U.S. Sugar Producers Face Retroactive USDA Market Allotments


The announcement by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger listed 7.77 million short tons of sugar as the amount U.S. producers will be able to sell. The allotment, triggered by an estimated 1,000 tons of excess production by U.S. producers, could limit each producer to market less sugar.

"The imposition of quotas at this time over such an insignificant amount of excess production (only 1,000 tons), which could even be accounted for by rounding errors or other statistical maneuvers, could do significant harm to producers," said Don Parrish, director of the American Farm Bureau's Cotton, Rice and Sugar Department. "We question the wisdom of this decision and believe it was unnecessary.

Since the quotas are imposed retroactively to Oct 1, 1992 when the fiscal year began, many producers already have harvested and sold their full production, which could be in excess of their marketing allotments. This untimely decision could be costly to producers, according to Parrish.

"Farm Bureau shares the opinion of many congressional leaders who contend that the National Environmental Policy Act, requiring impact statements, does not apply to free-trade agreements," said Laurie. "How can a country negotiate in good Faith, if everything is subject to judicial review, especially when that review is based on hypothetical impacts?

"Those groups and individuals who are trying to prevent a U.S. free trade agreement with Mexico, based on environmental objections, are doing a disservice to the people of both countries. Their logic is incomprehensible, especially if you examine the alternatives which Mexico faces. It's been proven around the world that growing economies and improved incomes are the surest means of environmental protection," Laurie said.

"With a NAFTA agreement, there is pressure on Mexico to be more environmentally active. Without an agreement, there is nothing to encourage Mexico to move in this direction. It will be a terrible irony if environmental improvements are lost because of shortsighted actions by a small number of environmental activists," Laurie concluded.

The National Environmental Policy Act was passed by Congress in 1969, establishing procedures for federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of proposed actions. An environmental impact statement is a multi-stage process designed to identify and discuss all foreseeable environmental impacts for each alternative that is likely to occur. It requires alternative courses of action to mediate any adverse impact. The Clinton administration has indicated it will appeal the district court decision to the Circuit Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile, negotiations are proceeding, with both Canada and Mexico indicating they don't believe the ruling will delay ratification of the agreement. Canada released its environmental review of NAFTA last November, and its parliament has already passed enabling legislation.

NAFTA is expected to increase U.S. agricultural exports by $2 billion annually and create as many as 50,000 new U.S. jobs in the agri-business sector. New ag export possibilities would include wheat, corn, rice, oilseeds, cotton, dairy, beef, pork, poultry, lumber, dry beans, fruits and potatoes.

Farm Bureau Critical of Judge's Ruling on NAFTA

MFB President Jack Laurie sharply criticized the court ruling, saying the American Farm Bureau Federation had urged Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and the Clinton administration to "vigorously appeal" the district court decision, so that Congress could move ahead toward endorsement of the free trade agreement.

"Farm Bureau shares the opinion of many congressional leaders who contend that the National Environmental Policy Act, requiring impact statements, does not apply to free-trade accords," said Laurie. "How can a country negotiate in good faith, if everything is subject to judicial review, especially when that review is based on hypothetical impacts? Those groups and individuals who are trying to prevent a U.S. trade agreement with Mexico, based on environmental objections, are doing a disservice to the people of both countries. Their logic is incomprehensible, especially if you examine the alternatives which Mexico faces. It's been proven around the world that growing economies and improved incomes are the surest means of environmental protection," Laurie said.

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Dairy Farm Bureau was represented at the recent "dairy summit" held by the USDA in York, Pa. No consensus was reached among the various groups advocating changes to the dairy program, but a wide variety of issues were discussed, including federal milk marketing orders, exports, two-tier pricing, budget reconciliation assessments and the effect of the current dairy program.

Also discussed were the National Dairy Board referendum, BST, a "self-help" dairy program and other supply management proposals.

Dairy experts at the conference noted that several issues will continue to impact the dairy industry. Farmers are exiting the business. The new technology is being technologically adapted. Production will continue to move to low cost areas. And the industry faces increasing competition from dairy substitutes.

With county Farm Bureaus across the state beginning their policy development processes, and the National Dairy Board referendum issues under consideration, many factors that should be considered when discussing potential dairy policy suggestions.

First of all, the U.S. is continuing to lose dairy farmers at a rate of four to five percent a year. Those percentages closely match what is occurring in Canada, the European Community and Japan. Interestingly enough, New Zealand, which has very little in the way of government subsidized dairy programs, is increasing its number of dairy farmers by about five percent a year.

I think that is a clear indication that countries that have mandatory production controls are losing as many dairy farmers as countries that do not have controls. Supply management is not the answer to solving the problem of excess production. The dairy industry will have to continue to stress new production development and markets.

Other dairy policy considerations include:
- removal of dairy assessments.
- a program to address excess production.
- the need for Congress to give credit to the dairy industry for financial contributions.
- a review of the role of U.S. domestic feeding programs in removing excess production.
- profitability in dairying.

The U.S. dairy farmer is becoming more efficient, but he is also receiving less of the consumer dollar for milk products. Farm Bureau supports dairy programs that ensure the ability of producers to increase competitiveness and efficiency.

I'm confident that your discussion this summer on dairy policy, and on a wide variety of other issues, will surface creative approaches to the challenges facing agriculture. I encourage all Farm Bureau members to get involved today. Contact your county Farm Bureau president or policy development chairman for more information.

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Michigan Farm News

July 15, 1993

Polluter Pays Clean Water Funding Act

MFB Position: MFB supports the bill.
MFB Contact: Ronald Nelson, Ext. 2043

H.R. 2199, sponsored by Congressman Gerry Studds (D-Massachusetts), would amend the federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The bill also creates a Clean Water Trust Fund to assist in controlling point and nonpoint sources of pollution. Money for the fund would be generated from taxes including a tax on fertilizer, pesticides and animal feed. The tax imposed would be:

- 0.645 cents per pound of nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizer except manure or sewage sludge.
- 24.27 cents per pound of active ingredient in pesticides.
- $2.68 per ton of processed animal feed intended to be consumed by livestock, birds, fur-bearing animals, fish or wildlife.

Budget Reconciliation

MFB Position: Supported repeal of the energy tax, barge tax, and dyed fuel requirement. Farm Bureau also supported extension of the health insurance deduction and increasing it to 100 percent.
MFB Contact: Al Almy, Ext. 2040

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate have passed legislation requested by President Clinton to raise taxes and reduce the deficit. A primary provision in both the House and Senate bills is an energy tax. See the table below for the energy tax provisions of each bill. Both the House and Senate bills cut $3 billion from agricultural program spending. See the table on page 10 in this edition of Michigan Farm News outlining these agricultural cuts.

The Senate bill would extend retroactively the 25 percent deduction self-employed persons can claim on their federal tax returns for the cost of health insurance. The deduction would be retroactive to July 1, 1992 and expire December 31, 1993. The House bill does not extend the deduction.

The bills have been sent to a Conference Committee composed of members from both the House and Senate who will resolve differences between the two bills.

The final bill coming from the Conference Committee will then go back to the House and Senate for approval. Both Michigan U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Don Riegle will sit on the Conference Committee.

Manufacturing Milk Act

MFB Position: MFB supports lowering the temperature to 50 degrees F for all on-farm Grade B milk. The new standards require a lower temperature for farm storage in bulk tanks of Grade B milk.
MFB Contact: Ronald Nelson, Ext. 2043

S.B. 636, sponsored by Sen. Joel Gougeon (R-Bay City), would adopt new manufacturing milk standards that apply the temperature to 50 degrees F. The new standards require a lower temperature for farm storage in bulk tanks of Grade B milk.

MFB Contact: Ronald Nelson, Ext. 2043

S.B. 636, sponsored by Rep. Sandy Hill (R-Montrose), would allow a farmer operating an ORV in the farm operation to operate the vehicle within the road right-of-way. Enforcement agencies in some counties have cited or warned farmers that the unlicensed ORVs cannot be used on or within the road right-of-way.

The bill would limit ORV use during daylight hours when operated by a person at least 16 years of age moving from field to field for farming purposes.

The bill has been approved by the House and is pending on the Senate floor. A Senate amendment would require that a fluorescent flag be displayed when the ORV is operated on the road.

Personal Property Tax

MFB Position: MFB supports the clarification of the personal property tax exemption for agriculture.
MFB Contact: Ronald Nelson, Ext. 2043

H.B. 4833, sponsored by Rep. Dan Gustafson (R-Williamston), would clarify the agricultural exemption from the personal property tax. The bill is in response to a decision by the Michigan Tax Tribunal regarding questions and challenges by local assessors on agricultural processing equipment. The challenges involved the tax exemption of equipment used in processing fruit and vegetables grown by a farmer who also processes products grown by others.

Inheritance Tax Repeal

MFB Position: MFB supported the bill.
MFB Contact: Ronald Nelson, Ext. 2043

Legislation passed by the House and Senate and signed by Governor Engler, repeals the Michigan Inheritance Tax and adopts the Federal Pickup Tax which exempts $600,000 of the value of an estate.

In addition, the bill also extends the time for payment of the estate tax from the current 105 days to nine months. The amendments will become effective Oct. 1, 1993.

P.A. 116 Workgroup

MFB Position: MFB supports the concept and continues to work with the sponsor on several specific concerns.
MFB Contact: Ronald Nelson, Ext. 2043

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S.B. 636, sponsored by Rep. Howard Wettles (D-Kawkawlin), would make a series of amendments to P.A. 116 and addresses a variety of P.A. 116 concerns. There are a number of provisions which address MFB policy.

Manufacturing Milk Act

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Weather

Little has changed weatherwise since the last column, with twin branches of the jetstream continuing to emanate over the Midwest, which has resulted in wetter than normal conditions over much of the region, including Michigan. Hot, humid air also associated with this weather pattern has until recently remained just south of the state, with temperatures during June averaging out mostly below normal.

Just to the south and west of Michigan in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, rainfall during the past six weeks has reached record-breaking proportions, with some locations recording more than 12 inches (normal would be on the order of 4.5 inches). Coming on the heels of a wet May, this has caused some of the worst flooding in 30 years and left a small, but significant portion of some of the most productive land in the Cornbelt region unplanted.

The latest extended outlooks from the National Weather Service do not offer much in the way of change for Michigan, with both the 30-day outlook for July and the 90-day outlook for July-September calling for rainfall to remain below normal to above normal levels. Temperatures during July are forecast to continue at normal to above normal levels. For most major crops in the state (what may be an exception), this is a very favorable outlook, resulting in high yield potential this fall if all else goes well.

Michigan Weather Summary

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Michigan Field Crops - Dog days of summer have finally returned, at least for the time being, putting many Michigan crops back on schedule, compared to 1992, according to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. Moisture levels varied considerably across the state, with 60 of the acreage percent rated adequate and 40 percent with surplus moisture conditions as of July 7.

Corn height also varied considerably, with some fields well below knee high while other were reported waist high. Acreage rated 20 inches at 20 inches and the condition was reported was 65 percent good to excellent. Soybeans were 10 percent bloomed, ahead of the normal 5 percent. Dry bean planting was only 20 percent complete, with replanting reported in some cases due to flooding.

Winter wheat was behind normal, but catching up quickly. Oats were reported slightly behind normal, but were rated 60 percent with excellent harvest condition. Second cutting hay was generally just getting started, with growth reported as good across the state.

Warm humid weather continued to add to the moisture levels, with the incidence of cherry leafspot and brown rot in the southwest and west central regions of the state. Field peas were reported still as of July 7.

Vegetables - Wet conditions slowed flower development for many vegetable crops. Carrots stand in the west central region were reported good. Early cabbage harvest started in the Saganewa Valley. Late tomato planting was still underway in central areas. Strawberry harvest advanced to 65 percent complete. Squash harvest was underway in southeastern Michigan. Fruit on early tomato plantings were sizing well.

Ohio Persistent hot, humid weather, combined with adequate rainfall, has accelerated corn growth, with the crop rated 19 percent excellent, 52 percent good, 24 percent fair, according to the Ohio Ag Statistics Service. Field conditions along the Ohio/Indiana border were standing in water, however, overall development was on schedule with several locations reporting head high corn. A few fields were starting to sink in southern portions of the state.

Nearly 12 percent of the soybean crop has bloomed, with crop rated 14 percent excellent, 52 percent good, and 34 percent fair. Winter wheat harvest was underway, with the crop rated 12 percent excellent, 52 percent good and 34 percent fair.

Indiana Overall weather is deteriorating Indiana’s corn crop, with average height 9 inches below the five-year average, and no corn fields were as silking corn as the five year five percent average, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Heavy rains were causing serious crop stress in some fields, with the crop now rated only 7 percent excellent, 61 percent good, and 31 percent fair.

Soybeans were also suffering from excessive moisture, with 6 percent rated excellent, 56 percent good, and 35 percent fair. The corn area was down to 12 percent on average. Heavy weed pressures were also a problem. Wheat crop conditions deteriorated for the third straight week in a row, with 6 percent rated excellent, 65 percent good, and 26 percent fair. Wheat harvest, at 16 percent complete, was lagging well behind the five year average of 47 percent.

Illinois Excess moisture was showing itself in many years fields of corn and soybeans in northern Illinois, while southern state farmers were reporting low test weights on harvested as well as according to the Illinois Ag Statistics Service.

Corn was rated 9 percent excellent, 65 percent good, and 26 percent fair. Only 1 percent of the crop was reported as silking compared to 13 percent on average. Corn height was also 16 inches below the year 47 inch figure.

Soy beans were rated 5 percent excellent, 58 percent good and 31 percent fair. Only 3 percent of the crop was bloomed, compared to 30 percent on average. Wheat harvest was at 1 percent complete, well behind the 71 percent average. The crop was rated 3 percent excellent, 49 percent good, and 45 percent fair.

Iowa

The state had just experienced the wettest week in three years as of July 7, following one of the wettest springs in history, according to the Iowa Ag Statistics Service. Tremendous rainfall, late planting and saturated soils have caused serious stand reductions, uneven emergence, and yellowing of crops. Wet spots in fields were getting so saturated and soil erosion continued to be a problem.

As of July 7, 92 percent of the state’s soybean crop was planted, with only 10 percent of the crop cultivated, down from the 78 percent average. There were reports of some farmers experiencing standing water, in an attempt to get the crop planted. Soybeans were rated 27 percent good, 56 percent fair, 12 percent poor and 1 percent very poor.

Oats was 30 percent cultivated, well behind the 68 percent average for the prior year. Average corn height was 20 inches below normal, at 16 inches. The crop was rated 1 percent excellent, 36 percent good, 28 percent fair, 10 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor.

Oats were headed on 65 percent of the acreage compared to 99 percent on average. The crop was rated 2 percent excellent, 30 percent good, 45 percent fair, 21 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor.

Michigan Farm News

July 15, 1993
DODGE JUST CAME UP WITH 500 MORE REASONS FOR BELONGING TO YOUR FARM BUREAU.

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR $500 CASH BACK FROM DODGE.

Overall, Dodge offers the most powerful line of trucks in America. Courtesy of our Magnum V-6, V-8 and Cummins diesel engines. So shopping Dodge makes sense right from the start. But now, Farm Bureau members have an extra incentive. Either $500 cash back on select Magnum powered Dodge trucks. Or up to $1,000 worth of DeWalt tools. And that's on top of any other national offer.* So be smart. Get a certificate from your Farm Bureau and go see your nearest Dodge dealer. Any color Dodge truck you want, you'll save a lot of green.

* The 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.
Market Outlook...

### Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

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<th>Higher Prices</th>
<th>Lower Prices</th>
<th>TP = Topping</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Wheat

How much did the rains in Kansas at harvest time hurt wheat yield and quality? Up to that point, it appeared the U.S. would have an excellent wheat production year. Acres planted were near expectations, so the production question is what we bring out of the fields.

The stocks report was bullish beans. There were about 20 million fewer bushels of soybeans than expected. This means that export sales and shipments are running at a rate that meets expectations.

### Corn

Last year for the country as a whole, we found rain makes grain. What is less clear is how much the late plantings will affect yields. It is my perception that the likely yield potential for the country as a whole has been reduced. Until we get some growing weather from here on out, the most likely average yield for the country is probably below trend. You put this information together with fewer than expected acres and you get a run up in prices.

On June 30, the USDA released two important reports, stocks on June 1 and planted and intended planted on June 1. The stocks number was very close to expectations. This is an indication that feed usage is running at the high rate projected by USDA. However, export sales have slowed up dramatically and will have to pick up soon in order for shipments to meet expectations.

The planted acreage number came in at 74.3 million acres. This is 5 million acres less than last year, 2 million fewer than the March intentions, and over 1 million acres below expectations. However, given continued planting problems after June 1, it is probably close to accurate. Also, remember that many acres were not in the June report in Iowa, which is generally a high yield state.

### Soybeans

Has it stopped raining in Iowa and the surrounding areas? According to the June 1 planted acres number of 61.6 million acres was very bearish considering it was over 2 billion acres more than last year and 1.6 million more than expectations. But on July 1, there were still around 4 million acres to be planted.

It is probably impossible for all the acres to be planted at this point. The question becomes how many will be and how much has the yield potential been hurt? At this point, the guess is close to 2 million acres will not be planted and the yield potential of the remaining acres has been reduced even further.

The stocks report was bullish beans. There were about 20 million fewer bushels of soybeans than expected. This means that export sales and shipments are running at a rate that meets expectations.

### Hogs

While slaughter has picked up some recently, weights are still down.

### Cattle

The cattle market has not been healthy lately. The report released on June 1 had an extra kicker in the wheat picture, and that is what the USDA is saying will be needed to move prices higher. EEP. If the market knew that, then I would definitely say we should be pricing some of the total weight of the rally. However, I feel the government and the market will decide to lower deficiency payments by increasing prices with EEP. If cash prices do get near the market, then I would consider pricing a good deal.

While cattle sales is running about the same as last year but due to lighter weights, production is down 3 percent.

### Market Outlook...

### Wheat

### Corn

### Soybeans

### Hogs

### Cattle
Michigan Land Values Continue to Struggle

Average Survey Results for Michigan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Type</th>
<th>Average Price Per Acre</th>
<th>Change in Price last 12 mos.</th>
<th>Expected Change in Price next 12 mos.</th>
<th>Change in Land Supply last 12 mos.</th>
<th>Average Cash Rent Per Acre</th>
<th>Average Rent to Rent Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Quality Corn, Soybean and Hay Ground in Southern Lower Peninsula</td>
<td>$ 949</td>
<td>+ 2%</td>
<td>+ 0.8%</td>
<td>+ 0.5%</td>
<td>$62</td>
<td>$16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Quality Corn, Soybean and Hay Ground in Southern Lower Peninsula</td>
<td>$ 671</td>
<td>+ 1.4</td>
<td>+ 0.5</td>
<td>+ 1.1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Beet</td>
<td>$ 1,267</td>
<td>+ 1.9</td>
<td>+ 1.7</td>
<td>+ 3.9</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigated</td>
<td>$ 1,034</td>
<td>+ 3.6</td>
<td>+ 0.3</td>
<td>- 3.3</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Average value to rent ratios were calculated using only the survey questionnaires with completed responses to both the average value and average rent per acre questions.

Steven D. Hanson
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University

Agricultural land values in Michigan continue to struggle following a decline in the previous year and are expected to show even smaller gains during the upcoming year, according to the results of a survey conducted by the M.S.U. Department of Agricultural Economics.

Members of the Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Association, banker-participants in Michigan Farm Credit Conference, and county assessors in Michigan were surveyed regarding agricultural land values and rental rates for different types of land in the state.

Land suitable for corn, soybean, and hay production in the southern lower peninsula was divided into higher quality (above average production) and lower quality (below average production) land. The average price per acre for higher quality corn, soybean, and hay land was $949 compared to $671 for lower quality land. Sugar beet land in the state averaged $1,267 per acre, while irrigated land had an average value of $1,034 per acre.

These values were up slightly from the previous year with corn, soybean, hay, and sugar beet land all showing increases of 1.4 to 3.9 percent over the previous year's values. On the other hand, irrigated land showed a relatively strong increase of 3.6 percent last year, but lower quality land's strong showing can be attributed, in part, to a decrease in the supply of irrigated land on the market last year.

Values for land used in agricultural production are expected to remain steady during 1993 with some areas realizing moderate increases in prices and other areas absorbing price decreases. Corn, soybean, hay, and irrigated land are all expected to show average increases in value of less than 1 percent while sugar beet land is expected to increase in value by about 1.5 percent.

The poor 1992 commodity prices and farm returns are largely responsible for the weak land price outlook. Last year's low returns are expected to soften the demand for land in a number of areas in the state and perhaps force some producers out of business, thus increasing the supply of land. The slightly stronger outlook for sugar beet land is attributed to availability of larger contracts to some growers.

Cash rental rates for higher quality corn, soybean, and hay ground averaged $62 per acre last year in the southern lower peninsula compared to $39 per acre for low quality land. Sugar beet land rented for an average of $98 per acre, while irrigated land averaged $93 per acre.

A useful tool for making comparisons among the different sets of land values is the "value to rent ratio." Value to rent ratios are calculated by dividing land values by cash rents and are a direct function of the future cash flows the land is expected to generate. The average value to rent ratios for corn, soybean, and hay land were larger than those for sugar beet and irrigated land.

Higher expected future cash flows are "capitalized" into the values for land today, increasing its value relative to the current year's cash flow. In other words, higher expected future cash flows translate into higher value to rent ratios. The high value to rent ratios for corn, soybean, and hay land suggest three possible situations:

1. The market anticipates that cash flows from corn, soybean, and hay production will grow at a faster rate than the cash flows from sugar beet and irrigated land.
2. The corn, soybean, and hay land may be switched to alternative production with higher expected cash flows, for example sugar beet production; or
3. Non-farm uses of the land in the future may provide higher cash flows than those expected from corn, soybean, and hay production.

Survey information for corn, soybean, and hay land in the northern lower peninsula and upper peninsula was more limited. The values for corn, soybean, and hay land averaged between $400 and $500 per acre with cash rents averaging between $19 and $28 per acre. Values in these areas were up about 4 percent over the previous year's values and are expected to increase by around 4 percent again this year.

Survey respondents also provided information on a number of other issues that have important implications for the agricultural land market in Michigan. Liability issues surrounding environmental hazards such as chemical runoff, animal wastes, and underground storage tanks are causing increasing concern in the agricultural sector.

Livestock wastes and underground storage tanks are currently the major environmental concerns impacting land value in a number of areas.

Land with building sites is generally more of a concern than bare crop land. In some cases lenders are requiring environmental inspections, adding as much as $2,000 to the cost of a borrower's loan application. In the absence of a known problem, crop land values are feeling little impact as a result of environmental concerns, although buyer and lender awareness of the environmental liability issue is increasing.

In cases where potential environmental problems exist, both the number of buyers and the value of the land are significantly impacted. In general, the feeling is that the impacts of environmental liability are just beginning to be felt and it is likely to become an increasingly large concern in the sales process.

Rural residential and recreational influences are also having increasingly strong influences on land values in many areas.

As expected, land values in the heavily populated southeast part of the state generally are hardest hit by these urban influences. Much of the land capable of agricultural production in counties such as Oakland, Livingston, Lapeer, Macomb, and Genesee has a higher value for non-agricultural uses.

In these areas, it is not uncommon for the non-agricultural value of land to exceed $10,000 or more per acre. In one instance, a small tract of land in a strategic location is estimated to be worth about $225,000 per acre. These non-agricultural influences are creating strong incentives to shift agricultural land to alternative uses in an increasing number of areas.

In some cases, P.A. 116 continues to offset these influences by limiting land to agricultural use. However, non-agricultural influences are here to stay and will have increasing strong influences on Michigan land values and agriculture production in the future.
Electricity has great power to serve your farm needs -- but it can also cause great harm. Here are precautions you can take to avoid fire and shock:

- Check electrical wiring and make needed repairs. As your power needs grow, you must expand your system to accommodate those needs safely.
- Don’t overload circuits. If lights dim when you switch on a motor or tool, lighten the load or plug into a less loaded circuit.
- To protect against shock, install ground-fault circuit interrupters in such areas as milking parlors, milk houses, farm shops, patio outlets, and bathrooms.
- Check power cords for signs of wear and damage. Be sure extension cords have the capacity to carry the required current without overheating. Place them out of the way -- and never under a floor covering.
- Replace blown fuses with the same type and rating. If circuit breakers trip repeatedly, lighten the load or look for a short.
- Always unplug electrical devices before you repair or service them.
- Unplug power tools before you change bits, blades, grinding wheels and the like.
- Reduce the risk of fire by protecting light fixtures in farm buildings.
- Be careful to avoid overhead power lines when moving augers or other tall equipment, or when carrying irrigation pipe, or other metal objects.
- Know what to do if someone suffers a severe electrical shock. Don’t touch the victim until you are sure the power has been switched off or the victim has been separated from the power source.

To protect against shock, install ground-fault circuit interrupters in such areas as milking parlors, milk houses, farm shops, patio outlets, and bathrooms.

In these tough economic times all business owners are looking for ways to improve their bottom line. New Farm Bureau can help with a new money saving group Health Plan from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

These new plans are guaranteed issue no matter what your health history, locally serviced by our 59 county offices and 400 agents statewide, and competitively priced to save farm owners and operators hundreds or even thousands of dollars off their health insurance bill. So, if you’re a sole proprietor or if you have one or more employees, you should call Farm Bureau today for benefit and rate information.

FROM FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Medical Malpractice Reform - A Reality

The Senate finally took action on S.B. 270, sponsored by Sen. Dan DeCrow (R-Port Huron), passing it on a vote of 27 to 11 and sending it to the governor for his expected signature. The bill will make badly needed reforms to Michigan’s Medical Malpractice law, effectively lowering malpractice rates and putting limits on court awards.

The Senate gave the bill immediate effect, but the House did not get the 72 votes needed for immediate effect. When signed by Gov. Engler, the law will take effect in April of 1994. House Republican Floor Leader Richard Bandstra called for immediate effect so the law would become effective Oct. 1, 1993. However, House Judiciary Democratic Chair Tom Matheau said the public needed several months to become familiar with its “controversial” provisions.

Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus said of the package, “This is one of the five or six most important groups of issues in terms of long-term impact to this state, that we’ll pass this year.”

The Michigan Trial Lawyers Association called S.B. 270 “one of the worst pieces of legislation we’ve ever seen.”

Dr. Thomas Payne, former president of the Michigan State Medical Society, speaking about the physician discipline bills that were tie-barred to S.B. 270, said, “It makes a nice package to have that together... we wanted to take care of our own house... we’re supportive of that whole process.”

Rep. John Jamian, co-chair of the House Public Health Committee, said, “By tightening discipline, streamlining complaint processes and not penalizing doctors and other health care professionals who need help coping with drug or alcohol problems, this legislation will help ensure that patients receive competent and safe health care.”

“Michigan Farm Bureau feels it is a major step forward,” said MFB Legislative Counsel Howard Kelly. “The original bill as it passed the Senate was strongly supported by MFB.

While this version is not as complete as the original bill, it does make considerable progress toward addressing the medical malpractice crises in Michigan,” he said.

We see no benefit in delaying the effective date for six months. But we have a medical malpractice reform bill passed by both houses of the legislature, and hopefully signed by the governor. That is progress in addressing the high cost of health care in Michigan.”
Injuries are the most common cause of death during childhood. Injuries, in fact, have replaced infectious diseases as the leading cause of childhood fatalities, with motor vehicle trauma rated as the leading cause of death. (continued next page)
PREVENTING CHILDHOOD INJURIES

Overall, 41 percent of deaths in persons up to age 25 are caused by all forms of injury, and for every death, there are 1,300 injuries. In any given year, one in five children sustains an injury that requires medical attention.

As you head to the roadways, waterways and other vacation and leisure spots this summer, keep safety in mind. Here are some actions you can take to prevent childhood injuries this summer:

Follow Water Safety Guidelines
- Never let children/adolescents swim alone.
- Practice boating safety rules, including regular use of properly fitting Coast Guard-approved flotation devices. Don’t let children drive motorized boats.
- Do not use rafts or other play items as water flotation devices. They are a common cause of drowning.
- Do not rely on arm floats to protect your child. They lend a false sense of security and do not prevent drowning.
- Fence in and lock swimming pools and hot tubs. Avoid use of soft pool covers, which can trap young children underneath.

Use and Store Lawn Items Carefully
- Use lawn mowers safely, with children far from the area of use. Blades frequently throw objects. Do not allow children to ride on or operate a riding mower.
- Do not let children operate hedge trimmers and/or other motorized equipment. Store these lawn care tools out of children’s reach.
- Use lawn care chemicals properly and store them out of the reach of children.

Eliminate the Possibility of Serious Falls
- Keep screens and windows in good repair. Apartment dwellers should have window guards. Don’t give children unattended access to windows by placing furniture nearby.
- In vacation homes and/or hotels, check accessibility to decks and ladders. Keep children off ladders. Do not allow children to ride in the open back of a pickup truck.

Eliminate Poisoning Hazards
- Remove or fence off poisonous plants outdoors, including lily of the valley.
- Be alert when visiting non-child proofed homes for poisoning dangers.
- Pack syrup of ipecac for your travels. Check expiration date.

Transportation Safety
- Buy and use helmets for children riding any bicycle, hot wheels, bicycles and motorcycles. Young children riding on a car or the back of a bicycle should also have a helmet. (Also a good idea for those using skate boards, roller skates and inline skates.)
- Do not carry children less than 12 months old on your bike. Never carry any child in a back-pack or front-pack while you ride your bike.
- Do not leave children in the car as you run into the store. This is always dangerous, but the problem of heat prostration in the summer adds additional danger.
- Don’t allow children to ride in the open bed of a pick-up truck. Not only is this a frequent cause of injury, but it can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

Other Summer Safety Tips
- Have children/adolescents wear appropriate protective gear during sports, including helmets, mouth guards, knee/chin guards and padded gloves.
- Always use sunscreen when going outdoors, even on cloudy and hazy days. Remember that the younger the child, the more sensitive the skin.
- Use insect repellent. This is especially important to repel the ticks that carry Lyme disease.
- Carry appropriate emergency medicine if your child is allergic to sting insects. Check the expiration date.
- Keep a properly stocked first aid kit in your car, at home and on vacation, along with items previously mentioned. The kit should include: band-aids, gauze rolls, gauze pads, antiseptic wipes, tweezers, gauze, antiseptic ointments, tea bags, surgical tape, tweezers, scissors, insect repellent, sunscreen and sun glasses.

Juicing machines are afad as fresh as the fruits and vegetables they use, but the nutritional benefits they serve up may be more promotion than health potion. Aggressive advertising for juicing machines, extract a cost of anywhere from $175 to $220, tout the sophisticated kitchen gadget as a means to stay healthy, look young, lose weight and feel great!

Keep Your Smile Sparkling!

There are many steps to keeping your smile bright. One of the most important is to take good care of your teeth by keeping your teeth and gums healthy with daily brushing and flossing, eating right and getting regular dental checkups.

Although dentists can give you important guidance about dental care and can treat problems if they arise, it’s up to you to take care of your teeth! Your teeth and gums are very important to your overall health and appearance. And the things you do can make a big difference between having a healthy mouth and an unhealthy one.

You probably visit your dentist twice a year for a complete examination and cleaning. That’s terrific! But twice-a-year trips to your dentist aren’t enough. Your teeth and gums need care and cleaning every day. You should brush your teeth at least once a day — better yet, brush after every meal and before you go to bed. Then floss between your teeth.

Brushing and flossing will help to keep your teeth free of plaque, which is a thin, sticky layer of bacteria that can’t be seen. Plaque forms on your teeth all the time and needs to be cleaned off daily so that it doesn’t harden. If you can’t brush or floss after you eat, try to rinse your mouth with water to remove any bits of food that are caught between your teeth.

A good toothbrush is a key part of keeping your smile. Your best bet is a brush that has been approved by the American Dental Association, since ADA-approved toothbrushes have soft, rounded bristles that won’t hurt your gums. Replace your toothbrush every three to four months, depending on wear.

The United States Department of Agriculture nutrition guidelines, released last year, recommend three to five daily servings of vegetables, and two to four servings of fruits. These important building blocks of healthy eating are good for you whether juiced, whole, cooked or raw. The benefits stem from vitamins, minerals, fiber and other substances in these foods. Liquefying fruits and vegetables reduces or eliminates most of the natural fiber, but fiber is an important part of digestion.
There are many kinds of toothpastes, too. Choose a toothpaste with fluoride in it since fluoride has been proven to reduce tooth decay. Everyone over the age of six should use fluoride toothpaste and mouthwashes, even if your local water supply is fluoridated. When you brush, place the toothbrush alongside your teeth, with the bristles angled against the gum line. Then make short, circular strokes with the brush over all of the surfaces of your teeth. Brush gently! Brush your tongue, too, to help freshen your breath, remove food toothpaste from your mouth, and then floss.

To floss, break off an 18 inch length of dental floss and wrap it around your middle fingers, leaving about an inch between your hands to work with. Use your thumb and forefinger to guide the floss gently between your teeth. Don't yank the floss down too hard against your gums or you might hurt them. Curve the floss around the front and back of each tooth and scrape it gently up and down the side. Floss all of your teeth, then rinse.

Both waxed and unwaxed dental floss are good for removing the plaque that has built up between your teeth where the toothbrush can't reach. If your teeth are tightly spaced, you may find waxed floss a little easier to use. Both kinds can be found in most drugstores and supermarkets. If you're not sure whether you're brushing and flossing correctly, you can ask your dentist or dental hygienist at your next appointment. They'll be happy to help you!

Finally, the food you eat every day is just as important to your dental health as it is to your overall physical health. Just as your body needs nourishment, so do your teeth and gums. And just as some foods can be harmful to your body, so can some foods be bad for your teeth.

To keep yourself in shape, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that you eat at least 11 servings a day of breads, cereals, rice and pasta; five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables; and two to three servings of dairy products and of meat, poultry, fish, nuts or eggs. Eat fats, oils and sweets sparingly.

Soda pop, chewing gum and sweets like cake, candy and cookies contain sugar and other starches that can stick to your teeth, causing plaque to build up. The bacteria that cause plaque can also create acids in your mouth that can destroy the enamel your teeth are made of. The effects in cavities. Instead of reaching for a sweet treat, snack on nuts, cheese, fresh fruit, popcorn and sugary gum and candy.

Remember, it's up to you to take care of your teeth! Eat right, brush and floss your teeth daily and get regular checkups. If you keep your teeth healthy your mouth will sparkle!

A health communication by Delta Dental Plan of Michigan exclusively for Health Harvest.

And if you're watching your weight or trying to reduce, be careful of those "liquid" calories in juices, fruits and vegetables. For example, a whole orange has about 65 calories and 80 milligrams of vitamin C, but a cup of orange juice has 110 calories for the same vitamin C value.

Nevertheless, if using a juicer helps you to eat and enjoy more fruits and vegetables, then it may be a good health-promoting choice for you. Otherwise, chop on a carrot or crunch into a juicy Michigan apple... and smile knowing that good, healthy nutrition is available and affordable without costly gadgetry.

Q. Now that summer is here, people are spending more time exercising outdoors. Jogging, tennis, and basketball are just a few of the summer activities that people enjoy. Yet, along with these activities and humid weather comes the risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. What are the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and what can I do to protect myself?

A. According to Dr. James Venier, an emergency medicine physician at Sparrow Hospital, the symptoms for heat exhaustion are extreme fatigue, profuse sweating (or possibly no sweating at all), nausea, and vomiting. Heat exhaustion is usually found in younger and older people ranging from infants and toddlers to the elderly said Dr. Venier. These people are usually very sensitive to heat. He recommends being extremely cautious when hot weather persists, drink a lot of fluids, and for hypertensive people, maintenance of their medication.

Dr. Venier also adds that symptoms of heat stroke include a fever of 105 degrees F, hot, dry skin, rapid heartbeat, rapid and shallow breathing, either elevated or lowered blood pressure, and confusion and delirium. In severe cases, seizures, coma, and death can occur. Avoiding the sun during peak hours and taking preventative measures can prevent heat stroke.

Q. Should I avoid sun exposure while taking certain medications? If so, what medications and why?

A. There are various medications that are known to cause photosensitivity in some individuals said Dr. Susan Eaton, a primary care specialist at Sparrow Hospital. And according to Dr. Lee Clark, a pharmacist at Sparrow, the following are just a sample of the many drugs which may cause this sensitivity to sunlight: Tetracycline, Retin-A, Trimethicyn TR, Ibuprofen, Accutane, Rogaine, Anaprox, Benadryl, and Oral contraceptives.

The effects from these certain medications range from itching, scaling, rash, and swelling to an increased risk for skin cancer, premature skin aging, skin and eye burns, cataracts, reduced immunity, blood vessel damage, and allergic reactions. Dr. Eaton strongly recommends staying out of the sun for prolonged periods of time when taking these types of medications. And be sure to consult your physician or pharmacist for restrictions if you are taking medications.

Q. I am concerned about food spoiling now that the warmer weather has arrived and my family and I go on regular picnics. What are the best ways to prevent food poisoning?

A. The best way to prevent food poisoning or botulism is to keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot, said Diane Fischer, chief dietician at Sparrow Hospital. The most common mistake people make is leaving certain foods out too long. The danger zone for food to spoil ranges from 40 to 140 degrees F. Cold foods should be kept in temperatures below 40 degrees and hot foods should be kept in temperatures above 140 degrees. The best rule to use when handling food is to put food back into the cooler soon after taking it out; wash your hands; and use clean surfaces; especially after dealing with raw meat. Be sure to wash the surface, before using it again to hold your cooked food. She also recommends keeping your cooler in a cool place. Do not let it sit out in the sun.

There are several symptoms a person may experience if they have food poisoning, said Fischer. Diarrhea, abdominal cramps, vomiting, severe headaches and fatigue are the most common symptoms. Eighty million people get food poisoning each year, and she reminds people that properly handling their food is the best prevention to food poisoning.

Q. My child always seems to get freckles after being in the sun too long during the summer months. Does he have a greater risk of getting skin cancer than other children?

A. Freckles have nothing to do with getting skin cancer said Dr. Francis Breen, a medical oncologist at Sparrow Hospital. But they do indicate that a person is spending too much time in the sun. A good way to protect children from over exposure to the sun and added risk for skin cancer is to limit the amount of time you allow them in the sun and always use a lotion with a high sunscreen. This will protect your child and his/her skin.

Also, age is not a factor when skin cancer is involved. Any person is susceptible to getting skin cancer from the sun, especially if that individual receives a large amount of the sun's ultraviolet rays. Always protect your child's skin if he or she is out in the sun for a prolonged period of time, and you will reduce your child's risk of getting skin cancer both now and in the future.

If you have health concerns, questions, or need a physician referral, call Sparrow Hospital's NurseLine, an information and Physician Referral Service at 1-800-968-3838.

The above questions and answers are for general information purposes only. If you have symptoms or health related questions, consult your physician. Information compiled by Sarina Gleason.
Are you at risk for diabetes? Could you already have diabetes and not know it? Take the Test. Know the Score.

Write in the points next to each statement that is true for you. If a statement is not true for you, put a zero. Then add up your total score.

1. I have been experiencing one or more of the following symptoms on a regular basis:  
   - Excessive thirst  
   - Frequent urination  
   - Extreme fatigue  
   - Unexplained weight loss  
   - Blurry vision from time to time
2. I am over 40 years old.
3. My weight is equal to or above the ideal weight for my height, gender, and ethnicity.
4. I have a parent or sibling with diabetes.
5. I have a brother or sister with diabetes.

Scoring 3-5 points:  
If you scored 3-5 points, you probably are at risk for diabetes. But don't just forget about it. Especially if you're over 40, overweight, or of Black, Hispanic, or Native American descent.

What to do about it:  
Be sure you know the symptoms of diabetes. If you experience any of them, contact your doctor for further testing.

Scoring over 5 points:  
If you scored over 5 points, you may be at high risk for diabetes. You even may already have diabetes.

What to do about it:  
See your doctor promptly. Find out if you have diabetes. Even if you don't have diabetes, know the symptoms. If you experience any of them in the future, you should see your doctor immediately.

The American Diabetes Association urges all pregnant women to be tested for diabetes between the 24th-28th weeks of pregnancy.
This test is meant to educate and make you aware of the serious risks of diabetes. Only a medical doctor can determine if you do have diabetes.

This quiz was made possible by a grant from Patient Care Services and Life Plan, Inc.

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MEDICAL FOCUS

Ask Your Doctor for Simple Diabetes Test

A survey sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control has found that most people at risk for the most common type of diabetes are not screened for the disorder, according to a report given recently at the American Diabetes Association's 53rd annual scientific sessions.

"On average, only one-third of those who have at least two risk factors for non-insulin dependent diabetes had been screened for the disease in the year prior to our study," reported Catherine C. Cowie, Ph.D., senior research epidemiologist at Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., which conducts health-related research for various government agencies. "Although people with risk factors for the disease are checked at a higher rate than those without such risks, their screening still falls far short of the desired - which would be very much higher," she said.

An estimated 13 million Americans have diabetes, a disease in which the body does not produce or respond properly to insulin, a hormone needed for daily life. The resulting high blood sugar can severely damage the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, eyes and nerves. If untreated, diabetes can be fatal. It is the fourth leading cause of death by disease in the United States.

"Widespread screening could lead to earlier treatment to help prevent major health crises due to the complications of undiagnosed diabetes," said Dr. Cowie. Because non-insulin dependent type II diabetes, the most common form of the disease, can develop and progress for years without significant symptoms, it is often not diagnosed until one of its complications occurs - such as a heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, or potentially-blinding eye disease.

Risk Factors  
The researchers reviewed data from the 1990 National Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in conjunction with the U.S. Census Bureau, in which face-to-face interviews were conducted with more than 84,000 people age 18 or over. More than 20,000 interviewees, who had not previously been diagnosed with diabetes, were surveyed in greater detail with questions about their risks for the disease and prior screening. Pregnant women were excluded from the analyses.

"We know that certain groups are at greater risk for type II diabetes, and the survey gives us a sense of the presence of these risk factors," said Dr. Cowie. For purposes of the study, the following were considered to be risk factors: age over 40, a history of diabetes in the family, black or Mexican American ethnicity, or obesity defined as 20 percent or more above ideal weight based on Metropolitan Life Insurance tables of ideal weight relative to mortality.

"Overall, only 21 percent of all those surveyed reported having been screened for diabetes in the prior year, although the percentage did increase with the presence of a greater number of risk factors," said Dr. Cowie. They found: 16.6 percent of those without any risk factors were screened; 25 percent of those with one risk factor were screened; 33.5 percent of those with two risk factors were screened; 39.3 percent of those with three risk factors were screened; 60.6 percent of those with four or more risk factors were screened.

American Diabetes Association Recommendations:  
"People should become more aware of what they can do to protect their health," said Dr. Cowie. "If you know you may be at risk for diabetes, be sure to ask your doctor for a screening test at your next visit." It is estimated that at least 6 million Americans have undiagnosed diabetes.

The American Diabetes Association recommends a simple screening blood test every three years for adults who are over 30 and overweight or who have diabetes in their family.
MSU Represented on NAS Children Food Safety Panel

After a five-year study, the long-awaited National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on infant and childhood food safety suggests that governmental regulatory agencies need to place increased emphasis on collecting data on foods regularly eaten by children, says Dr. William Weil, professor of Pediatrics and Human Development at Michigan State University. Weil was one of 13 members who served on the NAS panel.

"There was and is no way that the committee could have, using the data currently available, said that the food is totally safe or unsafe for infants and children," explained Weil. "The basic problem is there isn't enough data, or testing done of infants and children to make that statement."

"On the other hand, I would say that if you polled the members of the NAS panel and asked us if the food supply is safe for infants and children, we would answer unanimously yes," he said.

According to Weil, the NAS panel felt a more thorough testing program is needed specifically for the 1 to 5 year-old category, since most infants are on a baby formula that's already under comprehensive testing procedures. It's the transition period from baby formula/food to "regular food" that Weil said needs the most attention, but also where parents can have the biggest impact improving food safety.

"I think the most important thing a parent can do is the simple things we've talked about in the past -- wash foods before you allow children to eat them," said Weil. "I think of all the things that probably give children the most trouble are pesticides used in and around the house, including those used in our gardens."

Well said that unlike farmers who use pesticides on a regular basis, consumers are unfamiliar with proper chemical withdrawal times. Combined with early harvesting of homegrown produce, it means that many times residue in excess of tolerance levels is likely on homegrown produce.

"One of the best things a consumer can do in terms of pesticide use around the house -- it's a simple matter -- is read the product label and read it completely. Don't just read the dose, but read all the environmental information, the health concerns, the manufacturer's contact number, etc."

Campaign To Help Consumers Understand New Labels

The Food and Drug Administration is launching an education campaign to help consumers understand new food labels beginning to show up on store shelves, says FDA Administrator David Kessler.

The National Food Processors Association and the USDA are cosponsors of the campaign, which features brochures for consumers and guidebooks for group leaders.

John Cady, president of the Food Processors Association, said the education campaign was an important part of the new labeling program.

Cady estimated food companies will spend $2 billion to revise the labels on tens of thousands of products. "That cost will be wasted, if consumers can't understand the labels or use the new information," Cady said.

The new labels replace the existing small print with easier-to-read information. Instead of referring to grams of each nutrient, the amount of fat, cholesterol or protein is listed as a percentage of a typical, healthy daily diet, according to a release by United Press International.

Ellen Haas, assistant secretary of agriculture, said the new labels will enable consumers to make healthier choices, "if they understand them."

MDA Toxicologist Dave Wade, MFB President Jack Laurie, and NAS Panel member Dr. William Weil, professor of Pediatrics and Human Development at MSU, respond to questions during a satellite news conference, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Radio Network.

"Consumers can rejoice in knowing that the American food supply is already the safest in the world. If additional, meaningful actions can be taken to further guarantee safety, as indicated by the Academy's report, we will support those actions," said Laurie.

Farmers increasingly are relying on non-chemical strategies to fight insects and diseases and to reduce pesticide applications, according to Laurie. "Those strategies include practices like field scouting, the use of monitoring traps and the use of predatory insects using good bugs to attack bad bugs. It's good stewardship, but it makes economic sense as well," he said.

According to Weil, the NAS panel concluded that organically grown fruits and vegetables aren't a feasible or realistic solution either. "The NAS panel felt that the advantage of using organically grown foods was so inconsequential, that there were other problems with it, including expense, that our recommendation was that this not be considered an appropriate response to the problem," concluded Weil.

"Farmers take their goal of providing safe and nutritious food for domestic as well as foreign consumers very seriously," he said.

"The NAS panel felt that the advantage of using organically grown foods was so inconsequential, that there were other problems with it, including expense, that our recommendation was that this not be considered an appropriate response to the problem," concluded Weil.
Farmers will be facing long-term agricultural spending cuts over the next five years (see chart at right). Meanwhile, the House has passed an agricultural spending bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, that mainly continues domestic and export subsidy programs for U.S. farmers at current levels. The bill must still be considered by the Senate, according to Knight Riddler News.

The vote was 304-131. Nearly $9 billion in additional funds for the Commodity Credit Corp. (CCC) would be provided by the bill. Most of that money would be used to replenish the CCC for deficiency payments already made, largely to corn farmers.

Among the other provisions in the bill are:
- An estimated $1 billion in spending for the Export Enhancement Program, down from the estimated $3.2 billion for the current fiscal year. However, as has been the practice in recent years, USDA would not be mandated to spend this money, as it depends on how much foreign countries are buying.
- $45.9 million for PL480 Title I Food for Peace, up from the $4.5 billion appropriated this year.
- No funds would be provided for farmers to enroll new acres into the Conservation Reserve Program, but an additional 30,000 acres would be enrolled into the wetland reserve program.
- A minimum of $5.5 billion for USDA GSM-102 and GSM-103 export credit guarantee programs, the same as this year.
- The House approved an amendment that would make it more difficult for farmers to receive disaster payments if those farmers’ crops regularly fail. Decisions on disaster payments in recent years, USDA would not be mandated to spend this money, as it depends on how much foreign countries are buying.

The measure encourages USDA decision making in packing plants.

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The House also voted 330-101 to reduce spending for the controversial Market Promotion Program, which used tax dollars to help companies advertise their products overseas.

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Among the other provisions in the bill are:
- An guaranteed programs. The following table compares how each would handle those spending areas.

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S.B. 74, sponsored by Sen. George McManus (R-Traverse City) and Rep. Bill Bobier (R-Hesperia), requires the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to develop and promote voluntary groundwater stewardship practices designed to prevent contamination of groundwater by pesticides or nitrogen fertilizers. The director must also develop educational programs, coordinate technical assistance programs, and provide interagency coordination of groundwater programs and must include agriculture producers.

A Stewardship Program will be established. Farmers who have completed an on-site evaluation and develop a stewardship plan to protect groundwater will be eligible to receive grants to implement the plan and be protected from liability for contamination caused by holdover that is not in accordance with state or federal law.

A Freshwater Protection 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 total fund would be limited to $3.5 million. The fund would pay direct assistance to farmers such as cost share programs for programs implementing groundwater stewardship practices or groundwater protection rules.

The director of MDA is required to annually seek matching general fund appropriations in accordance with the fees collected under this act. The section of the bill that authorizes the collection of fees will expire 7 years after the effective date of the act.

S.B. 675 is tie-barred to S.B. 74 and would amend the Pesticide Control Act to authorize the Michigan Department of Agriculture to respond to agriculturally related groundwater contamination caused by a pesticide. If pesticides are found in groundwater at a single location, the director shall assist in an active effort to correct the contamination and perform an evaluation of practices.

The director may require the person responsible for contamination at the site to develop an action plan to correct the problem. If activities are determined not to be in compliance with stewardship practices, the director may issue an order to cease or modify activities on the site.

Upon confirmation of groundwater contamination in three locations exceeding 20% of the maximum contaminant level (MCL), or when EPA proposes to suspend or cancel registration of a pesticide because of groundwater concerns, MDA may develop a groundwater protection rule for a specific pesticide.

The director may also determine the scope and region of implementation for the rule. The director can require a person to furnish any information they have relating to identification, nature, and quantity of pesticides and fertilizers that have been used which may have impacted groundwater quality.

The director may authorize persons to land-apply materials contaminated with pesticides or fertilizers at agronomic rates. A person aggrieved by any order issued under this act may request a hearing.

Both bills were passed by the Senate on June 29. The House is not expected to take action until the beginning of fall session.

**MFB Position:**
MFB policy supports a comprehensive statewide plan to protect groundwater and surface water from agricultural chemicals and fertilizers that includes voluntary, incentive driven programs.

**MFB Policy:**
MFB policy recommends that the MDA be given primary authority and responsibility to respond to agriculturally contaminated groundwater with site specific recommendations to the affected parties for mitigation. Farm Bureau supported both bills.

MFB Contact:
Vicki Pontz, (517) 323-7000, Ext. 2046.
Free Soybean Testing Offered to Michigan Growers

Free diagnostic tests for soybean problems are being sponsored by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC) in cooperation with the Michigan State University Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic.

In 1992, several diseases affected Michigan soybeans, including Phytophthora root rot, Septoria brown spot, Scirrhospora white mold, and Corneyespora target spot, a new disease reported last year.

Dave Roberts, director of the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic, has a few suggestions for farmers interested in submitting their soybean plants for testing:

- Dig plants (do not pull) from affected areas in the field (pulling often leaves behind infected roots).
- Include at least 10 plants showing various stages of the problem. Plants that are dead or in advanced stages of decay may be of little diagnostic value.
- Wrap the roots and soil in plastic, but leave the tops exposed. Package plants in a padded envelope or in a newspaper in a box. Mail as soon as possible early in the week so samples will not decompose in mail transit over the weekend.
- Submit pertinent information such as herbicide history, fertilizer history, variety, cropping history, a description of the problem, distribution in the field, etc. Diagnostic submittal forms are available at MSU Extension offices. Please fill out these submittal forms completely - this information is crucial for accurate diagnosis.
- All samples must include the name, address and telephone number of the grower.

Send soybean samples to: Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic, 138 Plant Biology Building, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1312. Or call the clinic at (517) 355-4536 (phone) or (517) 353-1781 (fax). Any questions can be directed to Roberts at the above numbers.

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Michigan's newest soft white wheat variety, Chelsea, was officially introduced June 11 at the Chicago Milling Company in Chelsea. Michigan State University breeders Everson and Rick Ward (left), the developers of the new variety, are shown with Howard Holness, president of Chicago Milling Company. The milling company, which sells Jiffy Mix products nationwide, began in the 1800s. New MSU varieties are named after historic milling sites. In the 1992 field trials, Chelsea's highest yield was 103.9 bushels per acre. Chelsea is available for planting this fall. Growers can locate seed sources by calling the Michigan Crop Improvement Association at (517) 350-7436.

Number of Surveys for Soybean Cyst Nematode Planned For 1993

Fred Warner, Entomology, Michigan State University

The soybean cyst nematode (SCN) can be the major limiting factor in soybean production in Michigan. This pathogen can reduce soybean yields 5-80 percent. Yield losses of 100 percent have been experienced by a few Michigan soybean growers, because infested fields were not harvested due to extremely low crop productivity. Therefore, proper detection of SCN is imperative to ensure profitable soybean (and possibly dry bean) production in future years.

SCN has been identified in 11 Michigan counties and tentatively from a 12th (Montcalm County). The counties where SCN has been detected are Bay, Berrien, Cass, Clinton, Gratiot, Midland, Monroe, Saginaw, St. Joseph, Shiawassee, and Van Buren. The nematode probably exists in other counties, but have yet to be intensively sampled.

State Sampling Program

Michigan State University (MSU) and Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) personnel plan to sample 33 soybean producing counties in Michigan in 1993 beginning July 15. Contact your local Extension agent to learn if your county was selected to participate. Most, if not all, major soybean producing counties will be included in the survey. Forms were mailed to the participating agents and they must be filled out completely by growers prior to the arrival of MSU or MDA personnel.

Samples will be collected and processed in MSU's Nematology Lab. Results will be returned as soon as they are available along with recommendations for SCN management. Growers can have as many soybean fields sampled as desired, but a form must accompany every sample.

Growers that produce soybeans or dry beans and do not wish MSU or MDA personnel to visit their farms, can submit samples to the Nematode Diagnostic Lab for a $5 sample fee. This represents a discount of 50 percent from the normal sample cost. Forms are available by calling the local county Extension offices for this purpose.

Multi-State Project

A selected number of growers will receive information and a postage paid envelope mailed to their farm. All growers will be asked to complete and mail the envelope back to MSU by July 15. There will be no charge for sample analysis. However, the results will not be available until the winter or spring of 1994 because all the samples will be processed by personnel at Iowa State University.

Feel free to contact the MSU Nematode Diagnostic Lab at (517) 336-1338 if you have any questions concerning SCN or any of these surveys. Your participation is encouraged and appreciated.

Support the FFA With Your Michigan State Fair Ticket Purchases!

Take a look at these highlights at the 1993 State Fair:

- New 20-foot "Big Picture" Video Game
- Stroh Sports Center
- For Kids: Art, Entertainment, Education and more

You can enjoy it all and help support Michigan FFA Foundation programs with your advance purchase. Order before Aug. 10 and you save 20 percent.

Drive a Great Deal.

Take advantage of Alamo's Association Program with a FREE UPGRADE or a FREE DAY. Association members drive away with a great deal everyday at Alamo. You can expect unlimited free mileage on every rental in the U.S., U.K. and now Switzerland as well as additional frequent flyer miles with Alaska, Delta, Hawaiian, United and USAir. Alamo features a fine fleet of General Motors cars and all locations are company-owned and operated to ensure a uniform standard of quality.

As a member, you'll receive other valuable coupons throughout the year that will save you money on each rental. You can count on a great deal with Alamo. For member reservations call your Professional Travel Agent or Alamo's Membership line at 1-800-354-2322.

FREE UPGRADE

- Valid for ONE FREE UPGRADE on next car category, subject to availability and type of rental.
- On the U.K. Valid on a compact car or above, excluding premium, luxury and specialty cars.
- On the United Kingdom: Valid on all self-drive rentals from a group B car category and above, excluding group E car category and above.
- On a one per rental. Not valid with any other offers. Must be presented at the Alamo counter on arrival. Certificate may only be redeemed for the basic rate of the car rental. Once redeemed the Certificate is void. A 24-hour advance reservation is required.

FREE ONE DAY

- Valid for ONE FREE DAY on any car category and above.
- On the U.K. Valid on a compact car or above, excluding premium, luxury and specialty cars.
- On the United Kingdom: Valid on all self-drive rentals from a group B car category and above, excluding group E car category and above.
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Michigan Farm News
July 15, 1993

Ag Calendar

July 20 - Cucumber Meeting. This meeting is hosted by the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center. For more details, contact the research center at (616) 944-1477.

July 28 - Plant Problem Diagnosis Field Day for Sugar Beets, Dry Edible Beans and Corn. This meeting is sponsored by the MSU Cooperative Extension Service and Michigan Agri-Business Association. Demonstrations will include plant diseases, insects, nutrient deficiencies, herbicide injury, environmental stress, and more. Contact Steve Poindexter, (517) 799-2233.

August 3 - 1993 Farm Site Market Tour. Four outstanding farm market tours around the Grand Rapids area from 9 to 11 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. For further details, contact either Mary Zehter, MSU Ag Econ., (517) 383-9505 or Torre Dudy, MSU Extension, Ottawa County, (616) 846-8250.

Send or FAX your meeting/crop tour details at least three weeks prior to your event to: Michigan Farm News
P.O. Box 9090
Lansing, MI 48909-8460
FAX: (517) 323-7000

"Sugar Market Allocations" continued from page 1

Market allocations are established on each company's production history for the 1985 through 1989 period, which means that companies doing any recent expansion or cutbacks. Young said that Michigan sugar beets are some of the highest quality sugar beets produced. If the heat keeps up, Michigan could be facing a 6 percent reduction, due to increased acreage contracts after a facility remodeling.

Outstate sugar processor Great Lakes is facing a 6 percent reduction. Southern Minnesota Sugar 15.6 percent, American Crystal 11 percent, and Holly Sugar 3.1 percent.

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August Discussion Topic, 1993 – "Long Term Care"

In 1993, more than 6 million people over the age of 65 are expected to need long-term care. By the year 2000, based on current estimates, 7.5 million Americans will need long-term care. Because family members and friends are the sole caregivers for 70 percent of these frail older people, most can be cared for at home.

But a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services noted that people aged 65 in 1990 faced a 40 percent lifetime risk of entering a nursing home. About 10 percent will stay there five years or longer.

Americans are growing older. The group of people over the age of 85 is now the fastest growing segment of the population. The odds of needing long-term care, and needing it for long periods of time, increase with age. Statistics show that, at any given time, 22 percent of those age 85 and older are in a nursing home. Because women generally outlive men by several years, they face a 50 percent greater likelihood than men of entering a nursing home after age 65.

Long-term care goes beyond medical care and nursing care to include all the assistance and services for caregivers who need a break from daily responsibilities. When they are unable to care for themselves for an extended period of time. Long term care can be provided in your own home, an adult foster care facility or a nursing home.

There is a wide range of additional services available in communities to help meet long-term care needs. Care given by family members can be supplemented by visiting nurses, home health aides, friendly visitor programs, home-delivered meals, chore services, adult day care centers and respite services for caregivers who need a break from daily responsibility.

Long-term care can be an expensive proposition. As a national average, a year in a nursing home can cost between $25,000 and $50,000 a year. Private-pay adult foster care in Michigan can range from $710 to as high as $2,000, according to the Michigan Residential Care Association. Even bringing an aide into your home just three times a week – to assist with dressing, bathing, preparing meals and other household chores -- can cost $600 a month.

Neither Medicare nor private Medicare supplemental insurance nor the health insurance you may have either on your own or through your employer will pay for long-term care. Slightly more than half of all nursing home costs are paid out-of-pocket by individuals and their families. The balance of the nation's long-term care bill is picked up by Medicaid, either immediately, for people meeting federal poverty guidelines, or after nursing home residents "spend down" their own savings and become eligible.

Many people who begin paying for nursing home care out of their own pockets find that their savings are not enough to cover lengthy confinement. If they become impoverished after entering a nursing home, they turn to Medicaid to pay the bills. Turning to Medicaid once meant impoverishing the at-home spouse to retain specified levels of assets and income.

It's difficult to predict what kind of care you might need in the future or know exactly what the costs will be. But since you probably will have to pay for most long-term care expenses, long-term care insurance may be an important option. This should not be viewed as just another health insurance product. Long-term care insurance should more appropriately be considered a critical part of the financial planning needed to protect the assets of you and your family. Asset-protection is one purpose of an innovative plan offered in the state of New York.

Under the New York plan, people concerned about potential lengthy nursing home stays can buy insurance that will pay for up to three years of nursing home care. If they need more than three years of care, they would automatically be entitled to Medicaid without having to deplete their life savings first.

Raccoon and Coyote Hunting Regulations Approved
At the June 10, 1993 Natural Resources Commission meeting the commission approved the following orders effective September 1, 1993:

Raccoon Hunting:
The open season for taking raccoon by hunting shall be Oct. 1 to Jan. 31, except that the open season for nonresidents taking raccoon by hunting shall be Nov. 15 to Jan. 31.

A resident may take raccoon all year on property owned by the resident when raccoons are doing or are about to do damage to the resident's property. A person taking a raccoon under the authority of this order shall be authorized to take raccoon all year by otherwise lawful hunting and trapping methods.

Coyote Hunting:
The open season for taking coyote by hunting shall be all year except:

a) coyotes shall not be chased with dogs from April 16 to July 14. From April 16 to July 14, coyotes shall not be taken except on private property by the property owner or their designee when coyotes are doing or about to do damage to their property.

b) coyotes shall not be taken from Nov. 15 to Nov. 30 in zone 1 (the entire upper peninsula)

c) coyotes shall not be taken in state park and recreation areas from April 1 to September 15.

A resident is not required to possess a fur harvester's license to hunt coyote.

Don't be worried by the costs of long-term care. Call or write today for more information from your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent on the options available to you.

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Worry? Not them.

And why should you when you can protect your life savings with a Long Term Care Plan from AMEX Life Assurance Company?

Regrettably, two in five older adults will require nursing home care. With costs averaging about $30,000 per year it's easy to see just how devastating this can be.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

With AMEX Life you can plan on peace of mind. AMEX Life, an American Express company, has over 16 years experience in long-term care insurance and is rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best.

Don't be worried by the costs of long-term care. Call or write today for more information from your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent on the options available to you.

Representing:

AMEX Life Assurance Company

Michigan Farm News

July 15, 1993
Farm Safety Day-Camps are Huge Success

At one of several Safety Day Stations, farm children were taught proper CPR techniques, with hands-on learning, as well as a host of other first on the scene measures.