At no time has agriculture ever been faced with so many challenges and yet so many opportunities, according to U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R-Midland), Michigan's only representative on the House Agriculture Committee. Speaking to members attending the annual meeting of the Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association in Clare recently, Camp said agriculture must be involved and in touch with a Congress that's over 35 percent new.

Conclusion of the North American Free Trade Agreement, USDA structural revisions, energy/soil conservation, ethanol, budget and deficit reduction, and perhaps most importantly to Michigan farmers, revisions to USDA's disaster qualifications that include quality for coping with a normal corn crop, are all front burner issues.

"I've introduced a package of two bills," explained Camp. "One would be a recourse low-interest loan so that farmers could get some operating money. I've also introduced legislation to change the disaster programs to consider the quality of the corn crop, which is literally a loss in many cases in Michigan."

Despite refusals by previous USDA Secretary Edward Madigan to include quality in disaster qualifications, Camp is confident the legislation will eventually be successful. "We already measure for quality in terms of moisture and test weight," he said. "We have to do what we can to help farmers who are in a very tough situation right now."

The biggest roadblock to this proposal and several other pieces of legislation, however, is the growing budget deficit. Budget issues are going to dominate every discussion in Washington because they affect every single program and policy of the federal government, according to Camp.

"I believe the budget problems should be addressed and the deficit reduced, but I don't want to see it done on the backs of agriculture," Camp said. "Of the 12 entitlement programs, production agriculture has been the only program to take budget reductions in the last seven years, while others have seen increased spending."

Structural changes and realignment of current USDA responsibilities are also likely, with the Environmental Protection Agency playing a bigger role in agricultural conservation issues, and Health and Human Services assuming administration of the food stamp program.

In addition, Camp said the Madigan plan to clone 1,200 USDA field offices has been shelved by new USDA Secretary Mike Espy, who intends to achieve spending reductions by reducing Washington staff and overhead before closing targeted field offices.

The Clinton Administration is reportedly in the process of overturning a recent decision to include the use of corn-based ethanol in the Clean Air Act. The move would reduce the use of ethanol, as well as efforts to improve this country's energy self-sufficiency, said Camp. He and several other congressional leaders have asked Clinton to leave the Clean Air Bill intact.

Turning to NAFTA, Camp said the new administration is already discussing several changes with Mexico to address inequalities in worker and environmental protection/regulations between the two countries. Those changes are expected to be included as technical corrections to the current agreement.

Environmental regulations are an issue that Michigan farmers can expect to see more and more of, says Camp. With a limited federal budget, don't expect much in the way of cost sharing to implement new conservation measures either. Camp hopes that legislation he's recently introduced will form a national program fashioned after the extremely successful Michigan Energy Conservation Program (MECP). Farmers would be able apply for grants to implement energy saving practices on their farms operating.

"The MECP saved $2 in energy cost for every $1 that was invested in it," claimed Camp. "The program would take the MECP on a national scale and offer farmers financial assistance for implementing energy conserving practices. The real problem, of course, is finding the resources to give this program a chance."

**Michigan Soybeans to be the Talk of Town Hall Meetings**

Move over Ross Perot, Soybeans and related issues are moving into the electronic age with a satellite teleconference sponsored by the United Soybean Board through town hall meetings.

Town Hall meetings are scheduled for Mon., March 1, 1993, at 8 p.m. EST, and Tues., March 2, 1993 at 10 a.m. EST at 373 Extension offices, colleges, and universities in 28 soybean-producing states.

In Michigan, the 14 locations include:
- Delta College, Allied Health Building, University Center (Monday);
- Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek (Monday);
- S.W. Michigan College, Dowagiac (Monday and Tuesday);
- Clinton County Services Building, St. Johns (Monday and Tuesday);
- Gratiot/Isabella Regional Services District, Mt. Pleasant (Monday and Tuesday);
- Hillsdale Intermediate School District, Hillsdale (Monday and Tuesday);
- Michigan Farm Bureau Center, Lansing (Monday);
- Kalamazoo Valley Comm. College, (Monday and Tuesday);
- Leawood Intermediate School District, Adrian (Monday and Tuesday);
- Monroe County CES, Monroe (Monday and Tuesday);
- Owosso Hospital, Owosso (Tuesday);
- St. Clair Comm. College, Port Huron (Tuesday);
- Glen Oaks Community College, Centreville (Tuesday only) and; Tuscola, Caro (Monday and Tuesday).

The teleconference will help inform soybean producers of how checkoff dollars are managed, who makes the decisions, how programs are determined, and how the checkoff benefits producers. Updates of producer-funded soy diesel and production research projects and changes in European and Asian marketing strategies will be provided. The meetings will include a soybean market analysis and strategy recommendations for the upcoming year.

United Soybean Board members, as well as university and industry professionals, will participate in a panel discussion to address those key issues.

The town hall meeting format will allow producers at any site to ask questions regarding any topic concerning the national soybean checkoff program through a toll-free number direct to the farmer-panel.

The town hall meetings are a result of a successful pilot broadcast in five states and 56 locations in late 1992. More details and registrations can be obtained by calling 1-800-462-6866 prior to Feb., 20.
Coping With Michigan's Corn Dilemma

Living in the Great Lakes region means putting up withickle weather patterns. That was made pretty clear in the 1980's when Michigan farm families suffered through both torrential rains and severe drought. The 1980's aren't starting out much better. This past year was a disaster for many corn producers, as a cold, wet growing season meant the crop did not mature and/or could not be harvested.

One of the missions of your Farm Bureau organization is to be responsive to the needs of farmers when problems occur. Through the fall and winter, we were in close contact with county leaders in order to gauge the full extent of the corn crop losses. In response to the severe financial distress of farmers, we asked the USDA to allow grade standards to be included in the eligibility requirements used to qualify Michigan corn producers for disaster payments. Unfortunately, the USDA indicated that was not going to happen.

As the next step, Farm Bureau began working with Rep. Dave Camp (R-Midland), Michigan's representative on the House Agriculture Committee, and Sen. Don Stiegl (D-Flint) to develop legislation that will require the USDA to make disaster payments to producers who suffer weather-related losses resulting from the reduced quality of their crops.

I don't think there's any doubt that there's a growing recognition among the Michigan congressional delegation of the problems faced by corn farmers. But, it's going to take a lot more votes than just those from Michigan congressmen to put these bills through Congress. We need to develop an educational effort directed at other lawmakers. We need to build some understanding of our problem with the new USDA Secretary. And we need to drive home the urgency of this problem with other members of the new Clinton Administration.

As we continue to work for legislative action, we have also asked Rep. Camp to facilitate the final corn deficiency payment (which should be the maximum of 50 cents) so that it will be made available in early February instead of early March. And we have asked him to review the status of the First Time Low-interest disaster loan program. In 1988, the loan could be used to restructure existing debt. But the loan now can only apparently be used to pay off operating bills.

Through the years, your Farm Bureau organization has shown that it is very responsive to the genuine disaster needs of Michigan agriculture. The weather-related problems with the corn crop are unlike anything we have faced before. Farm Bureau will continue to search for creative and appropriate solutions to the financial distress facing our farmers.

Jack Lanne
President
Michigan Farm Bureau

Annual Farm Women's Symposium — March 16 - 18

Excitement is stirring among Michigan farm women and for good cause. The second annual Farm Women's Symposium will be held March 16-18 at the Am Arbor Hilton and is expected to be better than ever. Last year's pilot project was received by the 50 participants with such enthusiasm that the planning committee, made up of farm women from across the state and MSU Extension advisors, has planned an even larger gathering this year.

The year's program highlights include topics such as "Demystifying Politics," "Having a Voice With Local Media" and a stress management program that will enable participants to help understand their reactions to stress and respond in a healthier fashion. The registration fee for the three day conference (lodging and most meals) is $165, including materials. Reduced registration is available for participants not wishing to attend all three days. For more information contact: Rebecca Finneran, Kent/MSU Extension, 836 Fuller, N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Phone: (616) 774-3365, Or Sue Anne Shoe- maker, Conference Treasurer, 3025 6 Mile Rd., Grand Rapids, MI 49504, Phone: (616) 784-6058.

In Brief...

Engler Appoints Air Pollution Control Commission
Gov. John Engler has announced the appointment of Michigan Farm Bureau member Matthew K. Moser to the Air Pollution Control Commission. The commission is empowered to promulgate rules, issue permits, and issue orders for control of air pollution. Members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Moser owns and operates Moser Farms Nursery, Inc., and is also the general manager of Orchard Hills Greenhouse, Inc. He is currently a member of the Coloma Charter Township Planning Commission and was appointed to represent local government replacing Janice Wilson, of Fraser, for a term expiring Nov. 15, 1993. Moser is also a member of the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Southwest Michigan Growers Association.

Epsy — USDA Won't Immediately Close Field Offices

USDA Secretary Mike Espy said, he'll start cutting costs from the top in Washington before Congress passes the administration's $62 billion farm bill. Included is a provision to close field offices in the rural areas, you ought to send a message first that we ought to clean up our own shop first, he added. He said he'll be able to consolidate field offices and make the agency's national computer system more effective.

Russia's Farm Credit Defaults Rise To $245.9 Million

Two banks filed three farm credit delinquency notices totaling $3.4 million against Russia recently, bringing Russia's total delinquencies to $245.9 million, a USDA official said. Russia has been suspended from USDA's farm credit programs for almost two months because of $60 million in overdue guaranteed payments. Private banks issue Russia the loans to buy U.S. farm commodities, but USDA is responsible for assessing the credit worthiness of the borrowers.

USDA said, Russia has not indicated when it will resume payments on the debt. USDA Secretary Mike Espy said, he is working to clear up the problem soon. Russia and other ex-Soviet republics have received almost $5 billion in farm credit guarantees from USDA.

Critical Food Safety Matter Up To Court

When a California court decided last year that the Delaney Clause of the Pure Food and Drug Act would prevail over the Environmental Protection Agency's policy of negligible risk, the Bush Administration did not ask for an administrative review of the court's decision, as requested by a number of groups including the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National Agricultural Chemicals Association has requested a Supreme Court review of that decision. The Supreme Court will meet to decide whether to review the case on Feb. 19. Michigan Farm Bureau has filed a brief supporting review of the case. The court's decision whether or not it will hear the review is likely to be revealed on Feb. 22, according to Mark Maslyn, assistant director of the APFB Governmental Relations Division.

Should the review fail to reverse the decision of the California court, all pesticides suspected of being carcinogenic could have their tolerances revoked. Any pesticide without an approved tolerance cannot legally be used. This would mean a lot of pesticides would no longer be on the market, with disastrous consequences for agriculture, Maslyn said.

Meanwhile, congressional staffs are planning to introduce the Food Quality Assurance Act of 1993 in this session of Congress. The bill would, among other provisions, establish a policy of negligible risk for pesticides and repeal the Delaney Clause. Farm Bureau and a number of other organizations helped develop this legislation last year and will work for its passage again this time.

Corn Growers Look For Ethanol To Remain in Favor

There is some apprehension that a Clinton administration order to suspend some Bush Administration proposals not yet announced in the Federal Register could include the plan to ensure the role of ethanol in reformulated fuel requirements of the Clean Air Act. Corn growers say they expect Clinton to allow the ethanol use in new gasoline formulas to go ahead as written, despite the temporary hold placed on it and other unpublished regulations by budget director, Leon Panetta.

Keith Heard, vice president of the National Corn Growers Association, said Clinton endorsed a role for ethanol reformulated fuel during the campaign and has given no sign of intention to reign on that support now, according to a Knight-Ridder News Service report.

However, the higher visibility of environmentalists in the new administration has alerted corn growers to possible uncertainty and will cause them to assess where they stand with respect to the ethanol issue, according to Heard. Backers of ethanol have contended the claims of environmentalists against ethanol were not scientifically justified and that increased ethanol use would improve air quality.

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Michigan Farm News
### Medical Malpractice

**MFB Position:** Support both bills and encourage their adoption. Farm Bureau policy excerpts.

Farm Bureau members have been dealing with real medical malpractice problems. The favor working through the state system of insurers and prepaid health care providers.

We support:
- A cap on malpractice settlements
- Elimination of pain and suffering settlements

**Action Needed:**
- Call your legislators now and let them know you support these bills. Their phones are moving fast but letters are also important until the governor signs medical malpractice reform.

### Michigan Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act

**M.B. Position:**
- MFB policy supports a comprehensive statewide plan to protect groundwater and surface water from agricultural pesticides and fertilizers that includes voluntary, incentive driven programs. MFB policy recommends that MDA be given authority and responsibility to respond to agricultural contamination of groundwater with site specific recommendations to the producer to mitigate contamination. MFB also supports participation from agricultural producers in funding agricultural non-point source programs, but only when it's matched by equal contributions from public funding sources.

Farm Bureau policy also calls for programs to abate nitrate contamination, including but not limited to, provision of nitrogen fertilizers, animal manure, septic systems, urban runoff, nitrate occurring naturally, etc.

Farm Bureau generally supports the concepts in the bill but will seek several amendments to include a "general fund match" for dollars to run the programs, and alternative incentive measures for nitrates contamination to all sources. Farm Bureau will also request that a sunset provision be added to the collection of funds.

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

S.B. 45, sponsored by Sen. Paul Wartner (R-Portage) offfers general amendments to the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance Act. The amendments include redefining "owner" of an underground storage tank to exclude regulated financial institutions. The bill requires that a detailed billing along with a specific itemized list of transactions be submitted by the Department for review to the administrator of the fund. The bill also clarifies that the owner or operator may receive money from the fund for a reasonable administrative fee of up to 1% of the current cost of a petroleum underground storage tank system when certain circumstances occur.

The bill was introduced on Jan. 13, the first day of this legislative session and reported out of the Senate Natural and Environmental Affairs Committee on Jan. 27 and passed the Senate on Jan. 30 unanimously.

### Michigan Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act

**MFB CONTACT:** Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046
30-Day and 90-Day Forecasts Both Calling for Warmer and Drier Than Normal

January was warmer and wetter than normal over nearly all of the state. Temperatures for the month ranged from 3-7 degrees above the 30-year normals, while precipitation varied from around 75 percent of normal in scattered sections of southern Upper and northern Lower Michigan to as much as 200 percent of normal in central and southern sections of the Lower Peninsula. As mentioned in the last column, several outbreaks of wet, heavy snow and/or freezing rain kept late corn harvest at a virtual standstill.

The relatively tranquil, dry weather that set in during the last week of January may be a sign of things to come. The new National Weather Service 90-day outlook for February through April calls for warmer and drier than normal weather over much of the Great Lakes region including Michigan.

The 30-day outlook is very similar, with warmer than normal temperatures and near normal precipitation expected. I personally would not be surprised to see below normal precipitation during February also. These outlooks come as good news to those still waiting to harvest corn. As is the case with many weather scenarios, however, warmer and drier than normal weather in the late winter could cause overwintering crops to come out of dormancy earlier than normal, leaving them vulnerable to subsequent cold temperatures should that occur.

Fruit Production

1992 Michigan Fruit Production Better Than Expected

Fruit production was reduced by poor weather that prevailed throughout most of the 1992 growing season, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. A cool spring ended with harsh frosts in late May. Summer was marked by below normal temperatures and excessive cloud cover. Warmth and sunshine in early October, however, benefited some varieties of apples and grapes. Overall, production exceeded early expectations and was at or above 1991 levels.

Apple production reached one billion pounds, up eight percent from a year earlier. The preliminary farm-level value of this fruit exceeded 27 million dollars. About 70 percent of Michigan blueberries were frozen or canned. New Jersey growers produced 24 million pounds of blueberries.

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MSU's ANR Week Agriculture Programs Will Focus on Microtel, Trade, Crop Production and Manure Management

Agriculture and Natural Resources Week (ANR) Week, Feb. 26 - March 6 at Michigan State University, will offer several programs that may benefit farm managers.

Among the programs are Microtel workshops March 2 and 3. Each workshop, limited to eight farms, costs $24. The workshops will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 403 Agriculture Hall. The registration deadline is Feb. 24.

The first workshop will focus on using Microtel for income and expense transactions. The second will focus on using the Microtel payroll program developed by the MSU Telfarm program. For more information, contact Nancy Harms at MSU by calling (517) 355-4700.

Producing organic food at the community level will be the focus of a session from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 2 in A101 Plant and Soil Sciences Building. The program will address local food security, distribution and economic development.

The program is free, but a luncheon hosted by the Michigan Organic Growers Advancement Project and the Organic Growers of Michigan is $10. The luncheon registration deadline is Feb. 22. To register or for information, contact Laura DeLind at MSU by calling (517) 353-2950.

Fostering further collaboration between the farmer and MSU on sustainable agricultural practices will be discussed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 5 in A101 Plant and Soil Sciences Building. The program will review past and future cooperative activities between MSU agronomists and the Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association.

Registration is required by Feb. 22. The $10 fee includes lunch. To register or to get more information, contact John Darling at MSU by calling (517) 355-0196.

Doing a better job environmentally will be the focus of the Michigan Manure Management Conference March 3. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the MSU Kellogg Center Big Ten Room A.

Experts will talk about manure management costs, trends in manure handling equipment, results of research, and educational and demonstration programs in Michigan. Manure management practices recommended in the Right to Farm Act will also be discussed.

Registration by Feb. 19 will cost $15 (after that date, $20). To register, call Jerri Wardwell at MSU at (517) 355-0209. Conference details can be obtained from Lee Jacobs by calling (517) 353-7273.

International trade and Michigan agriculture will be discussed from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 4 in the MSU Kellogg Center Auditorium. The morning session will focus on international trade policy.

Speakers will include a national expert on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In the afternoon, experts will discuss international trade and how Michigan producers can participate in foreign markets.

More information about this program can be obtained from Jake Ferris at MSU by calling (517) 355-0144. The program is free.

Participants can attend the President's Luncheon from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost will be $12 per person. Luncheon registration must be made by Feb. 19 by contacting Pam Lamb at MSU at (517) 355-0177.

These programs are among the more than 80 educational programs, meetings and activities on agriculture, forestry, gardening, outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship that will be held during ANR Week.

A free ANR Week program guide is available from the local county MSU Cooperative Extension Service office. Free copies can also be obtained by writing to the MSU Bulletin Office, 10B Agriculture Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039.
6 Market Outlook...

CORN

Corn futures are expected to remain relatively flat and drift sideways throughout the spring. There is always the chance of weather markets in the spring and summer, but with the large expected carryover for this year, the upside potential is not as great as the last two years.

It's not that there's no positive news in the corn market. The problem is that there is a lot of corn for the market to absorb. The demand side of the corn market has been strong. Feed usage is up about 1 percent so far this year and exports year to date are up 32 percent. Stocks are expected to be up over 4 percent for the year.

While futures are expected to stay fairly flat, there is some potential in the cash corn market. The basis is wide and expected to narrow, and the spreads between corn futures contracts show the market is looking to go forward. But for many Michigan farmers, the corn pricing alternatives either are too low or are few. In order to take full advantage of the above, you need to have cash corn on hand.

Strategy: For those few who have storable corn, consider storing to take advantage of the narrowing of the basis. A hedge, with a contract for April storage, should see the basis increase and your returns relative to today’s prices. But with the corn market at today’s low levels, there is less downside risk than up side potential. Consider the government loan to help with cash flow needs.

SOYBEANS

The soybean market is also expected to stay in a fairly flat trading range at least until spring. While there is a difference between the soybean situation and the corn situation. First, the soybean market has had a nice rally since harvest. Secondly, the soybean market is telling you it will not pay to store.

The spreads between futures contracts are tight and there is not enough room left in the basis to pay storage. This means you do not want to be in the cash market in any way which matter direction you think prices are going.

TABLE EGG MARKET

Allan Rahn and Henry Larzelle

For those who were late January trading were trading in the 74 cent range (New York, Grade A, large, white, in cartons, to retailers), 5 cents per dozen above year earlier levels. Although prices have advanced from their upper 60 cent range after the first of the year, they are expected to soften again in February. Lower feed costs have cut egg production costs around 1.5 cents per dozen per month.

The size of the table egg laying flock on January 1, 1993 was 240 million birds, unchanged from the previous year. Table egg production during December was 1 percent greater than a year ago as the flock is slightly more productive. On Jan. 1, 1993, the number of layers being induced molted was 4.8 percent, and 22.2 percent of the flock had completed an induced molt. The number of egg-type hatching eggs in incubators Jan. 1 was 25 percent above year ago, but the pullet chick hatch during December – the more significant flock size change indicator – was down 10 percent.

If you feel the odds are prices will drop, consider selling your cash beans, a minimum price contract, or selling cash and buying a call. Many elevators are offering these alternatives and are willing to work with you just to get you to move your grain through them. Check with several to see what they have to offer.

Dairy Market Outlook...

Larry G. Hamm

The dairy markets are into their winter seasonal decline. The large 50 cent drop in the November-March (M-W) price in December is now winding its way into Class I quarterly 13-State and monthly 5-State On-Farm Feed Reports. They were bearish. Inventory and placements were higher than expected and marketing was lower.

Cattle

On Jan. 29 the USDAl released the Jan. 1 Quarterly 13 State and monthly 5-State On-Farm Feed Reports. They were bearish. Inventory and placements were higher than expected and marketing was lower.

M-W on feed were up 7-8 percent in the December-February period and up 15 percent in December in the December-February period.


The dairy market is still at a very early stage in the new year, as reflected by the futures markets. The new factor affecting the market for dairy products requires further market analysis. The new factor affecting the market for dairy products is the continued active use of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP).

Previous to leaving office on Jan. 20, outgoing Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced that bonuses for exports of NFDM, butter, and cheeses were available for 1993. In a very significant move, the former secretary allocated bonuses for 204,020 metric tons (450 million pounds) of whole milk under NFDM and 48,415 metric tons (107 million pounds) of butter. This bonus allows butter producers to sell butter in the feeder market and the year’s cattle markets.

The fact that NFDM markets are farm in spite of the shift to the DEIP factor requires further market analysis. The new factor affecting the market for dairy products requires further market analysis. The new factor affecting the market for dairy products is the continued active use of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP).
Agricultural Income Tax Reminders

Myron P. Kelsey, MSU Ag. Econ. Dept.

As farmers work through the tax filing season for 1992, there are still potential areas to examine on both state and federal income tax load. Most farmers should minimize their 1992 taxes as much as possible, since the 1992 growing season was such a disaster, along with low crop and livestock prices.

These will have a bigger affect on reducing 1993 farm income than they were in 1992. However, recognize that where possible, it probably does not make sense to reduce taxable income below zero so that your personal exemptions and the standard deduction are not fully utilized.

Some key items to take full advantage of when reporting 1992 income:

(a) Utilize the direct expense deduction (Section 179 deduction) to its maximum in filing your 1992 return. It can be taken in lieu of regular depreciation on up to $10,000 of capital purchases of farm personal property and certain specialized real estate items such as silos, livestock facilities, and grain storage structures.

(b) On deductible capital purchases in excess of the 179 deduction utilize the useful life and depreciation method that is most appropriate for your situation. Where more deductions are needed, choose MACRS with its guideline lives. Where deductions are not needed, choose ADS (alternative depreciation system) which has a slightly longer life.

(c) If you do not participate in some form of a tax deferred retirement program, there is still time to set up an IRA or SEP (simplified employee plan) and receive a 1992 tax deduction. You would be eligible for an IRA tax deferred deduction of up to $2,000 if neither you or your spouse are eligible for any other tax deferred program or your adjusted gross income is less than $40,000 (there is a phase out of the deduction between $41,000 and $50,000).

An SEP program may allow a greater deduction than the maximum contributed by an IRA, and it is 15 percent of net profit as reported on the Schedule F or C. Employees who are age 21 or over and have worked for you at least 3 of the last 5 years must be covered for an equal or greater percentage of their wages.

(d) Choose the automobile expense deduction which gives you the greater benefit. The standard mileage rate is 28 cents per mile (also for 1993). This would require some kind of record of the business miles. The alternative is a summation of actual expenses and depreciation divided by the business miles percentage.

(e) Scrutiny everywhere you can think of for unrecorded hills and receipts. Expenses tend to be made in a lot of small expenditures which can be easily lost or forgotten.

In planning for 1993, set up your accounting system to improve on the recording and summarizing of your expenses. Explore alternatives early in the year for hiring your spouse in your business to make it possible to obtain an extra $2,000 IRA deduction and deduct 100 percent of your medical insurance.

Dealing With The Loss of the Health Insurance Premium Tax Deduction

If you’re in the process of getting your 1992 taxes prepared, remember that as a self-employed individual you can only claim the 25 percent deduction on health insurance premiums for the first six months of 1992, since the previous deduction expired July 1, 1992, according to Grace Ellen Rice of the American Farm Bureau.

Rice said that despite numerous legislative attempts to maintain and/or expand the 25 percent health insurance premium deduction in 1992, all efforts failed. The future of such a deduction isn’t very clear either.

"I don’t see Congress moving on any such legislation until later this spring," said Rice. "Whether they make the deduction retroactive so that a self-employed taxpayer could file an amended return is questionable. Even in most cases, you can then include medical insurance as part of the compensation package.

Farm Credit Service’s State Director of Farm Records/Tax, Kelly Tobin, agrees calling a spousal employment agreement a win-win from a tax and business management standpoint, since it allows a total deduction of the health insurance premium as a business expense. Not only can the health insurance premium be claimed as a business expense on federal taxes, it can also be applied as a legitimate business expense against state income tax and the self-employed tax.

"If you can formally employ your spouse with legitimate duties such as chores, record keeping, etc., which is not a problem in most cases, you can then include medical insurance as part of the compensation package," said Tobin. "You can then take 100 percent deduction on the medical insurance premium as a regular business expense, which far exceeds deducting it under the self-employed itemized deduction previously available."

Employee duties and reasonable salaries for a spouse are key to such an arrangement and will be used as test of legitimacy by the IRS, cautions Tobin. He urges farmers to make sure the compensation package offered to a spouse is consistent with what would be offered to any other person employed on the farm.

"Though it won’t work in every situation, in many cases, the spouse is already actively involved in the farm operation with various levels of responsibilities," said Tobin. "We’re just encouraging our farmer clients to formalize it and take full advantage of the benefits."
Michigan Farm News

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For information, call 1-800-292-2680 or contact your local Farm Bureau agent.

February 15, 1993

Load it and Move it Safely on Your Farm

Tractor-mounted front-end loaders make short work of many tough jobs on the farm — handling manure and hay bales, moving dirt and debris, and the like. Construction-type loaders and skid-steer loaders are also commonly used by farmers. Whatever kind of equipment you use, remember these tips for safe loading and moving:

- Read and heed the instruction manual. Make sure all your operators are trained and skilled.
- When mounting a front-end loader on a tractor, check carefully to see that everything is tight and hydraulic lines are properly connected and leak-free. Add rear weight if necessary to balance the tractor. Use a tractor with ROPS.
- Load the bucket evenly from side to side, and keep the load within the specified capacity. Pay attention to the weight and density of the material to be moved — because a full bucket of one type of material may be easy to handle while a bucket of another type might cause severe imbalance and an upset.
- Avoid fast turns, especially with the bucket raised. Transport a heavy load low, keeping your speed down. Watch where you are going. Avoid obstacles and holes, and proceed with extra caution on slopes and inclines.

From Farm Bureau Insurance

- Keep children out of the work area.
- Never use the bucket to lift people or take them for a ride.
- When moving large round bales, use a bale guard to keep the bale from rolling back and then down on you. A bale clamp is also recommended.
- Stay clear of the lift arms, and keep others away.
- Always lower the bucket to the ground when you stop work. Never rely on hydraulics to hold the bucket up.
- Be sure your skid-steer loader has ROPS as well as protective guards around the ROPS frame. Wear your safety belt — and keep your arms and legs inside the cage at all times. Don't add weight that could upset the machine's stability. Drop the bucket when your work is finished.

Michigan Agriculture Commission Adopts Nutrient Storage and Use Practices For the State's Right-To-Farm Law

After months of deliberation and hearings, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture has approved a set of on-farm nutrient management practices. The document, now part of Michigan's Right-To-Farm Act, is called "Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Nutrient Utilization."

The recommended practices are the result of collaboration between Michigan State University agricultural researchers and Extension specialists, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Agri-Business Association.

The document contains 24 pages of recommendations for on-farm fertilizer storage and containment, crop fertilization, soil conservation and irrigation management.

There are also recommended practices for the fertilization and irrigation of container-grown plants and guidelines for land application of organic materials, sludges, food processing wastes, industrial organic wastes, etc.

"If growers carefully follow the recommended practices, they should meet the minimum requirements of state and federal regulations," says Maurice Vitosh, MSU Extension agronomy specialist.

He believes that the document reflects common sense in on-farm fertilizer storage, handling and use and does not contain recommendations that he would consider unreasonable.

Copies of the document may be obtained by writing to: Robert Craig, Michigan Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909. A copy of the document has also been sent to all MSU Extension county offices.
Monitor Stored Grain Regularly to Help Reduce Fire Potential

Because of the quality and condition of this year's corn crop going into storage, fire may be a possibility if the grain is not kept in good condition.

Paul Streng, MSU agricultural engineering specialist, says that checking the stored grain weekly may prevent a destructive problem.

"Watch for an unusual rise in grain temperature and stuff around the structure for any off odors, such as the smell of burnt popcorn," Streng says. "If either or both of these are present, call the authorities who can effectively deal with the problem."

Call the fire department if smoke is coming from an oxygen-limiting storage facility or from a standard grain storage bin. Do not try to enter either type of structure.

AMEX Long-Term Care Available Exclusively to MFB Members

Last year, senior Americans spent over $600 billion on long-term care. Nearly half of that amount came directly out of the pockets of patients or their families.

A new MFB member service program can help you keep your savings intact. According to MFB Member Services Department Manager Doug Fleming, available through Farm Bureau Insurance Agents, the policies are underwritten by AMEX Life Assurance Company, a subsidiary of American Express.

According to A U.S. News & World Report, one out of every two people age 65 and older are likely to need long-term care in their lifetimes. The costs can destroy the financial security of many families that were built over a lifetime, says Fleming.

"Today many qualified nursing home facilities cost $60 to in excess of $150 per day and those costs grow dramatically every year," said Fleming. "Statistically, half of the people entering a nursing home will stay for an average of 2.5 years. At the current estimated cost of $80 per day, it will cost $7,800 for the average 2.5 years of long-term care. Medicare pays only about 2 percent of the nation's long-term care expenses, and that Medicaid coverage begins only after most assets have been depleted."

With MFB's new long-term care program, members can select the plan best suited to their specific needs. You can select the length of nursing home coverage to help pay for care and assistance - two years, three years, four years, even for life. Members can also choose whether to have daily benefits or monthly benefits. But it does mean increased automatically to cover rising costs, due to inflation.

Ideally, members age 40 to 84 may want to discuss the feasibility of a long-term care plan with their Farm Bureau Insurance agent. Once you're covered, you'll be protected for life, says Fleming, meaning your insurance is guaranteed renewable for life.

Your premiums will never increase because of your age or changing health, and there's no requirement of prior hospitalization for nursing home or home care benefits. In addition the policy doesn't exclude pre-existing conditions, and benefits are provided for Alzheimer disease as well as other forms of senility.

"MFB members can also take comfort in knowing that this plan is provided by AMEX Life Assurance Company, which pioneered the development of long-term care insurance," explained Fleming. "AMEX is also rated A+ by A.M. Best Company (independent analyst of the insurance industry who base their analysis on financial position and operating performance), and are widely recognized as an industry leader in the field of long-term care. AMEX is also endorsed by the American Health Care Association."

To learn more about this newest MFB member service, available exclusively in Michigan, send for the AMEX Long-Term Care brochure by filling out and mailing the coupon on the bottom of this page.

Proper drying and cooling are critical for success in storing a severely stressed corn crop.

If smoke is coming from a standard grain storage, immediately call the fire department. Do not enter the structure or attempt to extinguish the fire. The best way to fight this kind of a fire is to ague the grain from the bin, dousing and separating the burning material from the rest of the grain, Streng says.

Pouring water onto the grain mass from the top of the structure may be fruitless, because the water will follow the path of least resistance and not necessarily reach the core of the fire. Excessive amounts of water may also ruin the structure.

"In order for spontaneous ignition to occur, these requirements must be met: a supply of oxygen, a source of heat and a source of fuel," Streng says. "In this case, the source of fuel is the corn and the source of heat will be the microbial action that occurred in the corn. If you eliminate one of the three requirements, a fire cannot occur."
Reducing the Risk of Groundwater Contamination by Improving Livestock Waste Storage

2. The physical and chemical characteristics of the soil and geologic materials within the storage area and overflow areas.

Proper materials and construction methods to control leakage of stored material toward groundwater.

1. The volume relative to daily manure production, climate, and cropping pattern.

2. The physical and chemical characteristics of the soil and geologic materials within the storage area and overflow areas.

3. Proper materials and construction methods to control leakage of stored material toward groundwater.

4. Providing the storage volume needed to hold all the waste generated during the period between scheduled applications.

5. Timely removal and utilization of the stored waste in accordance with the waste utilization plan.

Waste storage is an important management option available to livestock producers. Manure can be applied to the soil at specific times of the year when crops are not actively growing and soils are open.

This allows manure to be injected or incorporated by tillage immediately following application. Handling manure in this way ensures the farmers of the maximum fertilizer value from the waste materials, while reducing risks of ground water and surface water contamination.

Waste storage can reduce the need for land application during winter months when soil is frozen. This conserves nutrients contained in the manure and minimizes nutrient losses to runoff. Waste storage is also valuable when crops are actively growing making application impractical.

Manure storage can provide environmental benefits by allowing wastes to be stored until they can be safely utilized, which in most cases means the manure is spread, incorporated into the soil and used by a growing crop. The environmental safety of storing large amounts of manure in one place for an extended period depends on:

- The volume relative to daily manure production, climate, and cropping pattern.
- The physical and chemical characteristics of the soil and geologic materials within the storage area and overflow areas.
- Proper materials and construction methods to control leakage of stored material toward groundwater.

Contacts and References

Who to call about... Waste storage needs, designing appropriate structures:
Your county Cooperative Extension Service or your local Soil Conservation Service Office.

Cost-sharing funds:
Financial assistance for animal waste management practices, including waste storage, may be available through the Agricultural Conservation Program administered by the ASCS Office.

Animal waste management:
Generally Accepted Practices for Manure Management and Utilization (Right to Farm Act) from MDA or CES.

What to read about... Publications are available from sources listed at the end of this section.

Health effects of livestock waste in groundwater

Handling, management and storage of livestock waste


Planning and design of livestock waste storage facilities

Liquid Manure Tanks: Rectangular, Below Grade, MWPS-74303.

Systems of Runoff, Midwest Plan Service, MWPS-25.


Publications available from...
1. Your county CES Office or directly from the Bulletin Office, Room 108, Ag Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039, (517) 355-0240. There may be charges for publications, postage and sales tax.
2. Your county CES Office of directly from MWPS Secretary, Ag Engineering Dept., 217 A.W. Parrall Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1323, (517)353-3297.

February 15, 1993

Photo: MSU Ag Engineering Dept.

To protect the groundwater from possible water contamination, utilize structures that include soils of low permeability, bentonite or similar high swell clay materials, compacted earthen liner, and flexible membranes.

Storage Locations
The location of waste storage facilities in relation to any well is an important factor in protecting the farm water supply. The minimum required distance for any manure facility is 50 feet from a well. For temporary manure stacks and earthen facilities, the recommended distance is 200 feet. For liquid storage structures, the minimum separation distance is 100 feet.

Minimum separation distances regulate all new well installations and/or new storage facilities. Existing wells are required, by law, to meet separation requirements in existence at the time the well was installed. Make very effort, however, to exceed "old regulations" and strive to meet current regulations whenever possible.

While observing these well separation requirements may help protect your own well, poorly designed manure facilities can contaminate the groundwater that supplies other drinking wells.

Depth to seasonal high water table or fractured bedrock, along with soil type at the storage facility location is another important factor. Depth to water table is sometimes available in the county soil survey, but it varies from county to county. Your CES or SCS office may be able to help you gather this information.

Other Management Factors
Many Michigan counties have enacted waste storage facility ordinances, requiring storage facilities to be located and constructed to county–adopted engineering standards. Contact your local CES office for more information.

If animal waste storage causes any significant water contamination, the Department of Natural Resources can issue a notice of discharge, which may require corrective measures.

Abandoned Pits
Abandoned manure pits, especially earthen ones, can pose significant water quality problems. Any abandoned structure should be completely emptied. In the case of earthened facilities, solid liner material should be removed to a depth of about two feet spread over cropland and incorporated.

The remaining hole should be filled and leveled. Manure packs from pole sheds no longer in use should also be removed and the waste applied at agronomic rates based on nutrient content.
Livestock Waste Storage: Assessing Drinking Water Contamination Risk

Why Should I Be Concerned?

Storing livestock waste allows farmers to spread manure when conditions are right for nutrient use by crops. Accumulating livestock waste allows farmers to use the waste for animal feed, fuel, and fertilizer. Properly managed livestock waste can provide many benefits and be an important part of sustainable agriculture.

Worksheet

**Livestock Waste Storage: Assessing Drinking Water Contamination Risk**

1. Use a pencil. You may want to make changes.
2. For each category listed on the left that is appropriate to your farmstead, read across the row and circle the statement that best describes conditions on your farmstead. (Stop and leave blank any categories that do not apply to your farmyard.)
3. Then total the description you circled to find your "rank number" (4, 3, 2 or 1) and enter that number in the blank under "your rank."
4. Directions on overall scoring appear at the end of the worksheet.
5. Allow about 15-30 minutes to complete the worksheet and figure out your risk ranking for livestock waste storage practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of all manure storage in relation to wells.</th>
<th>Semi-solid and liquid manures</th>
<th>Solid, stackable manures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earthen lined manure storage more than 250 feet down slope of the well.</td>
<td>Designed and installed according to accepted standards and specifications. Properly maintained.</td>
<td>Designed and installed according to accepted standards and specifications. Properly maintained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of overflow, past or present, on coarse-textured soils.</td>
<td>Evidence of overflow, past or present, on coarse-textured soils.</td>
<td>Evidence of overflow, past or present, on coarse-textured soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manure storage less than 100 feet slope of the well.</td>
<td>Construction of earthen materials and storing liquid manure containing fine manure particles.</td>
<td>Evidence of overflow onto coarse-textured soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthen yard with low areas receiving frequent hoof traffic; with no runoff control measures in place.</td>
<td>Earthen yard with low areas receiving frequent hoof traffic; with no runoff control measures in place.</td>
<td>Earthen yard with low areas receiving frequent hoof traffic; with no runoff control measures in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor surface drainage on coarse-textured soils.</td>
<td>Poor surface drainage on coarse-textured soils.</td>
<td>Poor surface drainage on coarse-textured soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor surface drainage on coarse-textured soils.</td>
<td>Poor surface drainage on coarse-textured soils.</td>
<td>Poor surface drainage on coarse-textured soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-to-moderate-risk (rank 3)</td>
<td>Moderate-to-high-risk (rank 2)</td>
<td>High-risk (rank 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Your Rank**

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**Michigan Farm News**

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**Short-term solid manure storage**

- Mixed with mineralized soil and then stored in covered or uncovered pits or lagoons. This method is effective, but it requires more planning and effort.
- The manure is typically stored for a shorter period than long-term storage, usually up to 180 days.

---

**Long-term solid manure storage**

- Packed into earthen pits or trenches, or stored in earthen lined manure storage areas. This method is used for manure that needs to be stored for a longer period, typically more than 180 days.
- It is important to ensure that the storage location is not near water bodies or other sensitive areas.

---

**Solid Manure Storage Structure**

- Constructed with a floor of impermeable material, such as asphalt or bitumen, and a roof to prevent rain or snow from entering the storage area.
- The structure is typically located in a designated area, away from water bodies and other sensitive areas.

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**Bedded Pack**

- Constructed with a layer of straw or other bedding material on the ground, and then covered with a layer of manure. This method is effective for storing manure for a shorter period, typically up to 30-90 days.
- It is important to ensure that the bedding material is properly disposed of and that the area is kept clean and free of odors.

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**Conclusion**

Properly managed livestock waste storage practices are essential for protecting drinking water and the environment. By following these guidelines, farmers can reduce the risk of contaminating water sources and ensure that their practices are reasonably safe and effective. It is important to be aware of the potential risks associated with livestock waste storage and to take appropriate precautions to prevent negative impacts.
Suggestions for Feeding the 1992 Corn Crop

Steven Rust
MSU Animal Science Dept.

The immaturity of the corn crop has significantly altered the characteristics of the corn to be fed. Unfortunately, very little research has been done to provide recommendations. What information is available on immature corn does not represent the present corn crop of Michigan. The following suggestions represent my intuitive sense of how to utilize the present corn crop.

Harvest and Storage
Corn harvested at temperatures less than 40 degrees F undergoes very limited fermentation. Consequently, the resulting high moisture corn (HMC) has less bunk stability.

At this late stage, addition of a microbial inoculant (silage additive) does not appear cost effective. All wet corn harvested and stored at less than 40 degrees F is subject to rapid deterioration during warm weather and/or air exposure. Even corn dried below 30 percent moisture before ensiling is most likely going to be unstable. It would be advisable to feed the wet corn harvested now before warm weather.

Propionic acid treatment of corn harvested now may maintain the quality in its present condition for one year. Before going through the expense of applying acid, it’s advisable to test acceptability or willingness of cattle to consume acid-treated corn.

Processing before ensiling will have less effect than under normal conditions. If harvested corn contains a lot of fines, it should pack satisfactorily. From a feeding standpoint, minimal or no processing is advisable to test acceptability or willingness of cattle to consume acid-treated corn.

Processing after ensiling will have less benefit than under normal conditions. If harvested corn contains a lot of fines, it should pack satisfactorily. From a feeding standpoint, minimal or no processing is suggested.

Corn Quality
Much of the remaining corn in the field contains various types of corn. Corn that contains molds should not be unconditionally rejected as livestock feeds. The toxins produced by the molds (especially T2 toxins) can be harmful to cattle. Historically, T2 toxin has not been prevalent in corn in Michigan.

Kernel discoloration is prevalent in the remaining standing corn as well. This is most likely the result of bacterial deterioration.

The feeding value of moldy or discolored corn is less than the normal harvested corn. It should be discounted accordingly. There are no published guidelines to determine the discounts, but it would seem 20 - 40 percent should be considered.

Feeding Strategies
Three major problems exist with the feeding of this unusual corn crop. The nutritive value, palatability, and rate of digestion may limit growth and feed conversion efficiency.

Nutritive Value
There are a number of likely reductions in nutritive value due to harvest conditions. Reasons likely to be of nutritive value:

Immaturity: 5-10 percent
Mold: 10-15 percent
Discoloration: 10-15 percent
Extra foreign material: 4-10 percent

Total Potential Reduction: 25-50 percent

A simple method to evaluate the amount of deterioration is to recheck ensilage. Normal moisture (56 lb/ton) contains 1.3-1.5 percent ash and low test weight corn (47 lb/ton) has 2.2-2.4 percent. Corn that was greater than 2.5 percent ash probably has been exposed to excessive microbial deterioration.

There have been reports of very low crude protein values (less than 6 percent) in the corn. A laboratory analysis would identify the low protein corn and allow addition of supplemental protein.

Palatability
Corn that possesses poor bunk stability may limit cattle intake unless carefully managed. Amount of feed delivered daily should be monitored closely. Bunks may have to be cleaned frequently. High levels of molds without presence of toxins may not severely restrict intake. However, corn that has presence of molds and formed clumps, will offer other tips include:

1. Immature corn is more rapidly degraded in the rumen which could result in acidosis and erratic intake.
2. Blending the wet corn with dry corn will slow the rate of digestion and dilute the factors that may restrict intake.
3. Feeding whole corn will slow the rate of digestion.
4. Increasing the level of roughage to 12-15 percent (25-30 percent corn silage) will stimulate saliva production and buffer the pH decline in the rumen.
5. Feeding Tylan to prevent liver abscesses may be necessary.
6. Using by-product feedstuffs may be a greater challenge, particularly if rapidly degraded in the rumen. Use of a rumen degradable protein source may assist in suppressing accumulation of lactic acid.
7. Feeding buffers in high concentrate diets has not shown benefit.
8. When possible, utilize dry corn in re-feeding diets in an attempt to finish rations. Once cattle are adjusted to finish diet, wet corn can replace dry corn.

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Michigan Farm News
February 15, 1993
March Discussion Topic - The Cost of Education

America's founding fathers believed that a representative democracy could only survive if citizens were educated and well-informed. As a result, broadly available publicly-funded schools have been a tradition in this country.

But in Michigan in recent years, the rising cost of education, the reliance on property taxes as the major source of school funding and perceived inequities in school funding have fueled efforts to reform education finance. Property taxes raise about $6.4 billion for schools each year, with the state providing funding to the tune of $3.7 billion. Because some communities are wealthier than others, property spending across the state varies widely—from $2,600 to $8,600.

Your property tax bill is based on the S.E.V. (state equalized value) of your property times the millage. Unlike income taxes and sales taxes, which vary depending on the amount of money you make, property taxes are levied regardless of the ability to pay. So, despite several laws designed to provide equity and reduce property taxes for retired persons and farmers, there is a widespread perception that property taxes are not fair.

Delegates to the 1992 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting thoroughly debated the property tax question. The final policy they approved states a belief that school finance reform is needed to achieve equal educational opportunities for all Michigan children.

The policy says that opportunities for reform include:

- Reducing the current 50 mill limitation.
- Tax base sharing which requires that one-half of the growth in commercial and industrial property taxes for school operations be distributed to local in-formula school districts on a per pupil basis.
- Equalize to the extent possible per pupil spending.
- Full state funding of transportation for students.
- Cost containment through increased efficiency and innovation.
- Funding at 50 percent local/50 percent state, plus lottery revenue.
- Additional funding phased in over three to five years, with revenue increases limited to no more than 15 percent of the previous year.
- Require that school aid funding reflect current year enrollment.

Furthermore, the policy states that "all state aid formulas must be fully funded. There also must be full funding for state mandated programs whether new or amended. Revenues to be used for school finance must be earmarked for the state School Aid Fund. Reorganization of school districts should be studied and considered but should continue to be voluntary. We support a reduction of property taxes with a shift to other sources to replace the lost revenue with the shift being earmarked specifically for education. However, any change should be revenue neutral."

Discussion Questions:
1. What alternative sources of revenue should be used to replace lost revenue from property tax reductions?
2. How can school districts fulfill state mandated programs, such as handicapped and special education requirements, and still remain in-formula?
3. How can school systems compete for and keep good teachers?
4. Can you suggest any cost containment and/or efficiency measures that might be implemented in your district?

As this goes to press, the governor and state Legislature are unveiling a variety of school finance reform plans. Michigan Farm Bureau will closely evaluate these proposals to determine their compatibility with Farm Bureau policy.

Each Farm Bureau member has a responsibility to become well-informed about the finances of his or her local school district. Take an active role in encouraging cost containment efforts and efficient spending of scarce local resources. With your input, Michigan schools can move closer to the American ideal of outstanding education at an acceptable price.

Grassroots in Action - MFB's Lansing Legislative Seminar Series

Michigan Farm Bureau members will once again be able to participate in the annual Lansing Legislative Seminar series, to discuss issues such as property tax reform, school finance, local pesticide pre-emption, and medical malpractice with their legislators.

This is the ideal opportunity for Farm Bureau members to make their views and concerns known where it really counts - face to face with their respective legislators, according to MFB Public Affairs Director Al My.

"This conference has built up a great deal of credibility with legislators over past years," said Almy. They know and understand that the people attending these seminars are genuine farmers with a genuine desire to meet and talk on issues affecting their farm operations.

Registration is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. each day, followed by a legislative briefing by MFB Public Affairs staff, prior to meeting with respective legislators during lunch, and after the afternoon. In addition to meeting with legislators in the afternoon, members will also have an opportunity to attend Hearings and Committee sessions, and participate in a capitol tour.

Specific meeting dates for respective county Farm Bureaus are as follows:

**February 16**
- Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Marquette, Montmorency, Negaunee, Keweenaw, Muskegon, Newaygo, Osceola, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Sandusky, Barry, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lawrence, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, and Washtenaw County Farm Bureaus.

**March 30**
- Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Huron, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Shiawassee, and Van Buren County Farm Bureaus.

**March 31**
- Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Calhoun, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clare, Coke County, Emmet, Gladwin, Gra一个是, Hiawatha, Houghton, Iron Range, Isabella, Kalkaska, Mac-Luce, Manistee, Menominee, Midland, Mecosta, Montague, Montmorency, Northwest Michigan, Ogemaw, Osceola, Presque Isle, Saginaw, and Wexford County Farm Bureaus.

For additional meeting information and registration, contact your local county Farm Bureau office.

TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL DIRECT 1-800-292-2860, EXT. 2007.
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tion, contact your local Group Purchasing vendor, or call 1-800-292-3680, ext. 2015.

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HILLSDALE COUNTY Vacant land and building lots. Call 313-435-9666.

MIKING 100 acres, 60 tillable with nice homesite. Contact Jim Batalden, Mcllllno, MI 517-770-4886.

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饮用, 80 inches wide. Gene Ryman-

12 General
CROP INSURANCE is time to start planning for your 1993 crop insurance. If you have questions about crop insurance, contact your local Farm Bureau insurance agent or contact Jim Gallich of the Farm Bureau in-

1700, ext. 577. CT.

FINES MICHIGAN GROWN 
5, grass and asparagus seed. All state inspected, grown on fumigated land. Soil test. Write for free illus-
trated price list. Krohne Plant Farms, Rt. 6, Box 566, Down-
gate, Mich 49447. 616-424-5243.

GOLF-FARMING. Why not 
sell your sandy farm by mixing it into a golf course. Imagine making your own profitable golf course, with lots of spectacular views. Call 517-201-3322.

HI-TEENIBLE FENCE SUPPLIES. High pressure treated wood and temporary fence supplies. Offers each rented spring delivery. High-

04 Livestock
5 ACRES wasl of Adrian. Mostly idleable, some woods, lots of wildlife, $14,900. Large market farm, $4,900. "Early Winter Sale" Dec. 1 - 8. For more information, contact your local Group Purchasing vendor, or call 1-800-292-3680, ext. 2015.

WIRELESS DRIVEWAY ALARMS. Let's you know when someone is at your home. For more information, contact your local Group Purchasing vendor, or call 1-800-292-3680, ext. 2015.

POWER TWIST and ad-
justable V-Belts at discount prices. For more information, contact your local Group Purchasing vendor, or call 1-800-292-3680, ext. 2015.
Jeff Reed, Owosso, Genesee County. Estm. 10 acres. Call 517-681-5305. Trucking available.


J. P. Parrent, Sanford, Sanilac County. Estm. 50,000 bu. Call 517-628-3219. Trucking available.


Tom Todd, Croswell, Sanilac County. Estm. 60,000 bu. Call 517-681-3493. Trucking available.


Randy Poulsen, Birch Run, Saginaw County. Estm. 10,000 bu. Call 517-673-2942. Trucking available.
FFA Convention During ANR Week at MSU

About 1,000 members of the Michigan FFA Organization will meet March 3-5 at Michigan State University for their annual convention, which is part of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week. Feb. 26 - March 6 at MSU. More information about the FFA convention, to be held at the MSU Wharton Center for Performing Arts, can be obtained from Charles Snyder at MSU by calling (517) 353-9221.

Crop-O-Rama, intended for FFA and 4-H members, will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 3 in A155 MSU Plant and Soil Science Building. Participants will demonstrate their skills in crop identification, soil judging and land use. There will also be an agronomic quiz bowl for high school juniors and seniors. For more information, call Larry Copeland at MSU at (517) 353-4595.

FFA members can also participate in a Building Our American Communities workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. March 3 in E100 MSU Veterinary Clinic. The workshop will focus on the role that local FFA chapters can play in community improvement. For more information, contact Louis Twardzik at MSU at (517) 353-5190.

The FFA convention will include skilled competitions, business meetings, election of state FFA officers and presentation of state FFA degrees, including the State Star Farmer and the State Star Agribusiness awards. Chapters across Michigan are preparing for a number of leadership contests, as was this group of students last year from the Lowell FFA Chapter.

Michigan Commission of Agriculture Elected Officials

David Crumbaugh of St. Louis was elected to a one-year term as chair of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture at its January meeting in Grand Rapids.

Other newly elected officers include: John A. Spero, Birch Run, vice-chair, and Keith H. McKenzie, Cassopolis, secretary. Donald W. Nugent, Frankfort, and Rita M. Reid, Vulcan, are the remaining members of the five-member bipartisan policy-making body for the Michigan Department of Agriculture.


Nugent, a member since 1991, owns Nugent Farms; is president of Gateway Products, Inc.; founder, general manager and director of Grace Fruit Cooperative, Inc. He served as commission chair in 1991 and 1992.

Reid owns a 400-acre farm and is owner and manager of the New Brier Supper Club in Norwalk. First appointed in 1984, she served as chair in 1987.

Tirrell - January Farm Bureau Volunteer of the Month

Duane Tirrell of Charlotte, Eaton County, has been selected as Farm Bureau's January Volunteer of the Month winner. Duane and his wife, Pat, have three children and are actively involved in a family partnership with Duane's brother and father raising strawberries and sheep, in addition to the family's dairy and beef operation.

Duane was recognized for his efforts and support of new county Farm Bureau president training. During the recent training program, Duane conducted a workshop on member involvement, goal setting, and working with the media. Duane is a past county president of the Eaton County Farm Bureau and is currently on the county's executive committee.

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