation from the MFB Wheat and Feedgrains Advisory Committee. The proposed program, initiated by growers and administrated by growers, is certainly consistent with Farm Bureau policy and philosophy.

There is no doubt in my mind that the future for the corn industry lies in expanding the market for corn through the development of new products. One cent per bushel is a small price for each of us to pay to participate in charting a new course for the corn industry.

Biodegradable plastics, ethanoil-blended fuels, super absorbents, road de-icers and specialty chemicals are just a few of the products that are rapidly expanding the market for corn. And with the swift growth of biotechnology, who knows what additional innovative corn-based products may be developed in the future? A successful Michigan Corn Marketing Program will help us tap into the market potential of our industry and give us a significant voice in the direction corn research will take in our state.

With declines in state-supported commodity research, isn't it time that corn producers take their destiny in their own hands? This December, vote in favor of the Michigan Corn Marketing Program.

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Corn Bureau

Corn and Soybean Output Could Set New Records

The USDA released its August crop report estimating 1992 corn production at 8.762 billion bushels and soybean output of just over 2 billion bushels. The agency also raised its estimate of the yearly wheat crop to 2.316 billion bushels, more than 100 million higher than its July estimate of 2.232 billion bushels.

These record corn and soybean production figures, of course, would require that crops not be stunted by an early frost. For Leaving Feeds Services Co. in Bedford, Mass., says the current pattern of below-normal temperatures could mean frost about 10 days earlier than normal.

However, Dave Strait, agricultural meteorologist for Cropcast Services in Rockville, Md., said even with an early frost, "the bulk of the crop should escape damage." Crops in South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin are more likely to be harmed by an early frost than those elsewhere in the Midwest, according to Strait.

1992 AFBF Crop Survey Summary -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Harvested</th>
<th>92/91 change</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Production</th>
<th>92/91 change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>+5%</td>
<td>121.1 bu.</td>
<td>8,746 mil bu.</td>
<td>+17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>+6%</td>
<td>35.9 bu.</td>
<td>2,064 mil bu.</td>
<td>+ 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>-0%</td>
<td>22.28 bu</td>
<td>1,000 cwt.</td>
<td>-32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Wheat</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>+6%</td>
<td>39.7 bu.</td>
<td>1,690 mil bu.</td>
<td>+23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Wheat</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>+9%</td>
<td>40.0 bu.</td>
<td>2,523 Mil bu.</td>
<td>+27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Environmental Groups Wearing Thin to Contributors

Some environmental groups are feeling the pinch of lower finances they try to blame on the recession, but observers say their same old stories are becoming tiresome to their supporters.

Years of double-digit growth in members and contributions are coming to an end for groups like the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council and others, according to recent stories in Washington-based publications such as the Chronicle of Philanthropy, City Paper and Environmental Writer.

The groups have some more difficulty collecting money now than in the recent past, and a few are cutting expenses and laying off staff members, according to the reports. Some of them are responding to the trend by expanding their efforts to cultivate existing contributors.

In Brief...

USDA Announces Regulatory Changes

In response to President Bush's call for a reduction in federal paperwork, Ag. Secretary347 has announced the cancellation of 14 regulatory changes, including a consolidation of forms required for participating farm programs. The changes include:

- Permission for either spouse to sign a farm program contract when both own an interest; and
- A relaxation of the lien requirement on stored grain on which grain is stored on a separate farm.

Other changes include a new definition of a "dairy producer" to provide equitable treatment to all dairy producers, a provision to allow haying and grazing during the seven non-principal growing months designated as Acreage Conservation Reserve, cost-sharing assistance to producers in arid areas who establish perennial cover for idle acreage and a provision to change production adjustment terms applied in certain cases to cotton, corn, sorghum, and minor oilseeds to give producers more flexibility in making decisions about what to plant.

For more information, readers should contact their local ASCS office.

Up and Down Year for Cattle Feeders

Cattle feedlot operators, who suffered huge losses in the first quarter of 1992, were a little more optimistic in the second quarter, but could be heading for trouble again toward the end of this year, according to Ed Uvacek, president of Western Research, Inc.

Feeder calves are relatively scarce and will remain so for the rest of the year, with available feeder cattle and calves not in feedlots of 43.8 million head on the July inventory report, up only 1 percent from a year ago.

This should not only be encouraging to ranchers, but could allow a fairly good market for feeders during the fall. Feedlot operators will be very disappointed if auction market prices they had expected to be greater. The only good news for feeders was the reduction in their break-even range as feeder cattle dropped into the mid $80 per cwt. range and feed costs went down.

That situation is expected to disappear in the fourth quarter and prices will be harder to come by or quite likely may disappear, even with slightly better price levels. Uvacek sees fed steers averaging between $74 and $77 per cwt. in the fourth quarter, with feeder steers going for around $85-$88 per cwt.

Ag Spending Bill Goes to President

The Senate passed a $90.5 billion agricultural appropriations bill late Tuesday and sent it to the House for further consideration. The bill includes $13.5 billion for research and promotion that will result in useful new products for consumers, and $614 million for the market promotion program, which provides advertising and promotional assistance to businesses exporting U.S. farm products. Defenders of the program say it is needed to put U.S. companies on a par with the EC, which spends $1.5 billion annually on such promotions.

The final package deleted funding for the Wetlands Reserve Program. Ken Cook, vice-president of the Center for Resource Economics, described the action as scandalously shortsighted.

The final stage of the process is awaited by the House. The final package would prevent the law from expiring.

Canada Suspends Grain Shipments to Russia

The Canadian Wheat Board has suspended all grain shipments to Russia due to that country's inability to service interest agreements on its $1.5 billion Canadian line of credit, according to Knight Ridder News.

Debra Harri, CBW information officer, said the suspension will continue until the arrears are cleared. She would not quantify the amount, but said it was significant enough to warrant the action. The CWB is currently waiting word from Russia on how it plans to clear the arrears, she said.

The current long-term grain agreement between Canada and Russia was signed at the end of January, and calls for the purchase of 25 million tonnes of Canadian wheat and barley between Feb 2, 1992 and Jan 31, 1997. At the end of June, Canadian Grain Commission data shows Russia had purchased 2.896 million tonnes of wheat, 969,200 of barley and 371,000 of barley. In June, the CWB again arranged ocean freight on behalf of Russia on a limited CIF basis, at Russia's request, in an effort to increase sales of grain to the Republic. The previous year's agreement for all sales of wheat and/or barley were to be coted at an FOB basis.

The MICHIGAN FARM NEWS (ISSN -) is published monthly except in the months of November, December, June, and July when only one issue is printed, as a service to regular members, by Michigan Farm Bureau, 7273 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917. Membership subscription price of $1.50 included in annual dues of Michigan Farm Bureau regular members. Additional subscription rates required for mailing Michigan Farm News to non-members and those outside the continental U.S.A. Application to mail at reduced rates pending at Lansing, MI and additional mailing offices. Letters to the editor and statewide stories should be sent to: Editor, Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460.

Edward Madigan announced 14 regulatory changes, including a consolidation of forms required for participating farm programs. The changes included:

- Permission for either spouse to sign a farm program contract when both own an interest;
- A relaxation of the lien requirement on stored grain on which grain is stored on a separate farm;
- A more streamlined method for determining land ineligible for USDA benefits when violations occur affecting wetland conservation provisions and highly erodible lands.

The Senate passed a $60.5 billion agricultural appropriations bill late Tuesday and sent it to the House for further consideration. The bill includes $13.5 billion for research and promotion that will result in useful new products for consumers, and $614 million for the market promotion program, which provides advertising and promotional assistance to businesses exporting U.S. farm products. Defenders of the program say it is needed to put U.S. companies on a par with the EC, which spends $1.5 billion annually on such promotions.

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Pesticide Recordkeeping

MFB Position
Farm Bureau has expressed concern with a number of issues, including options for field identification, pesticide listing and EPA registration requirements (see adjoining text for more information).

MFB Contact
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The USDA has published a notice seeking public comments on the pesticide recordkeeping requirements authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill. Under the requirement, the information to be required of persons who use restricted use pesticides will be:
- Address and size of treated area
- Target pest and crop or stored crop treated
- Brand or product name, formulation and EPA registration number
- Total amount and rate of application
- Day, month and year of application
- Applicator’s name, address and certification number (if available)

Farm Bureau has studied the proposed recordkeeping requirements and submitted the following comments to the USDA:

- We do not support the section of the proposed rule which would require applicators to list the EPA registration number in their records. It is not uncommon for the required number to be incorrect or nonexistent. All applicants list the product along with the fact that the same pesticide product produced by different manufacturers have different registration numbers. We believe a pesticide can be adequately identified by the product name or brand.
- The requirement for listing the formulation should be deleted in the final rule. There are many abbreviations used for formulations, but there is no identification that the abbreviation represents the formulation. There is considerable room for confusion.
- We believe the farmer should have several options available for identifying the treated area. The options should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the address, legal description, or other field description system. We would strongly oppose requiring a legal description as the only means of identifying a treated area.

Conservation Program Three-Year Report Released

Implementation successes and deficiencies were identified in a three-year Soil and Water Conservation Society study of how the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and cooperating agencies had implemented sweeping soil conservation and wetland protection programs under the Food Security Act of 1985 (‘85 Farm Bill).

According to the recently released study, the compliance provisions of the law have accomplished a great deal in six years. The client base of federal soil conservation agencies has expanded significantly since the Food Security Act became law. Moreover, the provisions have achieved substantial gains in soil erosion control, and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement.

At the same time, however, questions have arisen about the effectiveness of the various provisions. Enforcement of the compliance provision was uneven at the time of the study, including conservation district governance, county-level producer committees, and farm self-interests. The study was based on a series of field evaluation. Administration advisory council members; committee members, Extension advisory council members, representatives of the local agribusiness community; and farmers.
Weather

W eather report: Record breaking cold temperatures continued through mid-August, with frost and freezing temperatures reported on the 11th and 12th in the Upper Peninsula and an unconfirmed report of snow in Gratiot County on the 14th.

Temperatures for the last 30 days ranged from about 3 degrees below normal in the far south and northern sections of the state to nearly 1 degree above normal in central sections of Lower Michigan.

At the current time, when June, July, and August are averaged to obtain a summer mean temperatures, only the summer of 1991 has been cooler over the last 50 years. With the cool temperatures, development of many warm-season field crops has lagged far behind normal, posing the risk of a season-ending first freeze, especially in northern and central sections of the state.

In contrast, the cool weather has greatly benefited some crops, such as cool-season vegetables and cruciferous crops, which were hurt by dryness earlier in the growing season.

Extended outlooks are beginning to show signs of a possible change in weather patterns for the week or so. Don’t expect anything in the category of unseasonable heat, though.

July’s Moisture Improves Most Yield Outlooks

W hile the latest National Weather Service 90-day outlook for August-October and the 30-day outlook for August call for a continuation of the weather patterns of the last few weeks, don’t expect anything in the category of unseasonable heat, though.

July’s Moisture Improves Most Yield Outlooks

Weather Summary

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Michigan and Major Commodity Area

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<tr>
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<td>W. Com Belt</td>
<td>A/B/C/D/N</td>
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Outlook

Some stations carry additional market reports throughout the market day.

- Some stations carry additional market reports between 12:00 and 1:00 pm.
- Station airs various farm reports between 12:00 and 1:00 pm.
- Station airs various farm reports between 5:50 and 6:20 pm.
- Station signs on at different times during the year. Morning farm times change with weather and news to Farm Bureau members daily on the following stations:
  - * Station airs between 12:00 and 1:00 pm.
  - Station airs between 5:50 and 6:20 pm.

Michigan and Major Commodity Area

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Dry Bean Production Expected

In all Major Producing States

The 1992 Michigan dry bean production is expected at 4,080,000 bushels (cwt.), 35 percent below 1991 crop. As of Aug. 1, 1992, planted acreage is down 1,300 pounds per acre, assuming normal weather conditions for the remainder of the season.

Planted acreage of this year’s crop was delayed into July, due to dry conditions in June. The below normal precipitation and excessive rains in July have slowed development in most of the state, causing fields to have uneven growth. The crop is two to three weeks behind normal.

Planted acreage of all dry beans at 330,000 acres, is 20,000 acres below the 1991 crop. The August August-August estimate is based on a special survey of about 1,500 farmers in the 18 largest dry bean producing counties. The survey was conducted during July after most of the planting was completed. A total of 310,000 acres of 1992 dry beans are expected to be harvested down 20 percent from 1991.

Acreage planted to navy beans is estimated* at 235,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from last year. Acreage planted for all colored classes of dark beans is 220,000 acres, the same as last year. Class breakdown for dry beans within the colored group is as follows: dark red, 200,000 acres; red, 60,000 acres; white, 60,000 acres; and yellow, 20,000 acres. The August-August estimate is expected to total nearly 4.8 million cwt., down 3 percent from 1991. Pear production is forecast at 1.3 million cwt.

While both the latest National Weather Service 90-day outlook for August-October and the 30-day outlook for August call for a continuation of the weather patterns of the last few weeks, don’t expect anything in the category of unseasonable heat, though.

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Pear production is forecast at 4,000,000 tons, down 20 percent from the 1991 crop, but up 60 percent from 1990.

Nationally, apple production is forecast at 10.2 billion pounds, three percent above the 1991 crop. Grape production is forecast at 6.13 million tons, up 10 percent from 1991.

Production of peaches is forecast at 2.52 billion pounds, six percent below the 1991 crop. Plum and prune crop is expected to total 41.600 tons, up 66 percent from last year. Blackberry production is forecast at 941,420 tons, up four percent from 1991.
The looper virus, now being tested in fields, causes such pesky caterpillars as the tomato celery looper virus, according to researchers. This pesticide kills a broader array of pests than four viral insecticides already approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, researchers say. Once ingested by the insect pests, the virus spreads throughout their bodies, causing deterioration and death. The residue then becomes poisonous to others of the species.

Researchers say the natural insecticide could possibly be commercially available within five years, if test results continue favorable.

Dairymen Cut Energy Costs With Mueller Dairy Farm Equipment and Consumers Power's "Reduce the Use Rebate" Offer!

1 Reduces Energy Cost
2 Flexibility
3 Low Maintenance
4 Pays For Itself

Insect Fighting Virus Has Encouraging Future

A naturally-occurring virus known as the "celery looper virus," may one day represent a deadly diet for several insect pests that now cost farmers thousands of dollars a year in crop losses and insecticide applications, Agricultural Department scientists say. The looper virus, now being tested in fields in California, Arizona and Mississippi, "celery looper virus," may one day represent a friendly control for insects that attack cot-

The looper virus could be purified, packaged and sold as a new, environmentally-friendly control for insects that attack cotton, alfalfa, tomato and other vegetables," said Patrick V. Vail of the USDA Agricultural Research Service. This pesticide kills a broader array of pests than four viral insecticides already approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to Vail. Once ingested by the insect pests, the virus spreads throughout their bodies, causing deterioration and death. The residue then becomes poisonous to others of the species.

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MSU Cropping Systems Tour on September 10

Producers are invited to the MSU/Clarksville Experiment Station in Ionia County for a Crop Field Day and free lunch to those pre-registered prior to the Sept. 10 crop tour.

The field day will begin at 10 a.m. and make several stops. Three stops will compare these different cropping methods - conventional till, no-till with reduced inputs, and ridge-till with no herbicides used. Participants can compare these systems on soybeans, corn and wheat. Yes even wheat can be successfully produced on ridge! MSU crop specialist Dr. Jim Kelly, Dr. Karen Ren-ner, and Barry Brothers will be speaking at these plots as well.

Another stop will investigate a rotation of corn-soy-wheat with six rows of each alternating. Here you will be able to see the "edge effect" with increased yields on the outer rows. Speakers here include MSU specialists Dr. Fran Pierce and Dr. Doug Landis.

One other stop will be at the MSU Extension/Soil District corn phosphorus plots. Here you'll see whether or not 50 pounds of phosphorus over the MSU recommended rates will increase yields. This is year five for these plots. It will feature both conventional and no-till corn grown under both irrigated and dry-land systems.

After the free lunch, farm equipment dealers will briefly speak about each piece of equipment they have on display there.

For those wishing to see how non-traditional fertilizers work, there will be a tour of the Blough Brothers corn fertility plots a few miles toward Lowell.

Pre-registration is required! Call the Ionia County Extension Office at (616) 527-3537 to register!

The MSU Clarksville Experiment Station is located 5 miles south and 5 miles west of exit 59 (Clarksville) off I-96.

Fruit Chemical Usage Summary Released

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), through the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service, has published its first Agricultural Chemical Usage Fruit and Nuts Summary publication. The survey was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Pesticide Data Program.

The purpose of the program is to upgrade the reliability of pesticide use statistics and the quality of information on pesticide residues in food. This report includes farm use of fertilizers and pesticides for the 1991 crop year for fruit, nut, and berry crops in twelve major producing states.

The major producing states surveyed were: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

In 1991, Michigan represented a total of 131,200 bearing acres of the survey's targeted fruit. Michigan's targeted fruit crops included apples, blueberries, grapes, peaches, prunes, plums, raspberries, sweet cherries, and tart cherries. Information was collected on the major fertilizers and pesticides applied to Michigan fruit crops.

Nitrogen was applied to 92 percent of the blueberry and peach crops. The lowest rate was 80 percent, which was applied to apples. Phosphate applications were made to 49 percent of the raspberry bearing acres and to 36 percent of the blueberry bearing acres.

Other targeted fruit acres received phosphate application rates that ranged from 21 to 28 percent. Raspberries received potash treatments on 81 percent of the acreage, and 79 percent of the blueberry acreage was treated. Grape acreage received 60 percent potash treatment and peaches had 56 percent treated. The lowest potash application rate was on apples, where 42 percent of bearing acres were treated.

Parquat (Gramoxone) was the most widely used herbicide on Michigan fruit acreage. Parquat applications were made to 69 percent of the grape acres and 30 percent of the peach acres. Other commonly used herbicides were simazine (Prinex), diuron (Karmex, Dires), glysophate (Roundup, Rutler), and 2,4-D.

The most frequently used insecticide was azinphos-methyl (Guthion), with application to 87 percent of apple acres and 75 percent of sweet cherry acres. Malathion was a commonly used insecticide for the berry crops. Phosmet (Imidan), carbaryl (Sevin, Sevita), chlorpyrifos (Lorsban), es-fenvalerate (Asana), and ethyl parathion were other insecticides applied to Michigan targeted fruits.

The most commonly used fungicide on Michigan's bearing fruit acres was Captan. Captan was applied to 97 percent of the apple acres. It was also applied to 80 percent of the peach crop. Other fungicides frequently used were sulfur, chlorothalonil (Bravo), fenamiphos (Rubicid), ferbam (Carbamate), and benomyl (Bensilate).

The trade names are provided as an aid in reviewing pesticide data. NASS does not mean to imply use of any specific trade names.

Dairymen Cut Energy Costs With Mueller Dairy Farm Equipment and Consumers Power's "Reduce the Use Rebate" Offer!
### Market Outlook

**Seasonal Commodity Price Trends**

**Wheat**

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**Corn**

sales and lower prices also indicate exporting will grow slightly, although much depends on the rest of the world crop and the world’s economic health. The August report gives an expected 65 percent increase in U.S. ending stocks. The projected ending stocks of 1.8 billion bushels is 22.5 percent above last year. This translates into an average price of around $2 per bushel, and 10-15 cents lower at harvest.

For those with old corn crop left, move it for cash: the old crop basis is tight. If you want to stay in the market, buy a cheap option out of the money call option.

For new crop corn, be ready to price on forecast rallies. If the basis is wide, consider using put options; if the basis is narrow or you will have to use commercial storage, consider forward contracting and buying a call.

I realize that for many producers going into the future and options markets is not very feasible. However, many elevators will work out pricing alternatives for you which will bring the same results as those mentioned above without you actually being in the markets, work with them.

**Soybeans**

To some degree, soybeans bring more of the corn story. The fall will find more supply and about the same use as last year, which translates into lower prices.

The August report crop estimates we will have a record U.S. soybean yield, 35.8 bushels per acre, up from last year’s record yield of 34.3 bushels per acre. This translates into 2.08 billion bushels of production, up 4.7 percent, on about the same number of acres.

Michigan, based on Aug. 1 conditions, is projected to have a yield of 35 bushels per acre. While this is 3 bushels below last year’s record, it is still a fairly high yield for Michigan. In the first half of August was not great soybean weather. As you all know, better than the Michigan soybean crop could not stand an early frost.

At this point, total U.S. soybean supply is expected to be up about 50 million bushels, and depending about 14 million bushels compared to last year. This would increase projected ending stocks for the 1992-93 marketing year to 320 million bushels from the 1991-92 marketing year’s relatively tight 285 million bushels.

Notice we can go from plenty of ending stocks for the fairly low ending stocks on a swing of 35 million bushels, or a one-half bushel decrease in expected U.S. yield. What all this means is that a frost scare could mean a significant rally. And an actual early frost would mean higher than presently forecast prices.

### Wheat

For a crop that was "lost" a couple of times, soybeans and production numbers are higher. U.S. production is estimated at 2.34 billion bushels, up 18 percent from last year.

The U.S. yield is expected to be 37 bushels per acre, up nearly 3 bushels and harvested acreage is projected to be 5 million acres. Michigan’s yield is expected to be 50 bushels per acre. While up 7 bushels from last year, it is still way below the record of 66 bushels per acre.

The supply/demand numbers go a long way in explaining the sharp drop in prices. Total supply is expected to be near last year’s levels with smaller ending stocks offsetting the increase in production. What has hurt prices is the expected drop-off in feed use. Wheat is expected to drop off 85 million bushels from this past year due to the corn/wheat price ratio.

**Cattle**

Cattle prices have been hanging in the low range because of the low feed prices. Prices may drop off a little as we go into fall and therefore it is very important to keep feedlots free of any selling pressure. Feeders need to carefully pencil through their needed break-even prices when purchasing feeders.

At present feeder cattle prices, fed cattle markets in the mid $70’s next winter and spring will be required to break even -- even at the low expected corn prices. What you pay for purchased feeder cattle is one of the most important decisions that predetermine feedlot profits.

The other side of the picture is those selling feeders. Prices are generally higher than anyone anticipated with the low corn prices, so consider some down-side price protection.

### Producers Question Lamb Market Declines

Sheep producers are questioning the drop in live lamb and carcass prices, citing low lamb numbers, higher cutout values and a growing spread between carcass and cutout price levels as signals the market is not operating freely. Since the implementation of the new quality and yield grading program in the first week of July, the spread between carcass prices and cutout prices has grown abnormally, said American Sheep Industry Association President Magagna.

He cited the example of a lamb carcass in the Northeast at the 65 pound and up range, selling for $27.25 in July. "The widening of this spread is due to an overall increase in the value of the FSU, chasing feeders. Prices are generally very low and 10-15 cents lower at harvest.

Hogs

Hog slaughter has been running well above low year ago levels and is expected to continue at higher than year ago levels through next spring.

The cheap corn we are seeing will likely keep the industry out of the liquidation stage for a quarter and then it will take over six months to replenish our sow herd. This will bring the same results as low prices. We will likely see low hog prices. Keep extremely current on your marketing plan.

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The other side of the picture is those selling feeders. Prices are generally higher than anyone anticipated with the low corn prices, so consider some down-side price protection.
McFarlane Manufacturing of Sauk City, Wisc., introduces the Ex-Seeder -- a unique new planting system that is the ideal marriage of two excellent products, the McFarlane 16-bar flexible spike tooth harrow and the Gandy Orbit-Air™ applicator. The air-broadcast seeder is front-mounted and delivers seed ahead of the harrow. This unique design enables farmers to plant, incorporate pre-applied chemicals and finish fields in a single pass.

The Ex-Seeder uses the Gandy Orbit-Air seeder to broadcast soybean and grain crops in spaces the seeds more evenly throughout the field. Broadcast seeding, instead of row spacing, gives plants more room, more sunlight and more nutrients to grow. The trailing 16-bar harrow covers the seeds and levels the field.

In addition to planting and field finishing, the Ex-Seeder can provide simultaneous pre-applied chemical incorporation as well. The flexible spike tooth harrow is recommended for shallow incorporation. It takes chemicals down to the proper depth for best results.

The Ex-Seeder is a versatile tillage tool. When you are done planting, the harrow portion of the Ex-Seeder has many other uses. It performs in practically all types of soil and can be used effectively for weed control, field leveling and seedbed preparation.

For conservation tillage practices, McFarlane's flexible design doesn't plug and leaves crop residue on the field surface. The Ex-Seeder offers all these features at a price substantially lower than drills.


Michigan Farm News
August 31, 1992

Single-Step Planting, Incorporating and Finishing

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Scott Lustig Jackson 517/756-8246
Donald Isley Bismark 517/486-2854
Thomas Rada Duncan 517/458-3683
Richard Bells Ottawa Lake 313/329-3825
Carlton Wells Eaton Rapids 313/836-5121
Paul Smith Mason 517/756-8246
Doug Noorvorse, DSM Kalamazoo 517/447-3683
Robert Molyneux Cooperville 313/329-3825
Ross Vander Brand Belding 517/651-5409
Don Hassevoort Hudsonville 313/376-4987
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Richard Stank Lake Odessa 517/429-7527
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Richard Zenner Coopersville 313/663-3380
Joe Bennen Edmore 517/663-3380
Loren Clemente Battle Creek 517/663-3380
Ted Groholski Burlington 517/663-3380
Barbi Blight Albion 517/663-3380
Herbert height Honor 313/376-4987
Carl Sparks Cassopolis 517/486-7284
Edgar Miller White Pigeon 517/486-7284
Steve Balduis Hartford 517/486-2133
Ray Lowman Gobles 517/486-2133
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Crow's Hybrids aren't the cheapest you can buy. They're the most valuable, though. Here's why:
A. Crow's conducts more research than companies twice its size so we know we have the latest in high performance genetics.
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C. Crow's sells corn -- nothing else. Always has, Results: We live and breathe the business of raising corn.
D. Crow's research is spread all across the Midwest so we know how our hybrids will perform where you live, no matter where you live.
E. Crow's sets its price before we sell a bag of seed. Always has. And, Crow's payment options don't leave much to ask for.

Want proof? See your Crow's Dealer soon. He has yield data and information on all Crow's Hybrids. You'll be impressed. Why not come home to Crow's this year?

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There's Only One Crow's!
Shield Your Farm Machinery For Safety

Power and speed are attributes of the machines that work so efficiently for farmers. But without proper shielding or guarding, farm equipment can quickly turn from useful to deadly, inflicting serious injury or even taking your life.

Most farm machinery is equipped with protective safety shields and warning decals, yet each year we hear too many reports of lives in entanglement accidents.

Machine guards protect farmers from the unexpected -- but only if left in place. Unfortunately, farmers often remove the shields and neglect to replace them, inviting disaster. A recent study by Purdue University found that 50 percent of tractors inspected lacked PTO master shields.

Don't gamble with life and limb. Here are tips for safe operation of your farm machinery:

- Be sure all shields and guards are in place before any machine is started. Even seemingly smooth shafts can catch and wrap clothing if left unguarded.
- Replace any damaged or misplaced guards or shields.
- Fashion and install shields on older machines -- those that were manufactured without them.
- Make sure everyone is clear of the machine before starting the power unit or activating any drive mechanism.
- Unless the operator's manual tells you to do otherwise, always shut off the engine before leaving the operator's platform to adjust, lubricate, clean, or unclog a machine.
- When performing repairs, be sure machinery is properly blocked to prevent crushing injuries or death.
- Wait until all power-driven parts have stopped before attempting inspect or service the machine.
- Before restarting operation, replace or secure all safety shields that you remove or open for access when making field repairs.
- Keep proper tension on all belts to reduce slippage -- and to keep the operator from being tempted to manually "help things along." Chain drives should also be properly adjusted.
- Keep hands, feet, and clothing away from moving parts of the machine.
- During operation, stay clear of things that need to be unguarded for proper function of a machine -- such components as snapping components. Keep them away from operating equipment.
- When performing repairs, be sure machinery is properly blocked to prevent crushing injuries or death.
- Whenever and wherever you perform repairs,remember this: The job's not done until the guard is back on.

From Farm Bureau Insurance

Farm Bureau Commitments Help Snare Rehabilitation Pilot Project

Five counties in Michigan's Thumb have received an $87,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service to participate in the AgrAbility Project. The project links Extension Service agricultural know-how with disability expertise to keep people with disabilities in farming.

The Michigan Cooperative Extension Service, through the Agricultural Engineering Ag Safety Program, will work with the Easter Seal Societies in Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Saginaw and Bay counties to create the Michigan Farm Family Rehabilitation Management program (Mi-FaRM). This one-year pilot program will establish a community-based network to assist farmers and their families with on-the-farm rehabilitation services.

"Farm Bureau is delighted that Michigan was chosen to receive these AgrAbility funds," said Julie Chamberlain, MFB Promotion and Education Manager. "If we want to attract added funds for the future, and expand rehabilitation services statewide, it's critical we raise the $30,000 of seed money to make FaRM a reality." MFB Promotion and Education Manager Julie Chamberlain

COMMITMENTS HELP SNAKE REHABILITATION PILOT PROJECT

If life insurance had a face, it would look like your child's . . . friendly, sincere, and full of promise.

And if you had to choose a company that cared about your child's future, it would be Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan. Farm Bureau Life has the strength and stability to guarantee a secure future for you and your loved ones.

We protect 100,000 Michigan families, but the face we see behind each policy is your child's.

See your Farm Bureau Insurance agent today for a life insurance plan tailored for you and your family. It's the best way to face the uncertainties of life.

MAKING YOUR FUTURE MORE PREDICTABLE
Preliminary AFBF - NAFTA Commodity Specific Analysis

All agricultural trade is included in the NAFTA therefore, effectively excluding itself from full NAFTA participation in agricultural trade. All non-tariff barriers will be converted to tariffs and all tariffs will be gradually reduced to zero within fifteen years depending on the sensitivity of the products. Free trade in agricultural will therefore exist between the two countries within fifteen years of enactment of the agreement.

Canada delayed to liberalize its import restrictions on dairy and poultry in the NAFTA therefore, effectively excluding itself from full NAFTA participation in agricultural trade. All non-tariff barriers will be gradually reduced to zero within fifteen years depending on the sensitivity of the products. Free trade in agricultural will therefore exist between the two countries within fifteen years of enactment of the agreement.

In 1991, Mexico exported $2.5 billion in agricultural products to America. U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico that year totalled $3.0 billion.

Both Mexico and the U.S. will utilize tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) during the transition period to avoid import surges for a small number of commodities. Mexico will use TRQs on a somewhat wider range of commodities but on a smaller value of imports than the United States.

In most cases, TRQs will set a limit on the quantity of imports that may be imported each year under the gradually reduced tariff. In general, once a TRQ has been imported, the original tariff would "snap back" into place. The quota level will also be increased over the transition period in most cases.

Health And Sanitary Standards

U.S. health and sanitary regulations as they apply to food and agricultural imports from Mexico will be maintained. Mexico will use TRQs on a somewhat wider range of commodities but on a smaller value of imports than the United States.

Mexico will phase out tariffs over ten years for about $25 million in U.S. exports. Some key U.S. products in this category include fresh and canned pears, apricots, plums, prunes, fresh cherries, various berries, and canned peas, carrots and olives.

Mexico has agreed to open its market for about $90 million in U.S. exports, in the sector, including most fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, nuts, fruits and vegetables and agricultural products.

Mexico will phase out tariffs for five years for about $25 million in U.S. exports. Some key U.S. products in this category include fresh and canned pears, apricots, plums, prunes, fresh cherries, various berries, and canned peas, carrots and olives.

Mexico has raised its import restrictions for about $50 million in U.S. exports, in the sector, including most fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, nuts, fruits and vegetables and agricultural products.

Mexico will phase out tariffs for five years for about $25 million in U.S. exports. Some key U.S. products in this category include fresh and canned pears, apricots, plums, prunes, fresh cherries, various berries, and canned peas, carrots and olives.
Hessian fly adults are active now, laying eggs in volunteer wheat. These adults have emerged from larvae which infested wheat earlier this spring. Hessian flies are small (1/8 inch) mosquito-like insects.

The adults lay eggs on the leaves of wheat and the larval feed between the leaf sheaths. Full infested plants frequently wither/kill, while spring infested plants produce less grain and may develop lodging problems.

Hessian fly is largely controlled by observing the "fly-free date." That's the date in the fall when wheat can be safely planted without risk of fall infestation by Hessian fly. Since the flies emerge in late summer, sufficient waiting time prior to planting is critical to ensure that all adults have died and cannot lay eggs in the crop.

Planting prior to the fly free date or allowing volunteer wheat to persist through the fall, increases the risk for Hessian fly damage. Volunteer wheat should be controlled in the fall with either tillage or herbicides to prevent the successful over-wintering of Hessian fly.

Reprinted from the August 12 MSU Field Crop Advisory Team Alert

**Crop Advisory Team Alert**

Reprinted from the August 12 MSU Field Crop Advisory Team Alert

**Preliminary AFBF - NAFTA Commodity Specific Analysis Continued...**

Fresh grapes, onions, peaches and preserved cherries, mushrooms, canned corn and prepared peanuts are among products that will be tariff free after ten years. The export value of all U.S. products in this category is about $35 million.

Potatoes and potato products will be tariff-free after ten years but a tariff rate quota will be applied during the transition period. The initial quota level for fresh U.S. potatoes will be 15 thousand metric tons. An additional 2 thousand metric tons will be established for frozen potatoes, U.S. exports of fresh and frozen potatoes (not including potato chips) totaled 9 thousand tons in 1991.

The U.S. exported $12 million in apples to Mexico in 1991. The tariff-free quota to be established for apples will be the highest level of Mexican imports from the U.S. during the past three years - 55 thousand metric tons. The 30 percent above-quota tariff will be phased out over ten years.

Finally, Mexico will establish a tariff-free quota of 50 thousand metric tons for U.S. imports of dry edible beans (U.S. exports in 1991 were 38 thousand tons but were high as 153 thousand tons in 1990, a Mexican drought year). The quota will be increased by 3 percent each year and the above-quota tariff of 139 percent will be phased out over fifteen years, by a 24 percent reduction over the first six years and then by a straight line phase out over the remaining nine years.

Mexico exported $1.3 billion in fruits and vegetables to the U.S. in 1991. Key Mexican exports include bananas, strawberries, limes, oranges and orange juice, melons, mangoes, tomatoes and paste, asparagus, frozen broccoli and cauliflower, cucumbers, onions, peppers, citrus, eggplant, squash, and cut flowers. These commodities accounted for $1.2 billion of the total.

The tariff on asparagus during the period Jan. 1 to Jan. 31 will be reduced immediately from 25 percent to 17.5 percent, but this tariff will then be phased out over a fifteen year transition period. The 25 percent tariff on asparagus imported from Feb. 1 to June 30 will be reduced on a straight line over 15 years. The tariff on asparagus imported during the remainder of the year will be phased out over five years. The 12.5 percent year round tariff on white asparagus will be eliminated immediately.

The 17.5 percent U.S. tariffs on frozen asparagus, frozen broccoli and frozen cauliflower will be reduced to 15 percent immediately and then phased out over ten years.

**Grains**

The U.S. is a major exporter of grains to Mexico. The total value of this trade in 1991 was $740 million. Sorghum was the single most important commodity in 1991 with exports at $371 million. However, Mexican demand for grains, and especially for corn, has traditionally depended on the availability of domestic supplies. In 1991, the U.S. exported $147 million in corn to Mexico (1.3 million tons), but just the year before - a Mexican drought year - the U.S. exported $400 million (3.5 million tons) in corn to Mexico.

Other important U.S. grain exports include feeders and fodders ($80 million in 1991),

Continued on page 11
Preliminary AFBF - NAFTA Commodity Specific Analysis Continued...

Approximately 175 young farmers from across the state were in Grand Ledge August 15 and 16 for the first Michigan Farm Bureau State Young Farmer softball tournament. Twelve teams participated in two days of tournament play, as well as a hog roast on Saturday night. Three Honors went to the Montmorency/Presque Isle County team pictured above. The Branch/Calhoun County team placed second; third place honors went to Arenac County, with Gratiot County Young Farmers taking fourth place.

Approximately $7 million in sugar and related products from Mexico in 1991, of which $26 million was in molasses and candies. The U.S. has agreed to eliminate restrictions on sugar imports from Mexico over fifteen years. The U.S. will immediately eliminate the 6.25 cent over-quota tariff on imports from Mexico by 15 percent.

Mexico will elimi...
Roggenbuck July Volunteer of the Month
Sanilac County Farm Bureau member Orvel Roggenbuck has been named as the Farm Bureau July Volunteer of the Month, for his efforts as Local Affairs Committee Chairman. Roggenbuck, who farms near Snerow with his wife, Lucille, and son, Les, raising sugar beets, corn and soybeans, spearheaded two very informative meetings for other county Farm Bureau members.

One of those meetings was with members of the local county road commission and engineer to discuss county road construction and needed improvement projects, including erosion control structures and local bridges. The second meeting, held between the Sanilac County Extension office and the County Farm Bureau board of directors, the Local Affairs Committee, and the Information Committee, looked at critical issues such as CES funding and programming needs.

1992 Michigan Farm Numbers Unchanged

The number of farms in Michigan during 1992 is estimated at 54,000 farms, the same as last year, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the second year since 1983 that farm numbers have not shown a yearly decline. Michigan has 10.8 million acres of land in farms, unchanged from the previous three years. The average size of a Michigan farm in 1992 is 200 acres.

Of all Michigan farms, 8,000 were in the $100,000 and over economic sales class. These large farms operated a total of six million acres. Farms with sales between $10,000 and $99,999 accounted for 18,000 farms and 3.3 million acres. Farms with sales between $1,000 and $9,999 represented 26,000 farms and 1.5 million acres. Farmland numbers and acreage within economic sales classes did not change from last year.

A farm is defined as "any establishment from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year" and must be operating on June 1. Land in farms includes: crop and livestock acreage, wasteland, woodland, pasture, land in summer fallow, idle cropland, and land enrolled in the conservation reserve program and other set-aside or commodity acreage programs. It excludes all land operated by establishments not qualifying as farms.

Nationally farms have continued to grow in size, while at the same time, the total acreage has dropped. The percentage of farms in the U.S., according to a recent Agriculture Department report.

USDA said there were 9,320 fewer farms on June 1 than there were a year ago. The current figure is 2.09 million farms, down from 2.1 million last year. A decade ago there were 2.4 million farms in the nation.

A USDA spokesperson said the report represents a gradual trend over several decades. The department's figures indicated that the average size of an American farm has grown from 427 acres in 1982 to 467 acres in 1991 and 468 acres in 1992.

The data also show that the total amount of land in farming is shrinking. As of June 1, there were 980 million acres reported to be in farming. In 1991, there were 983 million acres in farms, which is down from 1.027 billion acres in farms one decade ago.

Unlike the increase in the number of small farms, the number of mid-size farms, with sales of $10,000 to $99,000, fell from 775,100 to 763,200. There was also a drop from 327,000 to 326,340 in the number of farms with sales over $100,000.

Seven states added farms. Oklahoma, Tennessee and Washington gained 1,000 farms each, while Oregon added 500, and New Jersey, Maryland and Wyoming each added 200 farms. At the same time, three states each lost 2,000 farms - Texas, Ohio and Kansas.

Texas has the most farms in the nation with 183,000. Missouri was next with 107,000 and Iowa was third with 102,000 farms.

Nearly 16 percent of the nation's farms are in the $100,000 and over economic sales class. These farms operate almost 52 percent of the nation's farmland.

MSU Professor Receives National Award

The American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) gave one of its most prestigious awards to a Michigan State University Department of Animal Science professor.

The Animal Industry Service Award was presented to Harlan D. Ritchie, MSU animal science faculty member since 1964. The award was presented during the 84th ASAS convention Aug. 8-11 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The award is presented each year to a member of the society for distinguished service to animal agriculture. Ritchie was cited for his leadership in beef cattle genetic improvement, efficiency of beef production and food safety as it relates to animal agriculture.

Internationally known for his expertise in beef cattle production, he has authored or co-authored 250 technical papers and has been repeatedly invited to make presentations to fellow scientists and beef producers in 27 states, four Canadian provinces, Mexico, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.

Ritchie is an MSU Cooperative Extension Service beef specialist and is the MSU Department of Animal Science faculty member in charge of research and teaching at the Lake City Experiment Station.