FDA Gives BST Green Light:
90-Day Moratorium Still in Effect

The Food and Drug Administration has announced approval of the new animal drug sometribove, a recombinant bovine somatotropin (BST) product, for increasing milk production in dairy cows.

Sometribove increases milk output by supplementing a cow’s natural BST, a hormone produced in the pituitary gland. Milk from treated cows has been found to have the same nutritional value and composition as milk from untreated cows.

“This has been one of the most extensively studied animal drug products to be reviewed by the agency,” said FDA Commissioner David A. Kessler, M.D. “The public can be confident that milk and meat from BST-treated cows is safe to consume.”

As reported by the General Accounting Office in September 1992, FDA found evidence in the submitted clinical trials that BST-treated cows have slightly increased incidence of mastitis. In March, an FDA advisory committee met to discuss concerns raised by GAO that antibiotic treatments for mastitis could lead to increased antibiotic residues in milk.

The committee concluded that adequate safeguards are in place to prevent unsafe levels of antibiotic residues from entering the milk supply. Nevertheless, additional steps have been taken to ensure that any unsafe residues in the milk of BST-treated cows are detected well before the milk or its products reach the grocery store shelves. Montamio Co. of St. Louis, Mo., for example, that agreed to conduct a post-approval monitoring program that includes the following elements:

- A two-year tracking system of milk production and drug residues in 21 top dairy states, that will periodically compare the amount of milk discarded after BST is marketed to the amount discarded prior to BST.
- A 12-month comparison of the proportion of milk discarded due to positive drug tests between BST-treated and untreated herds.
- A reporting system to monitor all BST use and follow up on all complaints.
- The use of sometribove in 24 commercial dairy herds will be specifically monitored for mastitis, animal drug use and the resulting loss of milk.

A local focal point of NAFTA debate within the farm community was effectively by converting its current sugar-sweetened domestic sugar production.

First Time Commercial Use of ISV in EPA Chemical Cleanup

A new technology for treating hazardous waste, originally developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for treating radioactive waste, is being utilized for the first time on a commercial basis in Michigan, at an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Super Fund Site.

The process, called in situ vitrification (ISV), involves the “in place” electrical melting of soils and other earthen materials to 3,600°F for purposes of destroying, removing and/or permanently immobilizing hazardous materials that are present.

Soil is converted into a rock-like material that’s considered harmless, and the actual mass of the soil, once melted, is reduced by 20 to 30 percent. The resulting hole is then filled and covered with clean top soil and reseeded.

GeoSafe Corporation, based out of Richland, Washington, is under an EPA contract to apply the technology at the Parson Chemical Site located in Eaton County, according to Leonard Zink, EPA’s on-scene coordinator for Region 5.

“With this change, Mexican sugar exports will be capped at 250,000 metric tons after the sixth year of the agreement, and HFCS must be included in NAFTA’s definition of domestic sugar production.

Mexico has also agreed to a price-based mechanism that would limit Mexican imports of fruits, citrus and vegetables if U.S. producer pay prices were dramatically affected, according to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. Although details were not readily available, Mexican imports of those items would reportedly be controlled and limited by adjustable U.S. tariffs when needed to support U.S. prices.

Kalamazoo County farmer Bill Saunders didn’t know what to do with the old barn originally built in 1870 on his farm. But in 1988, he knew he had to make the difficult decision to either tear the old barn down or have it worked on so that it could continue to be used.

He opted for the latter and contracted with M. Stitt Barn Restoration of Hesperia to have the barn floors and all beams replaced and the 32 foot by 64 foot barn upgraded for hay and equipment storage.

Unfortunately, after the barn had been jacked up off of its foundation, Kalamazoo County was hit with a fairly strong August thunderstorm. When it was over, the barn had been toppled and totally destroyed, taking a nearby silo with it as well.

At that time, Mike Stitt made a promise to Saunders that he would rebuild the barn to its original specifications, which was, coincidentally, made easier by some work Saunders had done previously.

Building Barns the Way They Used to

A team of oxen pull the second bent of the barn into place, as workers help guide the beams into place. Approximately 60 workers were on hand to help and learn some old tricks of barn raising.

Photo: Mike Smith
Grassroots Policy Development: Making Your Organization Work For You

I believe this has been one of the most exciting policy development (PD) seasons ever in Farm Bureau. County PD committees across the state worked diligently to generate well-thought-out and state and national policy recommendations for their county annuals. These proposed policies generated spirited debate and discussion.

Much of the credit goes to the Farm Bureau leaders who serve on the county Policy Development committees. These men and women put many hours into gathering input and opinions on the kinds of policies that should be presented at the annuals. Their efforts were helped along this year by a special Policy Development questionnaire that was distributed to all regular members through the Michigan Farm News.

Nearly 2,200 of these forms were returned to Michigan Farm Bureau and forwarded to the county PD committees.

Policies approved at the county annual meetings dealing with local issues became the official policy of the county Farm Bureau for the coming year. I urge you to study and understand your local policies, so you can assist your county in the next important step: working to implement that policy on the local level.

Policy recommendations dealing with state and national issues were forwarded to the Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee. This hard working group, chaired by MFBI Vice President Wayne Wood, spent the fall researching issue areas, talking to experts and reviewing input from MFBI commodity advisory committees. They are now carefully studying the county policy recommendations and consolidating them into a slate of policies to be considered by the delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, in Detroit.

Although the exact shape of the policy recommendations is still being formed, I think we'll see discussion at the annual meeting revolve around these major issues:

- balancing the federal budget
- limiting federal taxes
- health care reform
- private property rights
- reform of the endangered species act
- the shape of the S$ Farm Bill
- school finance and education reform
- farmland preservation
- reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- agriculture and its impact on the environment (especially in regard to water quality and chemical use)

Policies approved on state issues will become the official policy of the Michigan Farm Bureau for the coming year. You'll be able to follow the successful progress your organization makes in implementing those policies by reading "Capitol Corner" in the Michigan Farm News each month.

Policies on national and international issues will be forwarded to the AFBI Policy Development Committee, of which I will be a member. That committee's proposed policies will be considered by the Michigan delegates to the AFBI annual meeting, Jan. 9 - 13, in Ft. Lauderdale.

It's always great to be a Farm Bureau member, but it's especially exciting to be involved in our organization during policy development time. You can be proud of the effort your leaders put into making sure the policies reflect your needs and the needs of the agricultural industry.

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November 15, 1993

Michigan Farm News
Education Reform
Several bills have been introduced and specific issues are being debated by both the House and Senate members. MFB has taken a position on several of the key elements of the Education Reform Plan (see page 17 for a question and answer presentation on school finance issues).

Career and Technical Education:
The governor's plan does not include funding for Career and Technical Education programs. These programs are extremely critical to agricultural education and FFA.

MFB supports the funding of the career and technical education programs beyond the basic per pupil grant.

Schools of Choice:
The governor’s plan would allow school districts to “opt out” of the choice program, thereby allowing out-of-district students into their system. The House has offered an "opt in" program requiring all school districts to adopt some type of in-district choice unless a public justification exists. MFB is_instructed stating why choice will not be offered.

Another House proposal calls for "choice classrooms," providing options within their own school of building. Parents could petition local school boards for a particular kind of instruction.

MFB supports the concept of school choice and continues to monitor specific proposals as they are presented.

Charter Schools:
The Senate has amended the charter school legislation to exclude religious schools and has narrowed the definition of who can grant "charter school" status to school boards, state Board of Education, and universities, or a new state charter agency. The House has introduced the concept of "public school academies," allowing local school districts to grant charters to a teacher or group of teachers. It allows the state authority to grant charters to local districts, intermediate school districts, community colleges, state public universities and certain state departments. It allows the state Board of Education to grant a charter only on appeal.

MFB supports the concept of charter schools and agrees with limiting the granting authority, but opposes the creation of a new state charter agency.

Boundary Commission: Legislation has been introduced that would establish a statewide boundary commission that would develop a plan to recognize various regional service districts, ISDs, community college boundaries and report to the Legislature any recommendations for changes to these boundaries. The Legislature would choose whether or not to act upon the recommendations.

MFB opposes the establishment of a boundary commission, and states that the reorganization of school districts should be studied and considered but should continue to be voluntary.

Parental Involvement Improvement:
The governor’s proposal calls for an education advisory board which would establish education goals and write a school improvement plan as required in P.A. 25 of 1990 (the Quality Education Act).

A new school governing board comprised of elected parents and teachers would establish fiscal policies regarding school building budgets, contracts with vendors, etc.

MFB supports the implementation of P.A. 25 and, therefore, supports the education advisory board, but opposes the school building governing board because it duplicates the local school board’s role.

Longer School Day and Year:
The House has introduced legislation that would lengthen the required school year by two days each year beginning in 1995-96 until the school year is 10 days in the year 2010. A waiver would be available for exception from the school year requirement.

MFB supports the authority of the local school board to creatively utilize their property and resources, therefore, the decision to either increase the length of the school day or increase the school year beyond the state required days should be the decision of the local school board.

Student Education Bank Account:
A bill has been introduced in the Senate that would establish a trust account of up to $24 billion to help pay for the first two years of education or job training after high school. The state would contribute $200/year/student that would build up in the student’s account during K-12 school years. Upon graduation from high school, the fund ($2,000 in current dollars) would be used towards the first two years of college or trade school, and be considered full payment of community college tuition.

MFB opposes the college trust account because it does not directly involve K-12 education and any dollars that the state generates should be directed towards K-12 funding.

Education Warranty:
Upon issuance of a high school diploma, the school district would issue a warranty certifying the graduate has achieved a set of basic proficiency skills. Up to two years after graduation, if an employer finds that an employee is deficient in certain skill areas, the employer and the student may make application to the school system that issued the warranty to be retrained in the deficient areas at no cost to the employer or the student. The employer must use a state issued proficiency test.

MFB supports the concept of an "educational warranty" of a diploma and warranty is issued only to those students who have met minimum state standards and authority is given to school systems to allow them to expedite disruptive students.

STATUS
Several bills have been reported out of both the House and Senate committees and are being considered on the floors of both houses this week.

MFB CONTACT
Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046

See page 17 For a question and answer presentation on school finance issues.

Oil Pollution Liability
MFB POSITION
Farm Bureau opposes the unreasonable level of oil pollution liability or insurance and will file comments with the MMS to eliminate or significantly reduce the impact.

MFB CONTACT
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The Oil Protection Act of 1990, enacted by Congress in response to the Valdez Alaska oil spill, now applies to be much broader than Congress intended. The act may apply to many businesses, individuals and farms, unless Congress takes action to correct mistakes.

The act requires firms and individuals to show proof of the ability to financially responsible for $150 million in potential pollution liability. For smaller firms without that level of assets, $150 million in insurance would be required to cover each facility. The definition of "facility" in the act includes "any structure that is used to produce, transport or store petroleum." The term includes motor vehicles, rolling stock and pipelines.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the U.S. Department of Interior has issued an advance notice of proposed rule-making to implement the act. MMS recognizes the problem businesses and farmers will have in complying with the $150 million oil pollution liability or insurance requirements. However, the act does not appear to permit any flexibility for MMS to waive or limit the extent of the coverage.

Amendments to the Recreational Trespass Act
Senate Bills 504 and 505, sponsored by Sen. Faust (D-Westland), amend the Recreational Trespass Act to allow a peace officer to seize property and enforce the act upon complaint of the landowner. Penalty provisions are provided for a first-time violator at 90 days in jail or $100 fine or both, and subsequent violations within three years increase the fine to $1,000 and 90 days in jail or both.

The courts may order the violator to pay the costs of prosecution and to make restitution for any damage to the property arising out of the violation. If the person trespasses while hunting or fishing, the court may revoke the person's hunting or fishing license for up to three years. Language offered by MFB also ensures that no cause of action shall arise against the owner of the property for an injury unless there was an unreasonable risk of harm that the owner was aware of and the owner failed to exercise reasonable care to make the condition safe.

Possession of property is not required on farmlands. No one may post another's property without written consent of the owner. The requirement that consent to use another's property has to be in writing was removed.

Senate Bill 505 amends the Revised Judicature Act to include violation of the Recreational Trespass Act in the definition of "crime," which was necessary to enforce the seizure of property.

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Michigan Farm News

November 15, 1993
Temperatures during October were more typical of late November or early December, with mean temperatures for the month generally ranging from 2-5 degrees F below normal.

The cold weather was the result of a persistent upper air troughing pattern over the Great Lakes region, which allowed cold, arctic-origin air masses to move southward into the central and eastern U.S. While some sections of the state experienced periods of heavy rain and significant fieldwork delays early, several stretches of drier weather allowed harvest to continue by month's end.

However, the biggest news weatherwise may be the recent strengthening of El-Nino. The current jet stream pattern accompanied circulation in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean. The current El-Nino event is now over three years old, the longest such event of the past century. If this circulation does continue to strengthen in the upcoming months, it may mean a warmer and drier than normal winter for Michigan. Sound familiar?

Michigan Farm News

MDA Offers Tests for Dry Edible Bean Seed

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering tests to detect diseases in dry edible bean seed, after a warm and humid summer created conditions conducive to the development of plant disease, according to Bill Schuette, director of MDA.

Some diseases are carried by seeds, including bacterial blight, bean common mosaic virus and anthracnose. Contamination of a field by disease can result in the loss of all or part of the crop.

Schuette said one way to ensure a healthy crop is to have dry bean seeds tested before the growing season. "Our tests for these diseases represent just one of the many ways the Department of Agriculture helps farmers grow healthy crops," he said. "This partnership between our farmers and state government is vital to enhancing the strength of Michigan agriculture."

Laboratory testing is one of the measures farmers should take to prevent crop loss due to disease. Other important steps include the use of resistant varieties, field inspections, and seed treatment applications. Bin-run seed which has not been field inspected or lab-tested should not be planted.

All dry bean varieties are susceptible to bacterial blight and are candidates for blight testing.

If a farmer wants several tests done on a single sample, five pounds is usually sufficient unless the seed being tested is large, such as kidney or cranberry bean seeds. A gallon for large seed and one-half gallon for small seed is sufficient.

Samples for testing should be securely packaged and sent to: Michigan Department of Agriculture, Laboratory Division, Seed, 1615 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, Michigan 48823. Farmers should submit samples in autumn or early winter for faster turnaround time. Results are reported on first-test forms.

For further information, contact: Steve McGuire at (517) 337-5084 or Dr. Pram Sood at (517) 337-6991.

Michigan Crop Management Conference, Dec. 15-16

Discussion of increased regulations that will affect on-farm and commercial pesticide management will be part of the Michigan Crop Management Conference, Dec. 15-16. The conference, intended for growers, crop consultants and agricultural representatives, will be held at the Holiday Inn South, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. The program will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, and from 8 a.m. to noon, Thursday.

The opening session, following comments by MSU President Peter McPherson, will cover the new worker protection standards and other pesticide management regulations. Concurrent technical sessions Wednesday afternoon will focus on field crop production, a regulatory update and field crop pest management.

Thursday's program will include concurrent technical sessions on pesticide applicator training, field management in field crops, fruit and vegetable production, and field crop fertility practices.

The conference is being sponsored by Michigan State University Extension, the MSU Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, and the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA).

Conference registration details and a program brochure can be obtained by writing to the MABA, 2300 Kerry St., Suite 104, Lansing, MI 48912-3657, or by calling (517) 485-8585.

BST Approved by FDA (continued from page 1)

In the Aug. 24, 1990, issue of Science Magazine, FDA scientists summarized more than 120 studies that examined the human safety of recombinant BST. The agency's conclusion that BST poses no risk to human health has been affirmed by scientific reviews in the past several years conducted by the National Institutes of Health, Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and drug regulatory agencies of Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Economic Community, and by an issues audit by the HHS Office of Inspector General.

In May, FDA sponsored a two-day joint advisory committee meeting on the labeling of food products derived from BST-treated cows. Based on the conclusions of the committee member, and on its review of the facts, FDA has concluded that it lacks a basis under the statute to require special labeling of these foods. Food companies, however, may voluntarily label their products provided the information is truthful and not misleading.

"There is virtually no difference in milk from treated and untreated cows," Kessler said about BST. "In fact, it's not possible using current scientific techniques to tell them apart. We have looked carefully at every single question raised, and we are confident this product is safe for consumers, for cows and for the environment." Somerhofe is manufactured by Monsanto. It will be marketed under the trade name Posilac.
You're invited to a dairy seminar.

No one should miss this informative seminar on stray voltage and the latest in dairy facilities planning. Jointly sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension and Consumers Power, the seminar explains the causes and effects of stray voltage, how to recognize it and how it can be corrected. We’ll also highlight the characteristics of healthy, well-managed dairy facilities. This seminar is coming to your area soon, so watch your mail for more information. We’re sure you’ll want to attend. If you think you have a stray voltage problem, call Consumers Power's stray voltage specialists immediately at 1-800-252-VOLT.
Corn - To Store or Not to Store?

Decision-making time is at hand. Do we store or not? By the time you read this report, the information from the Nov. 1 Crop Report, released Nov. 9, should have been incorporated into the markets. Now, as we go through the remainder of the market, this issue will become more and more important.

The two big demand variables are feed and exports. Feed use will be strong, but there are other variables that will be out there. The USDA forecast is for a considerable cutback in exports. And we are running behind a year ago. However, even at the slower pace, exports seem to be running at levels that will match expectations. Therefore, if we see a pickup in exports, it could be quite positive given the relatively tight ending stocks projected.

In making the storage decision, there are a number of factors which need to be considered. Several of the key ones are availability of on-farm storage, storage costs, and the downside risk in storage. The first three factors are particularly a function of a farm, so I will concentrate on the last two.

Direction of the markets, i.e., where futures prices are going, is, of course, the hardest to answer. It appears futures prices are near world highs. However, the USDA is projecting the beef markets to advance with some downside protection. This would indicate some stability. However, we know new information is entering the market all the time and need to consider whether the market has more upside or downside potential given the possibilities. At this time, I feel the market is slightly more equipped to take the upside potential than downside, which would suggest staying in the market with at least some of your production.

Basis levels and where they are likely to go are easier to find and more predictable. Nearby basis levels are wider than normal and this suggests the market is willing to pay for some storage. This is confirmed by the forward contract prices.

Wheat

Wheat was making a nice rally as we entered November. If that rally has continued, it is probably time to part with more of your wheat. Much of the rally had to do with the poorer than expected spring wheat crop and that information can be in by now. Typically, it does not pay to store past the end of the year.

Wheat exports year-to-date are running 2.5 percent behind last year's 5 month levels into the wheat marketing year. The USDA is projecting wheat exports for the year to be down almost 17 percent. At this point, exports are beginning to run at a rate which will make the USDA's projection. Russia has now said that its production will be below expectations. This trend is one we are seeing before the effect of that information due to the financial problems Russia is facing.

Strategy: If you think prices are going to remain level or drop and you have on-farm storage, consider the following alternatives. Pencil through contracting for delivery in the future. Also consider hedging or a hedge-to-future. If you are willing to pay a little for the upside potential, consider a minimum price contract or buy a call if you have some downside protection and want to be in a position to take advantage of some of the upside potential.

If you think prices are going to remain level or drop and you have on-farm storage, consider the following alternatives. Pencil through contracting for delivery in the future. Also consider hedging or a hedge-to-future. If you are willing to pay a little for the upside potential, consider a minimum price contract or buy a call if you have some downside protection and want to be in a position to take advantage of some of the upside potential.

The wheat basis has tightened to near normal levels. If you want to stay in the wheat market, consider moving from storage to delivery with a basis contract or taking all your money and buying a call option. A minimum price contract would serve the same purpose.

Cattle

The Oct. 1 USDA monthly 7-State and quarterly 13-State Cattle-On-Feed Reports released Oct. 22 showed that there are plenty of cattle in the feedlots. Oct. 1 placements were 14 percent in the report and 9 percent in the quarterly report compared to a year ago. Placements were down 1 percent in the last quarter, but were down 1 percent in September. The weight breakdown shows that steer weights are down more than a year ago through at least the first half of next year. Along with that, weights are very likely to be higher.

Remember, last winter, starting in November, the High Plains had a very hard winter and it is not likely to repeat itself. While prices will work their way back up into the mid $70s this winter and the upper $70s for a while next spring, we are not likely to reach the $80s without some disaster. And next summer and fall, we could drop back into the $70s. This is telling us that before we know the effect of that information due to the financial problems Russia is facing.

Strategy: The cost of carrying cattle is relatively wide and the market is indicating it will pay to sell into the new calendar year. On the market direction question, exports are the key. Exports are projected to be down 17 percent for the 1993-94 marketing year versus 1992-93. At this point, actual exports and sales for export have been running well, but there are some signs of them picking up.

Dairy Outlook

Dr. Larry Hamm, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

The dairy market fundamentals are positive and farm level milk prices should continue to increase. There could be a quiet revolution underway in the dairy market as the long-term slump in butter demand may be reversing.

Milk production is just even with production last year. Production in Wisconsin was off 6 percent during the third quarter (July-September). Wisconsin is the only state that was lower than 1992. During the same period, Minnesota and New York were down 2 percent. Most of the rest of the traditional dairy region states were just even with last year’s production levels. Milk supply has been static.

However, commercial disappearance is continuing to increase. For the first eight months of 1993, commercial disappearance is estimated to be up 2.4 percent over the January-August period in 1992, adding upward pressure. The Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price was up 73 cents per pound in September and will go above $1.24 per October. This strength in the M-W assures that butter prices will be going up over the next few months.

This price relief is obscuring a quiet revolution underway in the butter markets. For the past several years, the USDA has been increasing the "butterfat" by changing the butterfat content. For instance, in the "lift" by lowering the butter purchase price for the year, the power price is in the mid $70s for the year if you have not already done so. This is telling us that if butter prices rise due to the scheduled purchase of butter and non-fat dry milk powder.

Because the CCC was purchasing only butter and no powder, economic theory suggested that butter was being priced too high and the powder was too low. The USDA is now changing the "butterfat" by increasing the powder price in order to maintain the price support target at $10.10 (3.67 percent test) per cwt.

Eggs

Henry Larzelere, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Egg prices at the end of October were 3.4 cents a dozen above October 1992. The total number of eggs sold for consumption in December are expected to average in the mid 70s in New York at wholesale for Grade A eggs in early 1994.

Egg prices will likely be lower in the first quarter of 1994 than in the same quarter of 1993 due to the potential for large egg supplies. The U.S. number of layers and egg production in October were 2 percent above October 1992. The typical chick hatch in each of the first nine months of 1993 was above a year ago. This will mean more layers and larger egg production than expected earlier through at least the first half of 1994.

Egg prices in the first three months of 1994 will average in the low 70s. March will see prices above January and February, and an early April, that will mean a seasonal drop in March.
AMAP - Animal Management Advancement Project

It Could Be What Your Livestock Operation Needs

A management education program developed by MSU experts and Extension staff is available this fall to help livestock producers strengthen their business future.

With Michigan's livestock producers facing many challenges now and in the future, this program, known as the Animal Management Advancement Project, or AMAP, is a curriculum-based approach that will acquaint managers with the basic management skills they need to cope with these challenges locally, nationally and internationally.

According to a recent study on the future of agriculture, the outlook reveals a more capital- and management-intensive industry. There will be a bigger demand for stronger management skills, increased governmental regulations, continued demand for more environmentally-friendly production, globalized markets, products that meet specific consumer demands, greater emphasis on data and data management, and greater coordination of markets and factors of production through contract marketing.

AMAP gives the producer the management skills used by many businesses to stay competitive. Written as an interdisciplinary effort by several MSU departments and field staff, the introductory AMAP workshop stresses the strategic planning process.

The workshop encourages a close interaction between the workshop experts and the participant, and strongly encourages all members of the farm business and their spouses to attend.

Introductory AMAP Workshop Outline

The participants will have developed a business plan tailored to their own unique business in this 14-hour workshop. This business plan has four main components:

1) The business mission.
2) Long-term goals to accomplish the mission.
3) Short-term goals that achieve the long-term goals.
4) Tactics that reach the short-term goals.

They are illustrated through the use of a pyramid with the mission at the base, followed by long-term goals, short-term goals and tactics on the uppermost level.

Mission

The participants begin the workshop learning about management, and how it is done. They also write their own definitions of management, and do an exercise that helps them visualize the areas of management that are most effective — planning, controlling, staffing, directing, and organizing.

In doing strategic planning, the state's competitive business environment is reviewed. Comparisons are made that allow for identifying Michigan's strengths and potential problems. The development of the mission statement is dependent upon individual, family, and business values and circumstances. The participants end the mission portion of the workshop having written their own mission statement.

They also complete homework exercises which includes taking the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory, the rating of critical success factors for their business, and discussing and rewriting their mission statements.

Long-Term Goals

The participants come to the second phase of the workshop and discuss their revised mission statements. Their Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory is scored, and observations are made on how their personality might influence decision making and relating to people.

They discuss the use of the critical success factors in developing their long-term goals. The use of the acronym D.R.I.V.E. (directional, reasonable, inspiring, visible, and exciting) is introduced in assessing long-term goals. Participants develop their own long-term goals for their farm business, and learn how to handle conflicting goals.

Russia to Privatize Farmland

A pilot project to break up large state-owned farms to pave the way for private land ownership was announced by Russian officials, according to a Reuters story. Under the plan, six collective farms about 300 miles east of Moscow will be turned over to private farmers.

More than 90 percent of farmland in Russia is still owned by the state, but officials hope privatization will improve efficiency and increase crop yields. In addition to the pilot project, Gaidar said President Yeltsin was due to sign a decree allowing land to be inherited, bought or sold.
Neighbors Lend Helping Harvest Hands in a Time of Need

Eleven combines and a fleet of trucks and wagons arrived at the soybean fields of Warren Swanson recently, to harvest approximately 150 acres in southern Clinton County, according to St. Johns farmer Bob Kissane, who helped to organize the event with John Schumaker. Swanson was killed in a mid-September farm accident. According to Kissane, many farmers were quick to volunteer with the harvest project. "Each of us just took a few hours from our own fields to come over and help out," Kissane said. "If it had been under different circumstances, it would have been fun." Swanson's wife, Doris, with tear in her eye, said, "It's times like this, that we realize just how much neighbors and friends really do care.

Know When to Say "No" to Children

One important step in preventing childhood accidents on the farm is learning to say "No." When a youngster begs to go along with you and your farm machinery, or wants to be with you out in the fields, please remember this: Agricultural accidents continue to injure or kill far too many children across our nation. An estimated 100 youngsters lose their lives in tractor-related incidents each year. Children ages one to nine are most prone to runaway incidents, while youth ages 10-19 are most susceptible to overturns while operating farm tractors. Some tractors and machinery sit high off the ground, making it difficult for the operator to see immediately in front of and behind the equipment. Operators should always know where children may be working or playing -- and should exercise special precautions when operating equipment in areas where children are present. Remember, too, that children are easily distracted and forget adults' instructions. At no time should children be carried as extra riders on tractors or other farm equip-

From Farm Bureau Insurance

Agricultural accidents continue to injure or kill far too many children across our nation. An estimated 100 youngsters lose their lives in tractor-related incidents each year. Children ages one to nine are most prone to runaway incidents, while youth ages 10-19 are most susceptible to overturns while operating farm tractors. Some tractors and machinery sit high off the ground, making it difficult for the operator to see immediately in front of and behind the equipment. Operators should always know where children may be working or playing -- and should exercise special precautions when operating equipment in areas where children are present. Remember, too, that children are easily distracted and forget adults' instructions. At no time should children be carried as extra riders on tractors or other farm equip-

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Michigan Farm News

Your Michigan NORTHRUP KING Seed Dealers

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<th>Phone No.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alicia</td>
<td>Con Agra Berger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>517-770-4130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alma</td>
<td>McClintic Farms</td>
<td>517-463-7140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alto</td>
<td>Alto Farm Services</td>
<td>616-868-6030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor</td>
<td>Stricter Bros.</td>
<td>313-995-2497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>Itter Bean &amp; Grain</td>
<td>517-662-4461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bancroft</td>
<td>Gerald Cole</td>
<td>517-634-5212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belding</td>
<td>Jerry Gallagher</td>
<td>616-761-3434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch Run</td>
<td>Con Agra Berger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>517-624-9321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blissfield</td>
<td>M.A.C.</td>
<td>517-486-2171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breckenridge</td>
<td>B&amp;W Co-Op</td>
<td>517-842-3104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson City</td>
<td>Harvey Milling Company</td>
<td>517-584-3466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conklin</td>
<td>Arends Farm Service</td>
<td>616-899-2136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantine</td>
<td>Ron Weston</td>
<td>616-455-8219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corunna</td>
<td>Clyde McLosky</td>
<td>517-743-3633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamondale</td>
<td>John Oakley</td>
<td>517-646-0629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorr</td>
<td>Dort Farm Products</td>
<td>616-681-9570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowagiac</td>
<td>Harold Grabemeyer</td>
<td>616-782-8744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowagiac</td>
<td>Joe Van Tyle</td>
<td>616-782-8725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeland</td>
<td>Con Agra Berger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>517-895-2521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer</td>
<td>Tri-County Agra Services</td>
<td>517-542-3196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Odessa</td>
<td>Mark Erickson</td>
<td>616-374-8538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>R &amp; S Crop Service</td>
<td>517-628-2036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill</td>
<td>Con Agra Berger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>517-643-7293</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middleton</td>
<td>M.A.C.</td>
<td>517-236-7263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minden City</td>
<td>Eugene Briolat</td>
<td>517-658-8330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Calvin Smith</td>
<td>313-269-2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Lothrop</td>
<td>Anderson Fertilizer Services, Inc</td>
<td>313-638-5868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Lothrop</td>
<td>Bob Hajek</td>
<td>313-638-5281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owosso</td>
<td>Anderson Fertilizer Services, Inc</td>
<td>517-723-3205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Frank Trierweiler</td>
<td>517-587-6540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Dick Heffelinger</td>
<td>517-283-2444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Farmers Elevator</td>
<td>313-727-3025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockford</td>
<td>Ron Porter</td>
<td>616-874-8196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>Seaman Farms</td>
<td>517-777-2054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City</td>
<td>David LaBar</td>
<td>517-741-3204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestaburg</td>
<td>Con Agra Berger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>517-268-5300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeeland</td>
<td>Zeeland Farm Services</td>
<td>616-772-9042</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This superior hybrid can produce top yields. Exceptional standability means easier harvesting. It has excellent drought tolerance, adapting to a wide range of harvest densities. Adapted to reduced tillage to help you get the most from every acre. Northrup King N4242.

N4242

NORTHRUP KING
**AMAP — Animal Management Advancement Project Dates and Locations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Type</th>
<th>Dates*</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>East Central Region:</strong> Dairy</td>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Brian Troyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 7 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Roger Swartzendruber</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 1, 8 &amp; 15</td>
<td>George Atkeson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 2, 9, &amp; 16</td>
<td>Dave Ezzenga</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 10, 17, &amp; 24</td>
<td>Bill Bevens</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Joe Shaltry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Roger Betz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 21 &amp; 28</td>
<td>Gerald Undquist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Roger Swartzendruber</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Bill Bevens</td>
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<td><strong>Southwest Region:</strong> Dairy</td>
<td>Jan. 14, 21, &amp; 28</td>
<td>Bill Bevens</td>
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<td>April 11 &amp; 18</td>
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<td>April 19 &amp; 26</td>
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<td>April 23 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Roger Betz</td>
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<td>May 7 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Laura Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 15 &amp; 22</td>
<td>Laura Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 22 &amp; 29</td>
<td>Laura Rhodes</td>
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<td><strong>Upper Peninsula:</strong> Dairy</td>
<td>Feb. 10, 17, &amp; 24</td>
<td>Warren Schauer</td>
</tr>
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<td>May 7 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Warren Schauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Central Region:</strong> Dairy</td>
<td>Jan. 12, 19, &amp; 26</td>
<td>George Atkeson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 9, 16, &amp; 23</td>
<td>Roger Peacock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 9, 15, &amp; 22</td>
<td>Joe Shaltry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There may be the need to shift some dates.*

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If you're hoping for a string of luck, we have the perfect place to start.

**Crow's Gold**

For more information, call one of these Crow's Dealers or 1-800-331-7201.

---

1. Rip the string from a bag of our new Crow's Gold hybrids and luck is on your side.
2. Because in that bag is all the genetic luck that can be packed into a seed. Modern germplasm. A vigorous single cross. High germination. Seed purity from closely monitored production fields.
3. We grow our own. From our vault of inbreds, Crow's research has selected and crossed to combine the traits that lead to predictably lucky results.
4. Top yields that finish a point or two drier than last year's best. Straight standing stalks that can make it to Halloween if they have to.
5. Natural resistance in extremely healthy plant types. All packed into hybrids that are tested in research trials from Nebraska to Ohio to make sure that they'll work on your kind of soils and kind of weather.
6. So instead of waiting for a little luck to put you over the top next year, grab a bag of Crow's Gold. And pour a little luck into the hopper.

Your dealer can show how some of your lucky neighbors have scored big with Crow's hybrids this fall. Give him a call!
The annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau and two of its affiliates will take place Nov. 28 - Dec. 1 at the Westin Hotel in Detroit.

The four-day event is being held in the state's largest city for the first time in MFB's 74 year history. It's expected to attract over 1,000 farmers, including 454 voting delegates who will adopt policies to guide the organization.

Activities begin Sunday, Nov. 28, with Vespers at Mariners' Cathedral followed by the Awards/Membership Banquet. Following the banquet, Southeast Michigan county Farm Bureaus will be hosting a welcome reception for annual meeting attendees. The AgriPac Breakfast on Monday, Nov. 29, will feature an address by Rep. Paul Hillegonds (R-Holland). The MFB delegate session opens at 9 a.m.

The "Showcase of Agriculture" -- a consumer-oriented collection of farm animals, interactive learning displays, and samples of Michigan food products -- runs from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and on Tuesday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. MFB President Jack Laurie will deliver his annual address following the Monday luncheon. Gov. Engler is scheduled to address the delegates at 3 p.m.

Tuesday's program highlights include the annual meetings of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. (FPC) and the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA); Young Farmer Discussion Meets and award activities; and the MFB annual banquet.

On Wed., Dec. 1, the breakfast program will feature an address by Dr. Sandra Batie, R. Smith Endowed Chair for Food and Agricultural Policy at Michigan State University. The delegate session and annual meeting is scheduled to conclude at 12:30 p.m. For more annual meeting information, contact your county Farm Bureau office.

MFB Annual Meeting Headed for Detroit Nov. 28 - Dec. 1

Nearly 460 Michigan Farm Bureau members will be meeting throughout the MFB annual to discuss and vote on Farm Bureau policy direction for the next 12 months on issues such as school finance reform, tax cuts, private property rights, and numerous other items forwarded to the MFB Policy Development Committee from all 69 county Farm Bureaus.

ICI 8700 AND 8543. BECAUSE THEY PAY THE BILLS.

In today's complex environment of high-performance hybrids, ICI isn't just providing seed. ICI is providing solutions. As you consider your seed for next spring, take a good look at what happened this fall. You'll find ICI seed consistently outperformed the others from start to finish. ICI building for the future from the success of the past.

8700 Top yielder. Starts strong with terrific early vigor. Finishes the job with very fast dry down.

8543 Bin-busting yields, even under less than ideal conditions. Plus dries down super fast.

BECAUSE YOU FARM WITH YOUR BRAIN.

Contact These ICI Seed Representatives for the Name and Number of Your Nearest Dealer!

Scott Love
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Durand, MI 49042
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Wes Kinsey
1472 Union City Road
Coldwater, MI 49036
Phone: (517) 278-8371

ICI Seeds
6945 Viola Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266
819-0833 ICI Seeds 918-6963 2 C MDFI

MFB Annual's "Showcase of Agriculture" Telling Agriculture's Story in Detroit

Nearly 25 different Michigan-based agricultural commodity organizations will be joining forces in Detroit during the MFB annual meeting at the Renaissance Center on Nov. 29 and 30, to help bring the story of Michigan agriculture to consumers, according to event manager, Julie Chamberlain, manager of MFB's Promotion and Education Department.

"The business of feeding and clothing consumers, agriculture, is the second largest industry in the state," explained Chamberlain. "With the Showcase of Agriculture, students from several schools, as well as the general public and news media and the 11,000 people who work in the Renaissance Center each day, will be able to see farm animals, videos of animal birthing, participate in computer simulations on groundwater education and have a chance to be involved in a number of other interactive programs.

Chamberlain expects the program to be a tremendous learning opportunity not only for school children and consumers, but also for farmers and commodity organization staff. "What better way to bring producers face to face with their customers?" Chamberlain asked. "Hopefully, we can learn some things about consumers, and some of their beliefs, whether they're right or wrong that can aid agriculture in the future."

The commodity organizations slated to participate in the two-day program thus far include:

- Michigan Nursery and Landscape Assoc.
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield - Birthplace Exhibit
- Michigan Apple Promoters
- Michigan Beef Industry Commission
- Michigan Pork Producers Assoc.
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
- USDA Soil Conservation Service
- Michigan Milk Producers Assoc.
- Huron Sugar Company
- Great Lakes Sugarbeet Assoc.
- Michigan Sheep Breeders
- MSU Careers in Horticulture/Agriculture
- Michigan State Fair Farm Animals
- Michigan Vegetable Council
- Michigan Blueberry Marketing Group
- MSU Institute of Water Research
- Wayne County Extension Service
- Food Safety - Operation RISK
- The Wonderful World of Seeds
- Animal Science in the Classroom
- Food Mysteries
- Metropolitan Detroit Flower Growers
- Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems
- Michigan Soybean Promotion Comm.
- Michigan Christmas Trees Assoc.
- MSU 2-Year Ag-Tech Program
Child Care Services at MFB's Annual, Tuesday, Nov. 30

Child Care Reservation Form

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parent's Name(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child's Name:</td>
<td>Age:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin Care Time/End Care Time:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please make check payable to MFB Corporate Services, Inc., and mail to: CSI Meeting and Travel Services, P.O. Box 27549, Lansing, MI 48909.</td>
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Parent's Name(s): ____________________________
Child's Name: ____________________________
Age: ____________________________
Begin Care Time: ____________
End Care Time: ____________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
State: ____________________________
Zip: ____________________________

The Westin and Renaissance Center - A City Within a City

MFB members attending the 1993 state annual meeting will have a chance to see the spectacular Westin Hotel, the tallest hotel in North America at 747 feet. With over 1,400 guest rooms and over 30 meeting rooms, the ground area of the Westin Hotel and the Renaissance Center covers nearly 14 acres.

Located on the river front in Detroit's fabulous Renaissance Center, the Westin Hotel represents the finest accommodations and dining in the downtown area and provides a wide range of business, entertainment and recreational facilities.

A "city within a city" of restaurants, movie theaters, shops and businesses, the Westin Hotel and Renaissance Center have been designed to meet the needs of convention travelers, all within a magnificent and exciting architectural environment. Guests can enjoy many activities without ever leaving the Renaissance Center.

There are over 35 interesting shops, a world-class Ford exhibit, and a fully equipped health club. You'll also find six restaurants and lounges, including the famous revolving Summit Steakhouse, with its 360 degree view from the 71st floor.

The Westin and Renaissance Center have played an important role in Detroit's rebirth. Over 11,000 people come to work in the Renaissance Center each day. Nearby freeways provide easy access to Detroit's most known attractions, like Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum.

Going to MFB's State Annual? Car Pool If You Can!

MFB members planning to attend this year's annual meeting in Detroit are advised to car pool if at all possible. Free parking for those attending the annual meeting is limited to the first 350 cars. As a suggestion, you may want to contact your county Farm Bureau office to coordinate trips to annual meeting activities.
in a musty old hall in Detroit they prayed, in the Maritime Sailors' Cathedral. The church bell chimed 29 times for twenty-nine times for each man on the Edmund Fitzgerald.

Many Farm Bureau members have no doubt heard of the Mariners' Church, made famous by the Gordon Lightfoot ballad, 'The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.' The shipwreck in 1975 took the lives of 29 crew members and sank just 15 miles from Whitefish Bay. Every year on the first Sunday in November, the Mariners’ Church commemorates the sinking with a service, which includes the ringing of the bell and reading of each crew member’s name until the bell rings 29 times.

The Mariners' Church, originally established in 1842 through the will of Julia Anderson, the daughter of an importer-exporter who knew of the perils of the seas, was intended to serve as a house of prayer for all people involved in the maritime industry.

The present structure was completed in 1849 and was moved by the city of Detroit to its existing location in 1950.

Scattered throughout the church are paintings, photographs and ship models that symbolize its maritime history. The various glass windows depict merchant mariners, symbols of the Great Lakes and renderings of winter storms that often plague the Great Lakes and endanger the lives of the sailors who travel the waters.

MFBA members can attend a Vesper service on Sunday, Nov. 28, at 4 p.m. as a part of annual meeting opening activities. Those wishing to attend the service at the Mariners’ Church, which is within walking distance of the Clinton Hotel, should get additional information at the time of registration.

1993 District Discussion Meet Winners Head for State Competition – Nearly $2,000 in Prizes at Stake!

The following Young Farmer Discussion Meet contest winners were district contest winners, which were held in August and September. Discussion Meet Topics at the state level will include:

1. What are some alternative and innovative uses of agricultural commodities and by-products?
2. How will primary and secondary education be funded in the future?
3. What can be done to encourage the introduction of beginning farmers into agriculture?
4. What should be the provisions of the 1995 Food Security Act (farm bill)?

The following will be competing for $500 cash from Dodge Truck, $1,000 worth of seed from Great Lakes Hybrids, Inc., and an all-expense-paid trip to Florida for national competition in January:

Steve Fitzner Huron
Gary Kirsh Macomb
Dave Siemen Huron
Amy Martin Oscoda
Sharon Hallack Oceana
Andy Johnson Mecosta
Sarah Anderson Isabella
Dave Dayck Bay
Dale Whitmore Gratiot
Dave Dekam Missaukee
Lorraine Nordbeck Lapeer
Bill Schoedel Manistee
Lee Everitt Iosco
Grace Beck... Ogemaw
Nick Hill Alpena
Jim VanDamme Hiawatha
Steve Brock Menominee
Dave Johnson Menominee
Mike Winkel Cass
Mike Rainey Cass
Kelly Leach Kalamazoo
Andrew McAthy Branch
Matt Carpenter Lenawee
Dan Anderson Calhoun
Val White Livingston
Todd Haslerendorf Washtenaw
Kristopher Neuvirth Monroe
Kevin Sall Ottawa
Boyds Entlay Barry
Steve Yehma Allegan
Patti Warnke Clinton
Steve Cheney Ingham
Angie Ball Clinton

There are costs associated with the use of this accessibility.

For a complete listing of these costs you may call us at 1 800 423 3892 or write us at P.O. Box 2349 Kalamazoo 49003

Variable Percentage Rate
Balance
Annual Fee
Grace Period for Replacement of Balance
Other Fees

Credit Card
City
State
Zip Code

Two-cycle Average Daily Balance (excluding new purchases)
30 Days

Cash Advance Fee – none
Late Fee – $10
Dishonest checks – $0
Minimum Finance Charge – none

**Please letterfold and staple this form with the mailing address on the outside (reverse side).**
Michigan Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act Almost Final

Under legislation recently approved by the state Legislature, the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) will be required to develop and provide voluntary, non-regulatory groundwater stewardship programs for farmers that can use to protect groundwater from agricultural chemicals at its Grand Ledge facility located on the western outskirts of the community. During those 34 years of producing products, the Parson Chemical Works, Inc. manufactured agricultural pesticides or nitrogen fertilizers, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Vicki Pontz.

The council shall include agriculture pesticide registrants to pay an annual special (non-agricultural) pesticide sales fee for the collection of fees. The fund will be established by requiring pesticide registrants to pay an annual groundwater protection fee for each product registered and nitrogen fertilizer distributors to pay a fee for each ton of fertilizer sold. The proposed fees are as follows:

- Specialty (non-agricultural) pesticides, $0.10 per product.
- Agricultural pesticides, 0.75 percent of price of pesticide sales, ($150 minimum).
- Specialty (non-agricultural) fertilizers, $100 per product.
- Nitrogen fertilizers (agricultural) $0.033 per percentage unit of N per ton.

The total fund would be limited to $3.5 million,” Pontz explained. “The fund would pay direct assistance to farmers such as cost share programs for persons implementing groundwater stewardship practices or groundwater protection rules, cost share programs for persons who notify the director of potential sources of contamination; closure of improperly constructed wells; recycling programs for specialty and agricultural pesticides; pesticide container; pesticide pickup programs; monitoring of private well water for agricultural chemicals; and removal of contaminated soils and waters.

Indirect assistance programs such as education and technical assistance to pesticide users, implementation of on-site evaluation systems and stewardship practices, and research programs would also come from the fund. The director may also determine the scope and extent of the stewardship program that will be protected from liability for contamination unless he/she is in accordance with state or federal law.

Freshwater Protection Fund - The fund will be established by requiring pesticide registrants to pay an annual groundwater protection fee for each product registered and nitrogen fertilizer distributors to pay a fee for each ton of fertilizer sold. The proposed fees are as follows:

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The total fund would be limited to $3.5 million,” Pontz explained. “The fund would pay direct assistance to farmers such as cost share programs for persons implementing groundwater stewardship practices or groundwater protection rules, cost share programs for persons who notify the director of potential sources of contamination; closure of improperly constructed wells; recycling programs for specialty and agricultural pesticides; pesticide container; pesticide pickup programs; monitoring of private well water for agricultural chemicals; and removal of contaminated soils and waters.

Indirect assistance programs such as education and technical assistance to pesticide users, implementation of on-site evaluation systems and stewardship practices, and research programs would also come from the fund. The director may also determine the scope and extent of the stewardship program that will be protected from liability for contamination unless he/she is in accordance with state or federal law.

Freshwater Protection Fund - The fund will be established by requiring pesticide registrants to pay an annual groundwater protection fee for each product registered and nitrogen fertilizer distributors to pay a fee for each ton of fertilizer sold. The proposed fees are as follows:

- Specialty (non-agricultural) pesticides, $0.10 per product.
- Agricultural pesticides, 0.75 percent of price of pesticide sales, ($150 minimum).
- Specialty (non-agricultural) fertilizers, $100 per product.
- Nitrogen fertilizers (agricultural) $0.033 per percentage unit of N per ton.

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Michigan Farm Bureau's eight finalists in the MFB Young Farmer's Outstanding Young Agricultural Leader and Distinguished Young Farmer contests have been selected, with the state winner to be selected after personal interviews at the MFB annual in Detroit. MFB presents the awards annually to selected young farmers based on their farming operation as well as leadership and community involvement. The contests are sponsored by Great Lakes Hybrids, Inc., with each state winner receiving a $1,000 worth of seed products and all-expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in January. The state winner in the Distinguished Young Farmer contest also receives 80 hours free use of a CASE-HI Maxxum tractor, and $500 cash from Dodge Truck. All eight finalists will also receive a MFB Carhartt jacket, compliments of Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

- Outstanding Young Agricultural Leaders -

John Crumbaugh
Ithaca, Gratiot County
Agricultural Operation: Involved in 3,000 acre farm corporation with parents, raising sugar beets, edible beans, soybeans and corn. Responsible for record keeping of purchasing and marketing.

Community Involvement: Served on Monitor Sugar Beet Growers Assoc. Board, R&W Co Operating Committee, Congressman Dave Camp’s Advisory Committee, Chairman of Gratiot County Fair for Youth Pig Scramble, Rural Urban Committee, Member of Ithaca Chamber of Commerce.

Farm Bureau Involvement: County Farm Bureau board member, state delegate, Washington Legislative Seminar participant, county Policy Development Committee, Gratiot County Young Farmer chairman, ProFILE graduate, Gratiot County Distinguished Young Farmer.

Carmen Hartwig
Ludington, Mason County
Agricultural Operation: Owners and operate a 70-cow dairy operation raising nearly all of the feed for the approximately 200 head of livestock on the operation’s 850 acres of hay and corn. Responsible for milking, breeding, DHIA record keeping, and herd health.

Community Involvement: Served as chairperson and vice-chairperson on the Central Lake Planning Commission, tutor with Central Lake High School, tour guide with Soil Conservation Service, and active in numerous 4-H activities.

Farm Bureau Involvement: Served on the Antrim County Farm Bureau board of directors, Young Farmer Committee co-chairperson, past district Discussion Meet finalist, and Outstanding Young Farm Woman finalist.

Robert Mayer
Bronson, Branch County
Agricultural Operation: Involved in 2,760 acre farm corporation, raising over 1,500 acres of gladiolas, 75 acres of lilies, liatris, yarrow, ornamental grasses and peonies. The farm also custom operates approximately 1,000 acres of soybeans, navy beans, hay, sweet corn, and field corn.

Community Involvement: Branch County Community Foundation board of directors, Branch County Animal Shelter board of directors, active in Rotary Club activities, Bronson County Republican party precinct delegate, active in Bethel-Gillete Congregational Church committees.

Farm Bureau Involvement: Member of Branch County Farm Bureau board of directors, Policy Development Committee member, Washington Legislative Seminar participant, Lansing Legislative Seminar participant, delegate to state annual, active in county Young Farmer activities.

Tamara Craig-Walton
Sturgis, St. Joseph County
Agricultural Operation: Family partnership consists of 625 acres of corn, including 560 acres of feed corn, commercial corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. The partnership also operates a 40-cow dairy herd, 25 feeder steers, and 30 head of commercial ewes and lambs.

Community Involvement: FFA Alumni member and state secretary, 4-H volunteer, Lions Club volunteer, and Cassville United Methodist Church high school Sunday school leader and Publicity Committee member, MABA Crop Management Conference chairperson.

Farm Bureau Involvement: Member of Young Farmer Committee, delegate to Young Farmer Leadership Conference, County Commissioner tour speaker on agricultural trends, district Discussion Meet contest judge, Ag-Citing Experience group leader.

Community Involvement:

Tom Barends
Fremont, Newaygo County
Wife: Jacqueline
Agricultural Operation: Owns and operates a 50-cow dairy operation, with a rolling herd average of 22,671 pounds, in addition to marketing registered cows, bulls, and heifers. The farm utilizes rotational grazing throughout the growing season, with feed purchased for the remainder of the year.

Community Involvement: Michigan Holstein Assoc. District 7 board member, Newaygo County DHIA secretary, Newaygo County United Church of Christ youth group leader and council member, and 4-H Dairy Club leader. Operation also hosts an annual dairy promotion event called “Open Barn” each year in June. Received Outstanding 4-H Dairy Award from ProFILE, Highest five-year Production Increase from DHIA, and Progressive Breeders Registry Award from the Holstein Association.

Farm Bureau Involvement: Newaygo County Policy Development Committee member, Young Farmer Committee member, and chairman, young farmer fair booth manager, and 1992 MFB Distinguished Young Farmer state finalist.

Pete Conrad
Edison, Mason County
Wife: Connie
Children: Christopher, 1
Agricultural Operation: Operates a 315 acre cropping operation, with 217 acres of snap beans, 45 acres of asparagus, 145 acres of corn, 65 acres of wheat, and 35 acres of soybeans.

Community Involvement: Board member of Western Michigan Electric Cooperative, member of the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board, member of Michigan Asparagus Research Committee, Amber Township Planning Commission, Emmanuel Lutheran Church group leader and council member.

Farm Bureau Involvement: Mason County Farm Bureau board member, county Farm Bureau vice president and president, county delegate to MFB annual, Promotion and Education Committee member, chairman of MFB Outstanding Young Farmer Committee, member of Policy Development Committee, and past Washington Legislative Seminar participant.

Jeff Herzing
Manchester, Washtenaw County
Wife: Lynda LaVon
Children: Katelyn, 14 months
Agricultural Operation: Active in family partnership on a 150-cow dairy operation, in addition to raising 175 acres of corn, 137 acres of hay and 22 acres of wheat. The herd sports a rolling herd average of 28,100 pounds.

Community Involvement: 4-H dairy judging coach, state 4-H dairy judge, active in Zion Lutheran Church, Holstein Association organization board, Washtenaw County Soil Conservation Service Conservation farmer of the year, state DHIA Progressive Farmer, and MMPA Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperative district alternate.

Farm Bureau Involvement: Member of Washtenaw County Young Farmer Membership, and County Picnic committees. Chairman of county Rural Education Days, state Young Farmer Leadership conference participant, 1992 MFB Outstanding Young Ag Leader state finalist, and past ProFILE participant.

Kenneth Oomen
Hart, Oceana County
Wife: Sandra
Children: Nicholas, 3; Spencer, 7 months
Agricultural Operation: In partnership on 744 acre cropping operation, growing 200 acres of asparagus, 155 acres of Hubbard squash, 20 acres of buttercup squash, 65 acres of carrots, 55 acres of green and yellow zucchini squash, 30 acres of green beans, 85 acres of corn, 40 acres of soybeans, and 50 acres of Christmas trees.

Community Involvement: Member of the Michigan Asparagus Research Committee, active in St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, and helped organize a community auction-open house dinner and fund-raiser.

Farm Bureau Involvement: Member of the Oceana County Young Farmer, and MACMA Direct Marketing committee, chairman of Community Action Group, delegate to MFB annual meeting, and past participant of state Young Farmer Leadership Conference.
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*This offer is valid for members of participating Farm Bureaus, expires 12/31/93, and may not be used in combination with any other Chrysler Corporation certificate offer or certain other special offers. Ask for restrictions & details.
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY and Consumers Power will host statewide seminars this winter on profitable cow facilities. This program will be of interest to all dairy farmers.

Consumers Power has made a strong commitment to not only recognize stray voltage as a not uncommon problem, but also to commit resources to on-farm investigation by trained electricians with farm backgrounds. As often seen, cow productivity can be held up by more than one problem.

MSU departments of Animal Science and Ag Engineering have studied the characteristics of healthy, productive dairy cattle facilities. These factors will be of use to farmers who want to update present facilities and those who are building new barns. The first meeting will run from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 2, at the Comfort Inn in Plainwell. The program is open to everyone, even those who are not supplied by Consumers Power.

There will be refreshments and a lunch with a small registration fee of $5. Other seminar dates include Dec. 10 at Sparta, Feb. 21 at Charlotte, and March 10 at the Clarksville Ag Experiment Station. If you need information on these other dates, call (616) 948-4862.

There will be a two-part agenda. Consumers Power will discuss and demonstrate what causes stray voltage, how cows react to stray voltage, how it is created and how to prevent and cure it. They will tell about their new stray voltage or neutral/earth voltage investigation service geared especially for farms.

Farmers who have never suspected a stray voltage problem or think it is associated with "poor managers" will find this program of great interest.

The second part of the program will feature Dr. Bill Bickert from MSU Ag Engineering talking about the importance of facility design and operation. Dr. Bickert feels that the facilities make it possible for a dairy farmer to implement a profitable dairy management plan.

In short, almost any dairy farmer will benefit from this seminar. It is a regional program open to all. Mark down the date of Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Comfort Inn in Plainwell, located at the junction of U.S.-131 and M-89.

MFB Members Call for Less Government in 1995 Farm Bill in Statewide Policy Survey

Approximately 5 percent of the policy surveys mailed to regular MFB members with their Aug. 15 issue of Michigan Farm News were completed and returned to county Farm Bureaus to use in their policy development process, according to MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy.

"This marked the first time MFB has undertaken such a comprehensive survey effort of regular members," Almy said. "This kind of input from the farmer-members certainly makes the policy development process a much easier and more thorough effort to stimulate grassroots participation."

Almy said that once the surveys were received at MFB, they were sorted by county and returned to their respective county Farm Bureaus for use by the county Policy Development Committee.

"Based on this year's response, we plan to conduct a similar survey in 1994," Almy said. "I'm confident that we'll have even more members taking advantage of the opportunity to provide input on their organization's policy direction."

Of those responding to the surveys, the following responses were received for each of the survey questions:

1995 Farm Program Elements:
- 47 percent called for market-oriented loan rates and target prices, while 22 percent disagreed.
- 33 percent agreed that the percentage of land owners eligible for deficiency payments should be increased, while 38 percent disagreed.
- 34 percent felt that producer assessments should be used to reduce government farm program costs, while 37 percent disagreed.
- 40 percent said that export subsidies should be reduced, while 30 percent disagreed.
- 58 percent agreed that a "self-help" dairy program should be included in a 1995 farm bill, while 9 percent disagreed.
- 20 percent felt that increased environmental provisions should be a part of the farm bill, while 53 percent disagreed.
- 42 percent felt that increased environmental provisions should be a part of the farm bill, while 53 percent disagreed.
- 27 percent felt that local units of government should regulate land application and composting of yard wastes.
- 75 percent of the respondents said that economic impacts should be considered when determining if a species should be listed as endangered or threatened, while 21 percent said no.
- Only 27 percent agreed that the Endangered Species Act be amended to extend to species which in the future might be listed as endangered, while an overwhelming 71 percent disagreed.

Tort Liability and Lawsuits
- 90 percent said that non-economic pain and suffering, and punishment damage awards should have financial limits established, while 5 percent said no.
- 69 percent felt that contingency fees for attorneys should be reduced as monetary awards increase, instead of the flat 30 percent rate currently established. Only 7 percent disagreed with reducing the contingency rate.
- 78 percent said that standard monetary awards for specific types of injuries should be established to avoid vastly different settlements between juries, judges, and location; 8 percent disagreed.
Questions and Answers Regarding Michigan's School Finance Reform

The following is a brief overview of the governor's proposal for funding Michigan schools. The Legislature continues to debate the proposal and funding options. At least six other concepts have been offered as alternatives to the governor's proposal. As of this writing, the Legislature has not developed a clear consensus on the school funding issue.

A major concern is the definition of homestead. The governor's proposal would exempt the homestead from the 16 mills for school operations. Michigan Real estate transactions exempted from the 16 Mills transaction tax are one percent transaction tax, collected at the time of sale.

Because of the other proposals and the current debate in the Legislature, the details continue to change substantially and significantly. The following questions and answers represent the proposal as presented by the governor.

Michigan corn farmers will be helping to fuel state-owned vehicles powered by ethanol produced from corn. Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Bill Belcher took delivery of the 900th E-85 Chevrolet Lumina in July, one of the first ethanol powered cars delivered.

According to Maureen McNulty, spokesperson with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the details continue to change substantially and significantly. The following questions and answers represent the proposal as presented by the governor.

Ten Ethanol Powered Cars Now a Part of State's Auto Fleet

MDA Director Bill Schuette, Michigan Corn Growers Association President Larry Nobis, Michigan Corn Marketing Board Chairman Dan Putnam, and Governor John Engler are pictured with the 1993 E-85 Chevrolet Lumina at MSU's Ag Expo. The car, powered by fuel containing 85 percent ethanol, is being used by Schuette. The E-85 is one of 90 alternative fuel powered vehicles in the state's motor pool, 10 of which are powered by ethanol.

AFV Issues

Fuel Distribution: If there's a significant problem with AFVs, fuel distribution rank as number one, according to McNulty. This is particularly important in a state as vast as Michigan. "Our fleet is dispersed throughout the state, which can create a real problem if an AFV is dependent on single refueling locations or given a limited range." McNulty said that fuel suppliers are generally in a "wait and see" mode before committing significant capital outlays for an adequate alternative fuel storage and delivery system.

Vehicle Availability: Despite the public's growing interest in AFVs, their availability is not as rapid as might be expected. Conversions are available, but they're questionable in terms of clean vehicle design and costs, according to McNulty.

Economic Justification: Another big hurdle is the cost of AFVs. McNulty said that the cost compared to conventionally fueled vehicles. Conversion costs and equipment can range from $1,500 to $3,000 per vehicle. Depreciation, which is 25 percent of vehicle costs, will increase even more. McNulty said, because of the reduced buyers market for AFVs. The only economic gain is the reduced fuel costs of AFVs, which are marginal when the tax credits are removed from the formula.

Information: Despite numerous studies on alternative fuels, inconsistent findings and information have had an adverse impact on overall public support of AFVs, and ultimately consumer acceptance.

Technology: McNulty said that continued research is an absolute necessity if AFVs are to be further developed and accepted. She points to several problems, such as natural gas cold-start problems; electrical battery development; ethanol's high corrosive properties. The progress, which is energy output and highly toxic conditions.
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**Discussion Topic for December -- Promoting Farming as a Career**

Ask most people what they think is agriculture's most important resource, and they'll probably answer that it's water, soil, equipment or capital. In fact, qualified, well-trained young people are our farming industry's most important -- and increasingly coveted - resource.

Many people are worried that high capital requirements for farming and difficulty obtaining credit prevent young people with little equity from entering farming. In response to these concerns, policymakers have created programs offering direct assistance to beginning farmers. The 1992 Agricultural Credit Improvement Act provides for direct loans, guarantee of commercial loans and interest rate subsidies to beginning farmers.

Even though it is a challenge for a young person to enter farming, there are great opportunities in production agriculture. That's especially true now that MSU has begun rebuilding and revitalizing the animal agriculture facilities. This "Animal Agriculture Initiative" holds tremendous potential for boosting the activity across the spectrum of our industry.

MSU aggressively recruits for their two-year Ag Tech program and the four-year degree programs in agriculture and natural resources. Some of the most plentiful job opportunities are on dairy, livestock and crop farms, said Cliff Jump, director of the Ag Tech program and coordinator of the ag business program at MSU.

A majority of the young people in MSU's Ag Tech program come from farms, but MSU tries to inform non-farm youth about the job opportunities in production ag.

"We love to be able to recruit some non-farm people who want to be in agriculture and go into production agriculture jobs," Jump said. "The swine industry is an example. We always get more requests for people than we have to fill.

"Farmers can help themselves by promoting agriculture as a good way of life." Although there may not be as many opportunities as there were 30 years ago for young people to get into farming on their own, production agriculture and the rural way of life still hold a powerful appeal. In your interactions with non-farmers, be sure and point out that Michigan agriculture plans to grow our industry.

For a list of other resources to share with non-farm people who are interested in becoming farmers, contact Cliff Jump at 4-5995 or MSU Extension Service at 4-4455.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Is it important to encourage young people to examine production farming or ag-related careers? Yes/No Why?

2. What is the biggest obstacle to young people in choosing a career in production farming or an ag-related field today?

3. On the other hand, what are some of the positive, fulfilling aspects of production farming and ag-related careers that should be promoted to young people considering their futures?

4. What can be done in your local communities and schools to increase student's awareness of opportunities in the agricultural field?
Building Barns the Way They Used to (continued from page 1)

"We had made detailed drawings - I don't know why - but I had gone up into the loft, taken dimensions of beams, noting their location and distance between them and so on," Saunders commented. "Those drawings were given to Mike at the time he was working on the barn and this has enabled him to reproduce the original barn as much as possible."

According to Saunders, once the new barn is completed, it may have a few additional windows and doors, but basically it will be the same barn as the one that went down in 1968.

"I think Mike was personally devastated when the original barn fell over and felt somewhat responsible," Saunders commented. "Mike made a commitment and he just made up his mind that he was going to replace the barn one way or another."

Five years later, Stitt made good on his promise to Saunders by contacting Tillers International in April of 1993 to garner their assistance in putting together a work crew that could help in the actual reconstruction of the barn, according to Dick Roosenberg, executive director of Tillers International.

"Tillers is a non-profit organization that's committed to researching our own rural history and finding various techniques that are low cost and yet productive that might be adaptable to international agriculture," explained Roosenberg. "What we do is try to draw on our great grandfather's skills and make those available to young men in other parts of the world who don't necessarily have access to new technology."

Roosenberg said the offer by Stitt to make the barn raising an educational opportunity was something that appealed to Tillers and, in no time at all, three workshops had been scheduled to design the barn, do the actual layout and marking of the beams, and finally, the actual barn raising on Oct. 30 at the Saunders farm.

"This seemed to be a good opportunity to work with a lot of craftsmen and draw some of the people together that enjoyed woodworking skills and are involved in Tillers," Roosenberg said. "Our principle role was in pulling together the people and organizing a workshop format for it."

On the day of the actual barn raising, Roosenberg said nearly 60 workers showed up to help. By nightfall, all but the rafters and roof had been completed. Several of the workers planned on returning the following weekend to complete the remainder of the barn raising project.

"Rebuilding this barn was a monumental undertaking," Saunders concluded. "It's a bottom line, however, is that it will be super when it's done and we'll utilize it."

The following is a Calendar of Events:

**Calendar of Events**

- **Nov. 24** - Northern Mich. Livestock Assoc. Feeder Sale, Gaylord, 2:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 26** - All-Breed Calf Sale, Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, 1 p.m.
- **Nov. 26** - Lake Odessa Feeder Sale, Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, 6 p.m.
- **Nov. 28- Dec. 1** - MFB Annual Meeting, Westin Hotel, Detroit, Mich.
- **Dec. 2** - Stray Voltage Program, Comfort Inn, Plainwell, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Barry County CES, (616) 948-4862
- **Dec. 3-4** - West Michigan Livestock Show & Market Sale, Lake Odessa
- **Dec. 3** - Michigan Livestock Exchange Feeder Sale, St. Louis, 1 p.m.
- **Dec. 4** - Michigan Livestock Exchange Feeder Sale, Battle Creek, 1 p.m.
- **Dec. 8** - Northern Mich. Livestock Assoc. Feeder Sale, Gaylord, 2:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 9** - Dairy Nutrition Update - Montcalm Community College, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Montcalm CES (517) 831-5226
- **Dec. 11-12** - Michigan Winter Beef Show, MSU Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing
- **Dec. 11** - Michigan Winter Potato & Field Seed Conference, Michigan Crop Improvement Assoc. and Michigan Foundation Seed Conference - Holiday Inn - Lansing, MSU, East Lansing
- **Dec. 15-16** - Michigan Crop Management Conference - Holiday Inn - Lansing
- **Dec. 16** - Owosso Livestock Sales Co. Feeder Sale, Owosso, 3 p.m.
- **Jan. 8** - Michigan Cattlemen's Convention, MSU, East Lansing
- **Jan. 9-13** - AFFA 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Send or FAX information (include contact name and phone number) three weeks in advance to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460. FAX: (517) 323-6793