

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



August 15, 1993

Vol. 70, No.13

Farm Bureau Establishes Farm Disaster Relief Fund

Photos: Iowa Farm Bureau

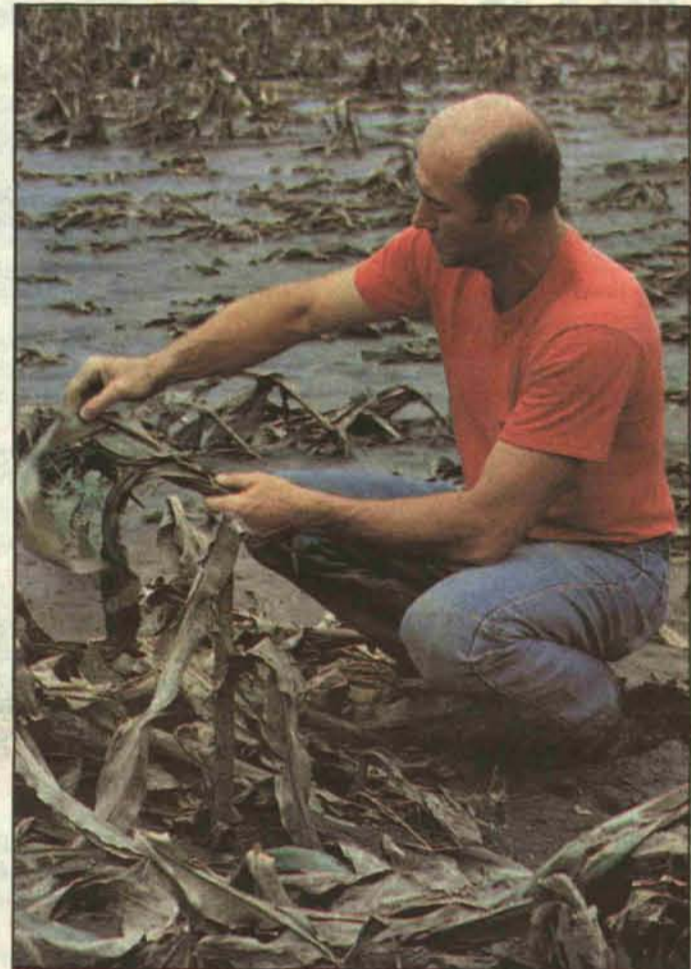
With a \$100,000 donation from the Chicago Board of Trade in hand, American Farm Bureau Federation President Dean Kleckner recently announced the formation of a special farm disaster relief fund. The fund will aid farmers and ranchers who have been victims of massive flooding in the Midwest and drought in the Southeast.

The relief fund will be directed to provide assistance to affected farmers and ranchers and the rural communities in which they live, according to Kleckner, a farmer from Iowa.

"Many farmers are hurting, not only because of the loss of a crop, but also their homes and farmsteads," Kleckner said. "In comparison to the loss estimates due to the flood and the drought, this may only be a drop in the bucket, but in times of crisis, the word necessity takes on a whole new meaning."

According to Kleckner, because so many fields still are under water and the magnitude of a less-publicized drought in the Southeast grows by the day, there is still uncertainty as to the emergency and cleanup needs that affected producers will have.

Below, a bird's eye view of the flood destruction farmers in the midwest are experiencing. This farmstead is located in Southeast Iowa, down river from Ottumwa. At right, a farmer in western Iowa inspects what's left of his corn crop after local flooding.



"In our opinion, cash donations are the quickest way to get necessities in the hands of those who need them," Kleckner said. "Farmers from across the nation who have benefitted from private disaster assistance in the past want to repay the favor."

"From farmers in California hit by earthquakes, to farmers from the East Coast and Gulf States who remember how other farmers rallied around them in times of hurricane disaster, farmers never forget favors and they want to step forward to repay the effort."

In addition to the \$100,000 donation from the Chicago Board of Trade to kick off the fund, CBOT Chairman Patrick H. Arbor has personally pledged, an additional \$20,000. Arbor also has issued a challenge to other CBOT seat holders to match his donation.

Individuals wishing to contribute to Farm Bureau's Farm Disaster Relief Fund may send donations, and checks payable to:

Farm Disaster Relief Fund
c/o American Farm Bureau Federation
225 Touhy Ave.
Park Ridge, Ill. 60068
More information is available by calling (312) 399-5700.

Property Tax Reform a Wakeup Call for School Finance Reform in Michigan – Legislature Looking For \$5.5 Billion in New Revenues

Legislation passed by the Michigan House and Senate would exempt all property from millage levied for local and intermediate school district operating purposes. That's good news for Michigan property owners,

but the final impact on schools is less certain.

"The legislation would, in effect, reduce the property tax bills by 60 to 80 percent, depending on the mix of millage for school operating, county, township, and special assessments, etc.," explained MFB Legislative Counsel Ron Nelson. "The revenue lost to schools is estimated at over \$5.5 billion dollars, some of which can be offset with savings from cost reductions in other programs such as the Homestead Credit and Public Act 116. There are other property tax credit programs for business and industry which could bring the total savings up to \$3 billion."

There are a number of questions surrounding the legislation. The most important is whether or not the allocated 15 mills for school operating called for in the Michigan Constitution will still be allowed. "It doesn't appear the allocated mills will be allowed any longer," Nelson said.

"There is also a significant technical/legal problem with the ability of the state to allocate funds based on the Headlee Limita-

tion," Nelson said. "It appears the state would be limited to approximately \$3.5 billion, leaving schools with an estimated \$2 billion shortfall."

For the 1993/94 school year, it will be business as usual. Nelson said that if schools have budget problems during the coming school year, it is not the fault of the new legislation. Beginning in September of 1994, however, a substantial change in revenue sources for K-12 operating will take effect.

One ominous option from agriculture's standpoint in replacing lost revenue is the suggestion of removing exemptions from the sales tax. "If that is the avenue taken by the Legislature, it will be very controversial," Nelson concluded. "Those exemptions and credits have been fought for and won over the years based usually on the argument that the tax is disproportionate to that particular taxpayer or group of taxpayers."

Nelson said that MFB will continue working with legislators to improve the quality of education, while holding the line on fu-

ture spending increases in addition to finding alternative funding sources for K-12 education.

MFB Policy Survey Enclosed - Your Response Encouraged!

Michigan Farm News readers will find a policy development survey enclosed in this issue. This marks the first time that such a comprehensive policy survey of this nature has been undertaken, asking members for input on a number of state and national issues.

Please take a moment to fill out the survey and drop it off in the mail, no postage required, by Sept. 1. Once received at Michigan Farm Bureau, completed surveys will be sent to your respective county Farm Bureau, for use by your Policy Development Committee in formulating policy recommendations.

A Publication of Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30860, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909

2

In Brief...

Governor Signs Bill on Farm ORV Use

There really is something going on in Lansing besides debate over replacing property tax revenue. Gov. Engler has signed House Bill 4592, a measure that clarifies the law regarding use of three and four wheel ORVs on farms.

"The new law allows a farmer on a farm operation to use an ORV to move from field to field within the road right-of-way, or on the road if necessary," said Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel Ron Nelson. "The law requires the farmer, if possible, to travel off the road on the extreme right hand side. The driver of the ORV must be at least 16 years old, the travel must take place during daylight hours and a flag must be displayed on the ORV."

The legislation was necessary because the ORVs, commonly used to run errands in rural areas and travel from field-to-field, were technically not legal for use on public roads, according to Nelson. House Bill 4592 was sponsored by Rep. Sandra Hill (R-Montrose).

MCA Bull Test Nomination Deadline Nears

Nomination forms for the Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) Bull Test are due on Sept. 10, 1993. The Bull Test station is at Stoneman Feedyards, Breckenridge, Michigan. Bulls are to be delivered to the station on Oct. 15 and 16.

The objectives of the MCA Bull Test are to promote performance testing of beef cattle and serve as an educational tool to acquaint producers with its overall value. It also provides a common environment for evaluating young bulls for rate of gain, soundness and body composition. The Bull Test aids beef producers in obtaining superior performance tested bulls that have been evaluated for growth and breeding soundness.

Upon completion of the test on Feb. 24, 1994, bulls will be screened for the sale on March 20. For more information on the MCA Bull Test, please contact the MCA Information Line at (517) 669-8589 or write to P.O. Box 387, DeWitt, Michigan 48820.

USDA Sees Widening Farm Trade Surplus

The USDA says the nation's farm trade surplus should grow still larger over the remainder of this decade. The estimate is based on an expected pickup in world economic growth and the emergence of freer trade rules.

Over the last five years, the United States has maintained a surplus of agricultural trade of around \$18 billion, after grains exports rebounded from their lows of the mid-1980s. Exports of fruit, vegetables and other high-value items have increased dramatically, the USDA said. Demand in Asia is projected to grow strongly during the decade, aided by the dynamic performance of Asia's varied economies, the department said.

Risks are Great if NAFTA is Denied

During an Ag for NAFTA briefing in Washington, D.C., AFBF President Dean Kleckner said that if the U.S. Congress fails to ratify the North American Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. would be turning its back on a powerful new trading relationship and forfeiting up to \$2.5 billion in additional farm exports.

He said NAFTA opponents would then have to sit on the sidelines and watch other countries step in to satisfy the growing demand for food in Mexico.

"Mexico's growing population and improving economy guarantees this demand for a better standard of living. Since Mexico's agriculture is not equipped to fill it, other countries most certainly will. If NAFTA is rejected, within a couple of years the American farm community will justifiably ask their members of Congress why that market was sacrificed," Kleckner said.

Solar Powered Fly-Zapper Invented

Agriculture Department scientists have developed a pyramid shaped device, built from plastic and powered by solar grids to yield just enough of an electric shock to kill flies. The scientists say placement of the white plastic pyramids between farms, where flies breed, and residential areas, where they are disease-carrying pests, can destroy the flies but will not harm beneficial insects, livestock, pets, birds or humans.

A research and development contract has been signed with an Ohio firm that just recently began marketing a commercial version of the device for about \$400. The solar powered fly zapper operates inexpensively. No batteries are needed. The solar pack can be easily replaced when necessary. Other potential uses for the pyramids would be beaches, zoos, landfills and commercial feedlots.

Young Farmers Sponsoring Farm Progress Package

Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Committee is sponsoring a tour package to the 1993 Farm Progress Show Sept. 28-30, to be held at Amana, Iowa, this year. The package cost is \$125 per person based on double occupancy to cover travel and lodging.

This three-day and two-night trip will include a full day at the Farm Progress Show, and opportunity to visit historic Amana Colonies, and the chance to meet other Michigan Young Farmers. Those interested in the tour package should call MFB's Young Farmer Department at 1-800-292-2680, extension 3234.

Farm Science Review Tickets on Sale

Tickets are now on sale for Ohio State University's annual Farm Science Review, Sept. 21-23. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$6 at the gate during the Review. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at local agribusinesses and county offices at Ohio State University Extension.

Hours for this year's Review are Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Farm Science Review is held at the university's 2,100-acre Molly Caren Agricultural Center in Madison County near London, Ohio. The show annually attracts about 125,000 visitors and more than 500 commercial exhibitors. The Review gives farmers and others involved in food production and construction a chance to view and compare the latest equipment, technology and ideas.

Equine Encephalitis Risk Higher this Summer

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), commonly known as "sleeping sickness," is a real risk this summer due to the proliferation of mosquitos in Michigan, warns the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The virus is transmitted through fresh water swamp mosquitos to horses and other equine, and can cause acute brain inflammation, often being confused for rabies. The fatality rate often reaches 90 to 95 percent.

Mosquitos that feed on birds and mammals are responsible for transmitting the disease, according to Dr. Mike Chaddock, state veterinarian and director of MDA's Animal Industry Division. "Horses do not develop blood viruses high enough to infect mosquitos and are not a source of the disease," he said. "Horses are considered dead-end hosts and are not a part of the transmission cycle."

Chaddock said anyone concerned about EEE and human health should contact the Michigan Department of Public Health. Horses can also be vaccinated and Chaddock suggests horse owners discuss this option with their local vet. For more information about EEE, contact MDA's Animal Industry Division at (517) 373-1077.

Soybean Defoliators Prevalent this Time of Year

Be on the lookout now for insects that will defoliate soybeans in what is rapidly becoming a critical period for bean growth, according to Northrup King Regional Agronomist Dan Coffin. Japanese beetles - thick beetles about 1/2" in length and 3/8" wide with metallic green wings - are the most common threat right now. Their numbers are growing with the heat, and they're attacking both corn and beans in Michigan.

At flowering and early podfill, soybeans can withstand up to 20 percent defoliation. However, with bean prices hovering in the low \$7 range, Coffin suggests it's worth watching the crop to make sure insects don't take it. Other insects that have been reported include bean leaf beetles in southwestern Indiana, Mexican bean beetle in southeastern Indiana and grasshoppers.

July Farm Prices Unchanged from June

The index of prices received by U.S. farmers for their products in July was unchanged from the June level, but rose 1.4 percent from a year earlier, according to USDA. Price gains from June for soybeans, lettuce, potatoes, and corn offset price declines for cattle, hogs, eggs and wheat.

The year-to-year rise was driven by higher prices for soybeans, cattle and lettuce, which more than offset price decreases for corn, wheat, grapefruit and apples, USDA said. The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for July was unchanged from April, but 2.6 percent above July 1992. Since last surveyed in April, price decreases for feeder pigs, building materials, and diesel fuel were offset by price increases for used vehicles and some feeds, USDA said.

Deer Herds Blamed for Tuberculosis

Experts told members of the American Veterinary Medical Association recently that 75 years of fighting tuberculosis in U.S. cattle herds is being undermined by game farms where unregulated deer and elk spread the disease to livestock.

"I think the magnitude of the problem is severely underestimated," warned Michael Miller, a wildlife researcher with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. "I see the success of our national eradication program slipping through our fingers."

According to an Associated Press story, 12 cattle herds in California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas are under quarantine due to outbreaks of the disease. Bovine tuberculosis also has been diagnosed in captive deer and elk in at least 14 states.

Barter Could be Most Effective Russian Trade

Barter trade is the best way of ensuring that more U.S. farm products reach Russia and other financially strapped nations, according to Archer Daniels Midland Co. Chairman Dwayne Andreas.

According to *Knight Ridder Financial News*, Andreas made the comments during a recent USDA forum on farm income and agricultural policy. Andreas said that barter would allow the Russians to get the food they need and make sure that U.S. exporters get paid for providing it. He advocated immediately shipping large quantities of food and livestock feed to Russia, which would start paying for the items on a barter basis in two years over a five-year period.

North American Export Grain Association President Steve McCoy said the U.S. government did not have a well established track record on barter, apart from trading grain for oil for the U.S. Strategic Reserve. McCoy said he was concerned the government might underprice U.S. commodities merely to make a deal, which would negate some of the benefits of barter.

The MICHIGAN FARM NEWS (ISSN:0743-9962) is published semi-monthly except in the months of November, December, June, and July when only one issue is printed, as a service to regular members, by Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917. Member subscription price of \$1.50 included in annual dues of Michigan Farm Bureau regular members. Additional subscription fees required for mailing Michigan Farm News to non-members and outside the continental U.S.A. Second-Class Postage paid at Lansing, MI and additional mailing offices. Letters to the editor and statewide news articles should be sent to: Editor, Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460.

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

Officers: President, Jack Laurie, Cass City; Vice President, Wayne Wood, Marlette; Administrative Director, Chuck Burkett; Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Tom Parker; Secretary, William S. Wilkinson. Directors: District 1, Jim Miller, Coloma; District 2, Blaine VanSickle, Marshall; District 3, Diane Horning, Manchester; District 4, Tom Guthrie, Delton; District 5, Mark Smuts, Charlotte; District 6, Wayne Wood, Marlette; District 7, Larry Snider, Hart; District 8, Richard Leach, Saginaw; District 9, Joshua Wunsch, Traverse City; District 10, Margaret Kartes, West Branch; District 11, Robert Wahmhoff, Baraga. At-Large: Douglas Darling, Maybee; Jack Laurie, Cass City; Faye Adam, Snover; Jan Vosburg, Climax. Promotion and Education, Paul Swartzendruber, Pigeon; Young Farmers, Kurt Inman, Sturgis.

Grand Jury Indicts Man in Connection With MSU Vandalism at Anthony Hall

3

A false account number used to ship a Federal Express package to Bethesda, Maryland, containing items from MSU's Dr. Aulerich's office, was the lucky break investigators needed, and what also may eventually cost Rodney Adam Coronado 50 years in jail and a fine of \$1,250,000.

A federal grand jury has issued a five-count indictment against Coronado, in the arson and vandalism that destroyed decades of research and caused more than \$200,000 in damage at Dr. Aulerich's office at Michigan State University's Anthony Hall and mink research facilities on Feb. 28, 1992.

According to Dr. Bruce Benson, MSU Police Chief and Director of Public Safety (DPS), the indictment against Coronado follows more than 16 months of extensive investigation by a task force that included members of MSU's Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

"In short, thousands of hours and thousands of dollars have been expended in pursuing this case," explained Benson. "It's important to note, however, that these indictments don't signify the end of this investigation. Additional charges in the future are very possible and the investigation will continue."

According to DPS's Lt. William Wardwell, this marks the first time ever, to his knowledge, that indictments have actually been filed against an individual for such terrorist activities. Those indictments against Coronado are:

Count 1: maliciously damaging and destroying by means of fire and explosives the personal property of Professor Richard Aulerich and Anthony Hall at MSU.

Count 2: traveling in interstate commerce from Oregon to Michigan with the intent to facilitate the promotion, management, establishment and carrying out of an unlawful activity and to commit a crime of violence to further an unlawful activity at MSU and to facilitate a plan of extortion in violation of federal law.

Count 3: devising a plan and purpose to obstruct, delay and affect commerce through extortion and attempted extortion, and he knowingly and unlawfully committed an act of physical violence to the property of MSU in furtherance of that plan and purpose.

Balanced Budget Amendment

MFB Position:
Strongly supports S.J. Res. 41.

MFB Contact:
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee has approved by a 15 to 3 vote S.J. Res. 41, which would amend the Constitution to require a balanced federal budget.

The amendment would prohibit deficit federal spending except in times of war or imminent war, or with the support of 60 percent of the members of both the House and Senate. The amendment would take effect within two years of ratification by three-fourths of the states or in 1999, whichever came later.

It takes a two-thirds majority of both the House and Senate to approve a constitutional amendment and send it to the states for ratification. Last year, the same resolution fell nine votes short in the House and was blocked by a filibuster in the Senate.

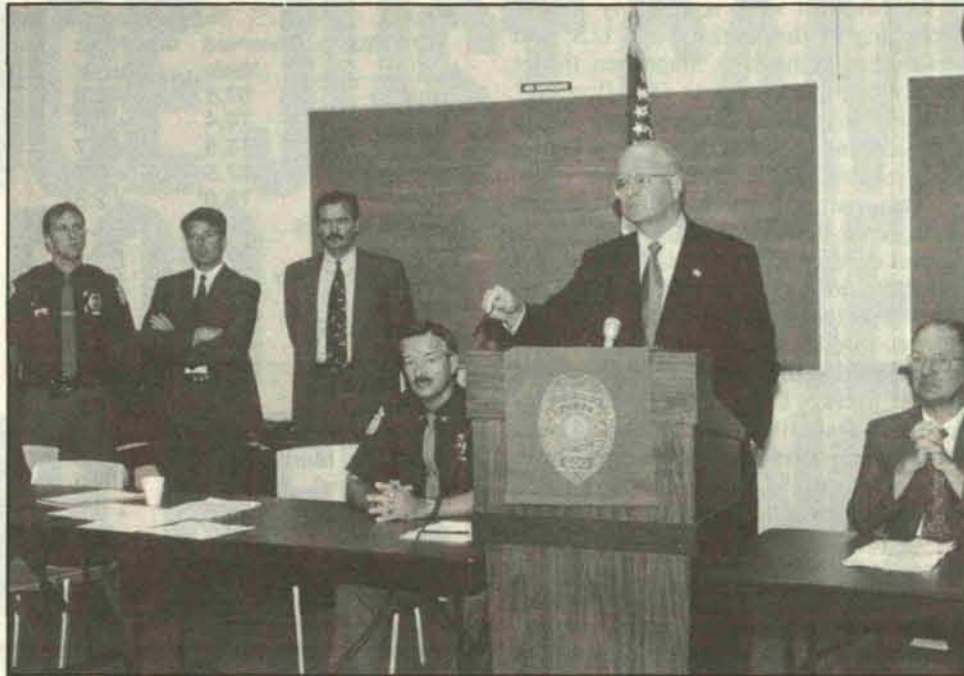
Wetland Committee

MFB Position:
Farm Bureau feels there could have been and should have been a more balanced group of members appointed.

MFB Contact:
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

In a move to delay wetlands reform legislation last year, Congress authorized funds for a study by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to develop and recommend criteria to use in identifying wetlands. The NAS has announced the appointment of an 18-member Wetlands Committee to perform the study.

Farm Bureau is concerned with the make-up of the Wetlands Committee. Virtually all of the members are from the ranks of academia. Few have any current field level experience in identifying wetlands or in soil science.



John A. Smietanka, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, responds to a reporter's questions during a news conference announcing the indictments.

Count 4: willfully using a fire to commit the offense of interference with commerce through extortion.

Count 5: knowingly and unlawfully transporting, transmitting and transferring in interstate commerce, goods, wares and merchandise worth more than \$5,000 knowing them to be stolen. Specifically, the indictment says that Coronado sent via Federal Express a package addressed to a Bethesda, Md., residence. This package contained research material stolen from Aulerich, which the defendant knew was stolen and which was intercepted in Memphis, Tenn., by Federal Express employees after they discovered that he (Coronado) had used a false Federal Express account number as payment for shipment.

Coronado is a self-proclaimed founder of a group called the Coalition Against Fur Farms (CAFF) and has been active in animal rights protests and activities. He has lived in California, Oregon and Washington.

John A. Smietanka, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, said that Coronado also claims to be a spokesperson for the Animal Liberation Front or "ALF," which has claimed responsibility for a series of arsons and burglaries at state universities and privately owned businesses throughout the country.

"In addition to announcing the five count indictment, we are asking for the public's

assistance in trying to find Rodney Adam Coronado," said Smietanka during a news conference. "He has been in hiding for several months. Federal authorities welcome any information that will assist in Coronado's capture. Anyone having information is encouraged to call their local FBI or ATF office."

If convicted of all charges, Coronado faces a maximum prison term of 50 years, a maximum fine of \$1,250,000 and supervised release of 15 years. Smietanka quickly dispelled one reporter's suggestion that the potential punishments were excessive due to previous failures to get indictments on similar cases.

"We have a situation here where \$125,000 of vandalism was done to these buildings with a fire," said Smietanka. "There were also two people in those buildings who could have been killed. So why do we consider it serious? It's not just because of the physical damage to buildings, but also because of the potential for loss of human life or serious injury of innocent people."

The terrorist raid on MSU's mink research facilities destroyed more than 30 years of research - research aimed at protecting

- Suspect Wanted -

NAME: Rodney Adam Coronado

AKA: Jim Perez
James A. Perez
James Corrigan
Frank Garcia

DOB: 07-03-66 (True DOB)
07-13-66

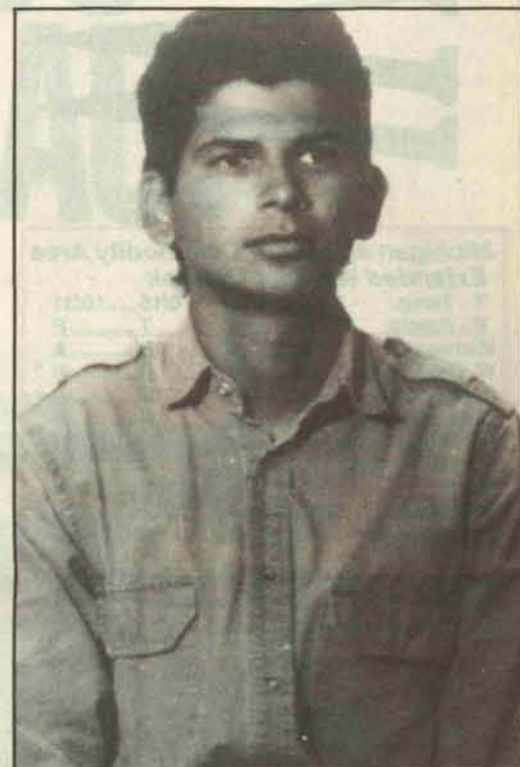
HEIGHT: 5'11"

WEIGHT: 150 LBS

EYES: Brown

HAIR: Black

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:
Jacksonville, Oregon



mink in the wild and at reducing the use of animals in research. Aulerich, an animal science professor who leads MSU's mink and associated toxicology research, was studying nutrition and the decline of natural mink populations. Karen Chou, an assistant professor and toxicology expert, also lost research data in the fire.

Flood Concerns Japanese Buyers

With barge traffic still disrupted along the Mississippi River, Japanese soybean buyers are still trying to fill their August order for soybeans. A major Japanese trading firm says about 90 percent of Japan's 170,000 metric ton August purchase has arrived at their Gulf shipping destination, but the remainder is still unaccounted for.

Rail, truck and barges from the Ohio to the lower Mississippi have been used in transporting beans to the Gulf since the flood closed upper Mississippi barge traffic. Traders say return to normal conditions on the river will be at least two weeks away.

West Coast origin soybeans are another alternative, but they are going at high premiums and are said to be of lower quality than those from Midwest locations. Supplies on the West Coast also are limited, according to traders. The Atlantic Coast as port of origin is even less attractive because of high freight costs and higher soybean premiums, according to *Knight Ridder Financial News*. "We have to look at every alternative, but in the end, price is what matters," one trader said.

Electronic Food Stamps on the Horizon

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy is recommending that states switch from the traditional paper food stamps to an electronic transfer system that operates like a cash station. He says the electronic benefits system has been tested in New Mexico and Minnesota, and results show it can cut costs and reduce fraud, compared to the booklets of paper stamps.

The EBT system can be used instead of the stamps by issuing qualified recipients a plastic card and a personal identification number. Instead of providing cash, the card is used to purchase food. No money is exchanged. The recipient's food stamp account is debited to reflect the purchase only of authorized merchandise. Another advantage, besides cost saving and fraud prevention, is that the recipient is relieved of the stigma associated with the exchange of printed food stamps, Espy said.

Private Firm Sees Lower Corn, Soybean Output

Sparks Companies, a private crop analyst firm, has estimated the 1993 soybean crop at 1.85 billion bushels and the corn crop at 7.42 billion. The estimates compare with earlier USDA figures of 1.975 billion bushels of soybeans and 7.85 billion of corn. The government's previous estimate was based on a World Situation and Outlook Board projection. USDA's first estimates of 1993 production based on actual field conditions was released Aug. 9.

30-Day and 90-Day Forecast - Warmer and Wetter Than Normal

Weather

As discussed in previous columns, weather patterns for much of June and July in the Midwest were remarkably similar (troughing in the northwestern U.S. and weak riding in the east). Since then, the jet stream configuration has "flip-flopped," resulting in ridging over western North America and troughing over the Upper Midwest eastward to New England.

This pattern, much more common during cold season months (and July and August of last summer), has resulted in a series of cool Canadian-origin air masses moving southeastward out of the Canadian Prairies through the Great Lakes region. After finishing the month generally above normal, average temperatures have recently trended significantly below normal. Precipitation during the last month has been extremely variable, ranging from much above to much below normal.

There is uncertainty as to how long the current weather pattern will last. While both the 30 and 90-day National Weather Service outlooks call for below normal temperatures (and some type of a continuation of the current pattern), the latest NWS medium range outlooks (in the 6-10 day range) call for the trough currently over the Great Lakes to move westward to the western U.S. resulting in a return to normal to above normal temperatures and precipitation in Michigan.

In the longer term, precipitation is expected to range from normal in the 30-day

Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	8/15.....8/31	8/15.....10/31
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	B.....N	B.....A
W. Corn Belt	B.....N	B.....N
E. Corn Belt	B.....A/N	B.....A
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....N	B.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	B.....B	B.....N
Pac. NW Wheat	A.....B	A.....N
Delta	N.....N	N.....N
Southeast	A/N.....A	N/A.....N
San Joaquin	A.....B	A.....B

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

7/1/93 to 7/31/93	Temperature		Growing Degree Days		Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal	Actual Accum.	Normal Accum.	Actual (inch.)	Normal (inch)
Alpena	69.8	+ 2.9	1154	1236	1.71	3.18
Bad Axe	70.4	+ 0.4	1340	1513	3.04	2.92
Detroit	75.6	+ 3.7	1825	1647	2.17	3.11
Escanaba	67.5	+ 0.7	948	944	1.83	3.19
Flint	73.0	+ 2.5	1621	1647	2.32	3.11
Grand Rapids	72.8	+ 1.3	1585	1686	1.83	3.09
Houghton	65.5	+ 0.5	891	1133	1.53	3.42
Houghton Lake	70.4	+ 2.9	1313	1236	1.27	3.18
Jackson	72.8	- 0.1	1607	1660	3.87	3.22
Lansing	72.4	+ 1.7	1584	1660	2.96	3.22
Marquette	66.3	+ 1.5	951	1133	1.93	3.42
Muskegon	72.6	+ 2.4	1522	1436	4.20	2.54
Pellston	68.0	+ 2.2	1128	1282	2.07	2.99
Saginaw	73.1	+ 1.4	1531	1513	2.53	2.92
Sault Ste. Marie	64.4	+ 0.5	823	944	3.28	3.19
South Bend	74.9	+ 3.0	1803	1686	1.51	3.09
Traverse City	70.6	+ 0.9	1320	1282	2.19	2.99
Vestaburg	70.7	- 0.8	1363	1503	2.45	2.97

Observed and growing degree day totals are accumulated from March 1. Normals are based on district averages. Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

period to above normal for the 90-day August-October period.

Given that current growing degree day totals are already lower than normal across most of the state, and the 1992 "year without a summer" still fresh in many people's minds, the long range outlooks may be somewhat disturbing. However, we are approaching the transitional fall, when

jet stream patterns are much less likely to stay in one fixed pattern for a long period of time (especially after a run of nearly two months in a similar pattern in June and July).

If the outlooks verify, crop and insect development will continue to lag behind normal, but significantly ahead of last year.

Midwest Disaster Situation and Crop Update

Iowa: Much of the corn in flooded areas is yellow and stunted. An estimated 2 million acres of corn and soybeans were either not planted or have been flooded or drowned out due to standing water.

Two county Farm Bureau offices have been flooded. A flood task force has been formed and a "Helping Hands" fund established to assist flood victims.

Iowa Farm Bureau is in contact with a relief organization called "AmeriCares," which is based in Connecticut. They have provided items such as food, health items and disinfectants for farm wells.

Illinois: Corn and soybean crops along the Mississippi River have been hard hit. Major relief efforts are now concentrated along the Mississippi River from Rock Island County through Hancock, Adams and Pike counties.

Farmers and relief workers are monitoring levees around the clock for boils and seepage areas. Relief efforts have been organized among county Farm Bureaus for manpower, financial assistance, etc.

The Field Services Division is coordinating efforts between members and county Farm Bureaus, helping members who need food, clothing, water and sandbagging assistance.

Seven or eight counties right now need help, and about 10 are responding, taking buses of volunteers to the work sites. Many counties are offering hay and straw to farmers who are moving livestock to higher ground. Some farmers also are offering pasture to their flooded neighbors. Levee monitoring and clean-up could last for several weeks past the crest stage.

Minnesota: The heaviest rains have occurred in the Red River Valley area, which, fortunately, flows north. The latest estimates are that 1 million acres of beans, corn and small grains either didn't get planted or have been destroyed. Farm Bureau President Al Christopherson is a member of his state's flood task force. The Minnesota Farm Bureau board of directors will hold a conference call meeting this week to discuss additional actions.

Missouri: The state has major flooding problems along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. All of the tributaries are backed up. As a result, an estimated 1.75 million acres are badly saturated or under water.

Livestock is being moved to higher ground. The state needs heavy equipment to pull logs out of the flooded areas and repair levees. Missouri reports financial help is most needed to allow them to hire people and equipment.

South Dakota: Thirty-three counties have been declared a disaster. Only 2 million out of the usual 3 million acres of corn were planted. Some 30-40 percent of the planted corn acres will likely fail.

Only 1 million of the normal 2 million acre soybean crop has been planted, and

again, 30 percent of the planted acreage will likely become failed acreage. Some areas of the state have been hit by 7-inch rainfalls in recent days.

The South Dakota Farm Bureau is working to head off expected regulatory problems involving field certification of conservation compliance. They also are working with banks to restructure loans. County Farm Bureaus are working with health associations and church groups to help families deal with stress problems.

Flooding damage in other states

Wisconsin: The state is anticipating crop losses which could total \$500 million, with a string of problems reaching back to harvest difficulties this past winter and winter-freeze losses earlier in the year. While the flooding damage has not been as widespread as in other states, localized areas have been hard hit.

Kentucky: Four counties along the Mississippi River are experiencing flooding problems. An estimated 40-50,000 acres of soybeans have been lost.

Nebraska: The Southeastern part of the state is experiencing flooding problems and stunted crop growth. The wheat harvest was delayed.

Kansas: Dams and levees have been breached in a number of areas. Wheat harvest problems are widespread, resulting in major concerns over quality.

Drought Damage in the Eastern United States Severe

Severe drought problems exist throughout South Carolina, much of Georgia, parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Kentucky and Maryland. Losses are severe in those areas hardest hit.

There have been virtually no summer rains. Two weeks of 100 degree plus temperatures have wiped out any chance of saving the corn crop.

Cotton, tobacco, peanut and soybean crops in the affected areas are in serious trouble. Melon and peach crops are affected. Pasture and hay crops are non-existent. The affected areas need feed supplies.

Poultry losses have been reported due to the excessive heat and cattle producers are being forced to reduce their herds. Unless it rains soon, the remaining crops will be lost. Early rainfall also is essential to restore pastures and to establish next year's wheat crop.



Serving Michigan Farm Families is Our Only Business

Since its beginning in 1971, Michigan Farm Radio Network's only objective has been to serve Michigan's farm families. This dedication to serve agriculture is shared by 29 local radio stations in Michigan. Through these stations, Michigan Farm Radio Network provides the latest in market analysis, weather and news to Farm Bureau members daily on the following stations:

Station	City	Frequency	Morning Farm	Noon Farm
WABJ	Adrian	1490	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WATZ	Alpena	1450	5:30 am	12:15 pm
WPZA	Ann Arbor	1050	6:15 am	12:05 pm
WLEW	Bad Axe	1340	6:30 am	12:50 pm
WHFB	Benton Harbor	1060	*	12:30 pm
WKYO	Caro	1360	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WTVB	Coldwater	1590	5:45 am	***
WDOW	Dowagiac	1440	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WACY	Fenton	1160	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WGHN	Grand Haven	1370/92.1	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WPLB	Greenville	1380	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WBCH	Hastings	1220	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WCSR	Hillsdale	1340	6:45 am	12:45 pm
WHTC	Holland	1450		12:15 pm
WKZO	Kalamazoo	590	**	12:15 pm
WJIM	Lansing	1250	5:05 am	12:15 pm
WWGZ	Lapeer	1530	*	12:15 pm
WNBY	Newberry	92.5		12:15 pm
WOAP	Owosso	1080	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WHAK	Rogers City	960	7:10 am	12:15 pm
WSJ	St. Johns	1580	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WMLM	St. Louis	1540	6:06 am	12:20 pm
WSGW	Saginaw	790	5:55 am	12:15 pm
WMIC	Sandusky	660	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WKZC	Scottville	95.9	5:45 am	12:30 pm
WCSY	South Haven	940		12:15 pm
WKJC	Tawas City	104.7		12:45 pm
WLKM	Three Rivers	1510/95.9	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WTCM	Traverse City	580	5:55 am	12:40 pm

* Station signs on at different times during the year. Morning farm times change with sign-on times.

** Station airs various farm reports between 5:50 and 6:20 pm.

*** Station airs various farm reports between 12:00 and 1:00 pm.

Some stations carry additional market reports throughout the market day.

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 NEW DODGE

* This offer is valid for members of participating Farm Bureaus, expires 12/31/93, and may not be used in combination with any other Chrysler Corporation certificate offer or certain other special offers. Ask for restrictions & details.

Market Outlook...

Dr. Gerry Schwab, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

CORN

Corn continues to be Michigan's leading crop in acreage, in value of production and in cash receipts. As indicated in Table 1, expected harvested corn grain acreage (numbers in parenthesis) in most states including Michigan will decline in 1993. Because of the flooding that has occurred in the Western Corn Belt states, harvested acreage will be even less than the 67.3 million acres listed in Table 1.

If 2 million acres drop out due to flooding and the harvested U.S. corn yield drops back to 118 bushels per acre, as occurred in 1989-90 and in 1990-91, harvested corn bushels would be 7.7 billion (in contrast to 9.4 billion in 1992).

Average annual corn price based on the 7.7 billion crop, as estimated by Dr. Jake Ferris using an econometric model, would be in the \$2.45 per bushel neighborhood. Although some late July corn production estimates have placed the corn crop at less than 7.5 billion bushels and should encourage some additional bloom to the new crop December CBOT price level, there is no guarantee that the actual prices will reach or exceed the projection.

HOGS

Given that commercial red meat production during June was record high and that the most recent "Hog and Pigs" Report had market hog inventory slightly above the 1992 level, hog prices in the mid-40's have held rather well.

Although hog production expansion was not indicated by the USDA June 1 inventory of breeding stock, there is a prevailing sentiment with this author that hog numbers are not declining.

The 6 percent lower sow slaughter during the first half of 1993 compared to 1992, and relatively cheap feed grains, suggest that modest profits are being made and that the swine industry, including the large vertical-

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

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

Strategy: Your corn should have tasseled by the time this article is released. Assess the yield potential for your crop.

Unless you prefer to carry all the risk for your new crop, transfer some of the downside price risk to others using one of the several available pricing tools when the pricing opportunity reaches your threshold. Remember that crop prices in short crop years often peak early to ration out the reduced supply.

ly integrated firms, are not reducing sow numbers.

Strategy: Hog prices tend to have their seasonal high during the summer months, then decline through November. So do not expect to do some long feeding in anticipation of price rallies. Keep current.

Futures prices for the remainder of 1993 have been in the \$45-\$48 neighborhood which translates into a \$43-\$46 price at the farm. These prices should enable modest profits for the competitive producer. For those producers looking to 1994, the June contract has been trading in the \$50 neighborhood and should enable higher profits than the current market offers.

The markets continue to digest the news and present its composite evaluation in the form of an ever-changing set of prices. The record-setting July rainfall in the Corn Belt will be devastating to the crops of river bottom farmers and will adversely affect crop yields of upland producers. Their misfortune does provide grain and soybean producers with some pricing opportunities that were not predicted this spring.

Production will be reduced, but by how much? Prices have increased relative to previous expectations, but no one can predict with certainty how high the prices will go and how long higher price levels can be sustained. What we can and continually do is have a marketing plan that enables us to pull our pricing triggers when desirable pricing opportunities are presented.

SOYBEANS

Soybean prices have been buoyed upward with strong demand and reduction in acres to be harvested. Although, as indicated in Table 2, intentions were to increase soybean acres planted in 1993 to 60.47 million acres; the forces of nature prevailed.

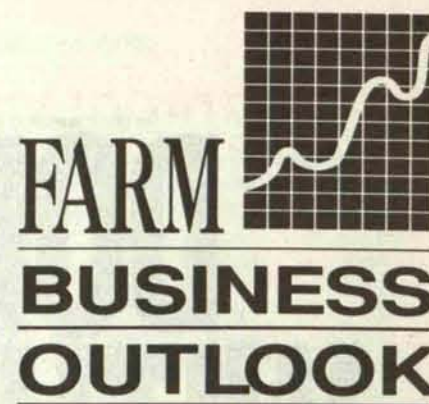
Data in Table 2 indicates that four of the top five soybean producing states are in the Western Corn Belt that has been pelted with the adversely high rainfall. Estimates of flooded soybean acreage range from 3 to 5 million acres.

Using the econometric model of Dr. Ferris and reducing soybean acreage by 3 million

WHEAT

The adverse rainfall is not expected to affect 1993 wheat production to the same extent as corn or soybeans. As indicated by Table 3, wheat production is more widely distributed among more states and is not grown to any extent in Iowa or Minnesota. The yield and quality of the 1993 wheat harvest is still in question as of late July.

Wheat prices can sometimes be jump-started with announcements of new export sales. Barring such demand shifts and using the 64.2 million acres harvested with a 40.5 bushel per acre expected yield, as indicated



to 57.47 million acres, and dropping yield expectation below trend to 32.6 bushels per acre, results in an average annual expected soybean price in the \$7.40 neighborhood.

Strategy: Here again, a message of caution about overly bullish price expectations and a plea for a marketing plan to take advantage of some pricing opportunities that were beyond most of our expectations during spring planting.

The CBOT soybean price action has been quite choppy and difficult to hold above the \$7 level. No one knows if this is a top-of-the-market price, but it does offer you a profitable pricing opportunity. The market also is not offering any carry or storage premium after the new crop (November) contract and positive returns to storage do not appear likely.

If you previously priced as many soybeans as you desire for 1993, think about pricing some 1994 soybeans using a "roll over" hedge with the July 1994 contract.

in Table 3, the average annual expected price is in the \$3.25 per bushel neighborhood.

Strategy: The futures prices are offering very little price incentive for positive returns to storage. Wheat prices can be a beneficiary of the adverse situation in the corn and feed grains area. However, the fundamental supply/demand situation, barring export enhancement announcement for wheat, suggests a harvest-time sale at the less than exciting current price levels as one of your better alternatives.

TABLE 1
CORN FOR GRAIN - 1992*
(1993)**

Rank	State	Acres Harvested (1,000 Acres)	Yield (Bu./Acre)	Production (1,000 Bu.)
1	Iowa	13,100 (11,800)	145	1,899,500
2	Illinois	11,000 (10,300)	145	1,595,000
3	Neb.	7,900 (7,700)	132	1,042,800
4	Indiana	5,900 (5,450)	143	843,700
5	Minn.	6,600 (5,600)	122	805,200
6	Ohio	3,550 (3,100)	137	486,350
7	Wisc.	3,100 (3,000)	107	331,700
8	Missouri	2,350 (2,100)	132	310,200
9	S. Dak.	3,300 (3,100)	83	273,900
10	Michigan	2,400 (2,200)	105	252,000
				7,840,350 (82.7% of U.S. total)
All Corn for U.S.		72,138 (67,265)	131.4	9,479,000

* "Crop Production," November 10, 1992; National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

** "Acreage," June 30, 1993; National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

TABLE 2
SOYBEANS - 1992*
(1993)**

Rank	State	Acres Harvested (1,000 Acres)	Yield (Bu./Acre)	Production (1,000 Bu.)
1	Illinois	9,400 (9,200)	43	404,200
2	Iowa	8,050 (8,750)	43	346,150
3	Minnesota	5,400 (5,700)	35	189,000
4	Indiana	4,500 (4,880)	42	189,000
5	Missouri	4,250 (4,350)	36	153,000
6	Ohio	3,680 (4,170)	39	143,520
7	Arkansas	3,150 (3,450)	33	103,950
8	Nebraska	2,460 (2,560)	42	103,320
9	Kansas	1,850 (2,150)	35	64,750
10	S. Dakota	2,250 (2,260)	28	63,000
				1,759,690 (81.1% of U.S. total)
All Soys for U.S.		58,439 (60,473)	37.6	2,197,312

* "Crop Production," November 10, 1992; National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.
** "Acreage," June 30, 1993; National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

TABLE 3
ALL WHEAT - JULY 1, 1993 FORECAST *

Rank	State	Acres Harvested (1,000 Acres)	Yield (Bu./Acre)	Production (1,000 Bu.)
1	Kansas	11,400	39	444,600
2	Montana	5,214	33.4	173,920
3	Oklahoma	5,500	31	170,500
4	Washington	2,840	56.7	160,980
5	Texas	3,700	32	118,400
6	Idaho	1,400	71.8	100,450
7	Colorado	2,583	37.5	96,924
8	Illinois	1,550	49	75,950
9	Nebraska	2,000	35	75,250
10	Missouri	1,450	44	63,800
11	Oregon	925	63.6	58,810
12	Ohio	1,000	54	54,000
				1,593,584 (61.3% of U.S. total)
All Wheat for U.S.		64,200	40.5	2,601,000

* "Crop Production," July 12, 1993; National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

7 Market Outlook Continued

CATTLE

The most recent Cattle Inventory Report suggests that the cattle cycle continues its expansion. Total cattle numbers are continuing to slowly increase with a reported number of 110.6 million head - 1.3 percent above last year's numbers.

Cattle on feed inventories reported in the July 1 13-state survey were also up by 7 percent over year earlier levels. If demand can be maintained, slaughter cattle prices for 1994 are expected to be in the \$74-\$78 per cwt. neighborhood.

Strategy: One of the most important decisions to influence the profitability of cattle feeding is determining what price can be paid for feeder cattle. Table 4 indicates the results from analyzing three cattle feeding alternatives.

The prices and costs used are intended to be representative of the Michigan situation as it exists in late July for a fall feeding purchase decision. Table 4 was generated using the BEFEEDER software created by Drs. Rust and Black at Michigan State University to facilitate this planning process.

Dairy Feeds Situation and Outlook

Dr. Sherrill Nott, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Getting up the feed supply is a major task for Michigan dairy farmers. This year's challenges include predicting the impact of the Mississippi floods and the Southeastern drought, as well as the weather actions on your farm. As the state moves into the fall harvest season, dairy managers will be taking action to assure feed supplies through summer of 1994. This review of what happened to major crops on Michigan dairy farms in 1991 and 1992 will help you think about 1993 and 1994. Data comes from Michigan State University Extension's Telfarm accounting project.

Hay supplies for the year start with inventories January 1. Hay on hand was 6.3, 5.8 and 5.2 tons (as fed) per cow in 1991, 1992 and 1993, respectively. The average Telfarm started 1993 with hay per cow at 82 percent of the 1991 level. In 1991 and 1992, land harvested for hay was 1.8 acres per cow. But, yield per acre was 4.12 and 3.38 tons in 1991 and 1992, respectively. After allowing for purchases and sales, hay disappearance was 7.65 tons per cow in 1991. It dropped to 6.73 tons in 1992.

Despite feeding less hay per cow in 1992, inventories were down by the end of the year. Price used per ton was \$43.83 on January 1, 1993. Southern Michigan conditions, as this is written, favor the production of crops. During 1993, hay inventories may be rebuilt while maintaining feeding rates. First cutting in the Upper Peninsula is behind schedule and quality may be down.

It is not clear how the flooding to the West will impact hay supplies, but it will likely tighten them. Floods and drought are driving soybean futures prices up; if they stay up, it means higher protein costs for dairy farmers. A plentiful supply of high quality hay could reduce the impact on dairy farm profits.

Corn silage inventories on January 1 were 6.1, 5.6 and 7.1 tons (as fed) per cow in 1991, 1992 and 1993, respectively. The 7.1 tons in 1993 is 127 percent of the 1992 amount. Corn silage yields per acre were down to 12.5 tons in 1992 from 14.4 tons in 1991. Land harvested as corn silage rose from .53 acres in 1991 to .73 acres per cow

Start Date: 10/1/93	Cattle Description		
	Lot I Steer Calf	Lot II Heifer Calf	Lot III Year. Steer
Delivered Purchase Price, \$/cwt.	\$96.00	\$88.00	\$85.00
Purchase Weight, lbs.	525	475	700
Sale Weight, lbs.	1100	1000	1200
Vet/Medicine, \$/head	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
Death Loss, percent	1.8	2.2	0.8
Daily Gain (pay to pay), lbs./day	2.45	2.20	2.55
Days on Feed	235	239	196
Yardage \$/hd./day	\$0.200	\$0.200	\$0.200
Interest Rate, %	10.0	10.0	10.0
Feed Conversion (lbs. feed DM/lb.gain)	7.25	7.45	7.50
Feed Price (as-fed) \$/ton	\$54.41	\$55.31	\$58.76
Feed Dry Matter Content, %	56.9	56.9	60.8
Break-even Sale Price, \$/cwt.	\$73.75	\$71.38	\$72.08
Projected Sales Price, \$/cwt.	\$75.00	\$73.00	\$75.00
Counter Offer for Feeders \$/cwt.	\$98.42	\$91.14	\$89.71
Market Date	5/24/94	5/28/94	4/15/94

in 1992. The tons fed per cow stayed about constant at 7.7 tons both years.

Corn silage was plentiful, but of perhaps lower quality in 1992. Many acres that did not ripen for grain were ensiled. This 127 percent increase in tonnage was valued at \$19 per ton. These beginning inventories, in combination with a decent 1993 hay yield, should provide for this year's corn crop to go more towards grain and less towards silage.

Corn grain inventories on dairy farms January 1 were 142, 168 and 121 bushels per cow in 1991, 1992 and 1993, respectively. The 121 bushels in 1993 were 72 percent of the 1992 amount. Due to lack of dry down, plus late harvest, much of the 1992 crop was of low quality. The average inventory value January 1, 1993 was \$1.84 per bushel.

The corn yield averaged 110 and 98 bushels (as fed) per acre in 1991 and 1992, respectively. The acres harvested were 1.49 and 1.25 per cow in 1991 and 1992, respectively. The amount fed per cow, after adjusting for purchases and sales, was 127 bushels in 1991. It rose to 153 bushels per cow in 1992. These factors combined to bring down the inventory amount by early 1993. A good yield will be needed to rebuild these inventories to earlier levels by the start of 1994. With the carry-in of corn silage, perhaps more of 1993's corn can go to grain. It will be welcome as either an offset to future purchases or as a cash crop going into a market with higher than expected prices. Managers should plan to spend time at the end of 1993 deciding how much corn to sell, and when to sell it.

Hay, corn silage and corn grain are the major crops found on dairy farms. Oats, rye, barley, pasture and wheat play a role on some farms.

During 1991, the average dairy Telfarm spent \$470 (net of feed sales) buying feed not grown on the farm. This rose to \$518 per cow in 1992, an increase of about 10 percent. How much this figure changes in 1993 will depend on the impacts of the flood, the drought and international markets. Purchased protein costs appear vulnerable at this time. Expect feed prices to fluctuate

more during 1993 than managers have been accustomed to in the past.

The 1991 data came from a sample of 203 farms averaging 106.67 cows and selling 18,233 pounds of milk per cow. The 1992 averages were from 200 farms with 113.63 cows selling 18,712 pounds per cow.

FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

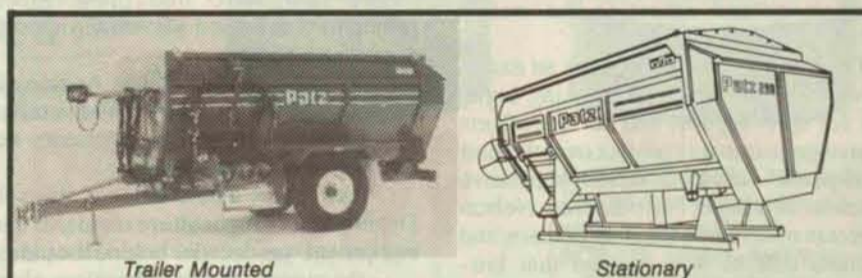
TABLE EGG MARKET SITUATION

Allan Rahn and Henry Larzelere, MSU Ag Econ. Dept.

Egg prices in late July had almost recovered from a 10 cent per dozen setback that began in mid June. They were trading in the 73-75 cents per dozen range (New York, Grade A, large, white, in cartons, to retailers), 4-6 cents more than the previous week and 15-17 cents above a year ago. The floods and other adverse weather factors, in combination with relatively tight soybean supplies, have pushed up primary layer feed ingredient prices and layer feed is now running around 2 cents per dozen more than last year at this time.

The Agricultural Statistics Service estimated that the size of the table egg flock on July 1 was 235 million birds, 2 percent more than a year ago. Table egg production during June was also 2 percent more than last year as layer productivity (eggs per 100 layers) was unchanged. The number of table egg-type chicks hatched during June was estimated at 1 percent above last year's number. The July 1 incubator egg sets estimate of 30.2 million is 6 percent higher than the year earlier figure.

Egg demand conditions are strengthening with prices for eggs in both the shell and other broken-out products advancing. Shell egg prices should move into the 75-77 cents per dozen average range during August. During the remainder of the third quarter, prices are expected to continue to strengthen seasonally with a resulting quarterly average in the upper 70's. After a typical market setback in late September or early October, egg prices should advance into their low 80 cent seasonal high in November. Average price levels during the last quarter of the year are not likely to differ much from the upper 70 cents per dozen range.



Patz® Offers Open-Top Mixers

- Four notched, 24-inch augers mix fast—even square-baled dry alfalfa in limited amounts.
- Self-aligning auger bearings mounted outside.
- Flanged auger tubes for easy removal.
- Roller-chain reduction with sealed oil bath and planetary gear drive for the augers.
- On trailer models, the feed discharge features a hydraulically powered door and augers.
- Electronic scales precisely weigh total mixed rations.
- For trailer models: 540 R.P.M. PTO.
- For stationary models: electric motors.
- Capacities of 190, 240 and 290 cubic feet (bigger models available soon).
- Stainless steel bottom liner available.

Ask us about Patz financing with affordable rates and 24, 36 or 48-month terms.

Copeland Surge Sales & Service, Inc.
Fowlerville - (517) 223-9833

Wylie Implements, Inc.
Kent City - (616) 678-7732

Miller Construction & Equipment, Inc.
West Branch - (517) 345-2499

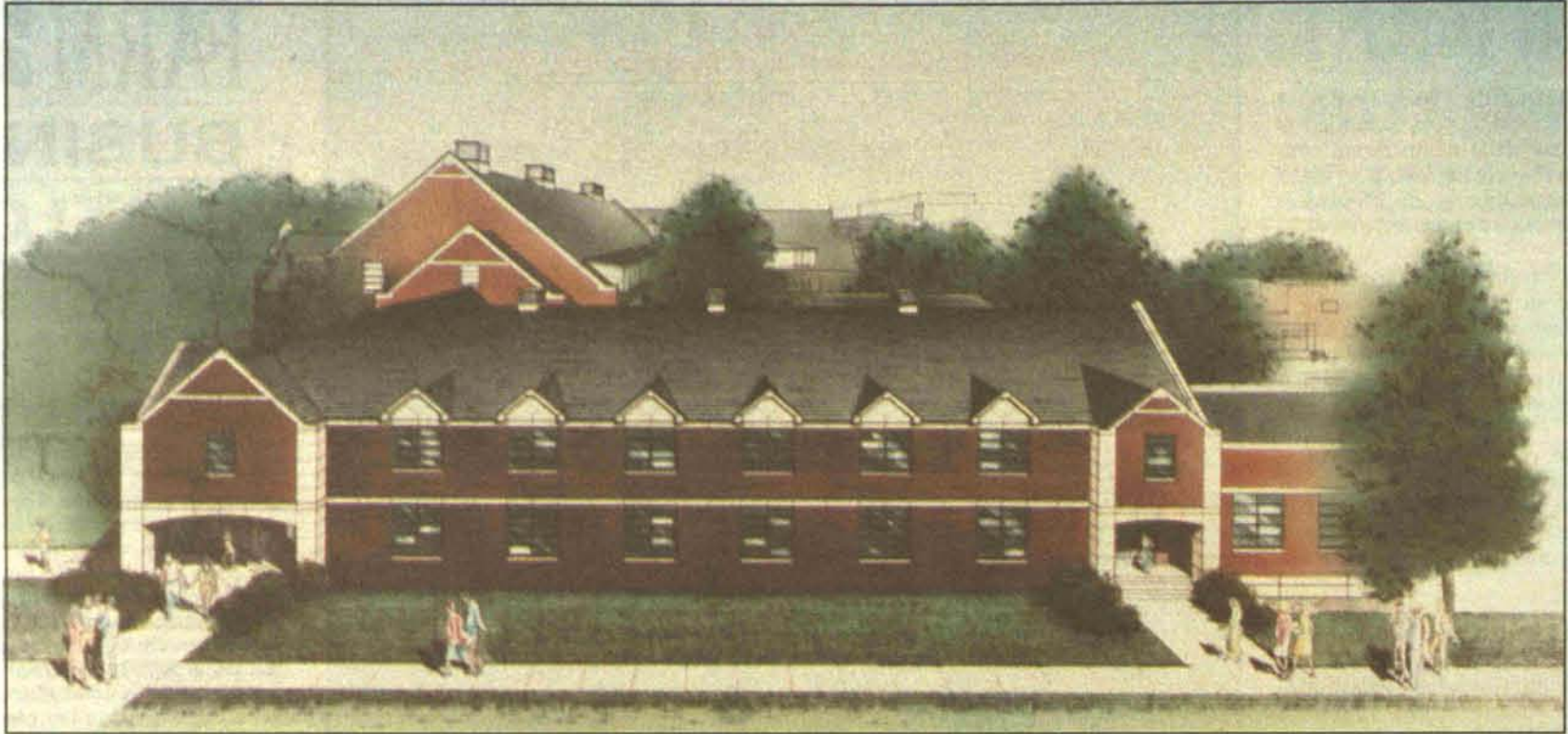
Westphalia Electric, Inc.
Westphalia - (517) 587-3983

Gene Stambaugh Equipment
Ubyly - (517) 658-8817



8

The Animal Agriculture Initiative -- Putting Michigan's Rural Economy on the Launching Pad



Livestock Initiative funding will be used to renovate Anthony Hall, the Dairy Plant, the Meats Lab and the farm facilities, as well as a new agriculture and livestock education Center to replace the old livestock pavilion pictured below. Drawings courtesy of MSU

In these days of widespread cynicism about the motives behind government spending, it's rare to find an expenditure that draws almost unanimous praise for being a genuine investment in the economic future of Michigan.

To the delight of farmers and everyone else interested in the state's economic growth and diversity, the Legislature's Joint Capital Outlay Committee this spring approved the preliminary planning money for the nearly \$70 million Animal Agriculture Initiative at Michigan State University. The action will launch architectural planning this summer. Construction and renovation of animal agriculture buildings on campus could begin yet this year or next.

The campaign that kept this investment plan on track through several tight state budgets is a tribute to the leadership of Michigan Farm Bureau, dairy and livestock organizations and others in the state's agricultural industry.

"The industry has really done an excellent job of reminding and thanking legislators for their support and for the efforts that have gone into this project over the past several years," said Ron Nelson, legislative counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau. Nelson is a veteran observer of Lansing politics, and he admits that he was pleased that lawmakers were persuaded to stick with the funding for the Initiative. "Budgets have been tight, but the animal industry helped demonstrate and document a real need. Animal agriculture facilities at MSU are very much out of date. In fact, some have not been updated for at least 30 years because of inadequate funds," he said.

Through the years, the prowess of MSU's football and basketball teams has drawn the most attention to the nation's pioneer land grant institution. But MSU has also been a superstar in the world of agricultural institutions. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has a well-earned reputation for innovative, world-class teaching and research.

But that reputation in the area of animal agriculture has been threatened by years of trimmed budgets that have taken their toll on both facilities and people resources at MSU. "Unless you're aware of the modern operations underway or being constructed at other universities around the country, you don't really recognize how far MSU has fallen behind the times," according to Kevin Kirk, commodity specialist and livestock expert for Michigan Farm Bureau.

He said MSU had these specific problems that helped galvanize support for the Initiative:

- the research facilities in Anthony Hall were antiquated and unsafe. The ventilation system could not handle laboratory needs and freezers had broken seals.

- the Dairy Plant did not meet U.S. Department of Agriculture standards and its equipment was decades behind the industry.

- the current Meats Laboratory also did not meet USDA standards, had outdated equipment and no facilities for many processing areas.

- the beef, dairy, poultry and swine farms needed renovating.

- the Livestock Pavilion was obsolete.

"Because of these facility problems and years of budgetary constraints, MSU found

itself in the position of having more difficulty continuing to attract the outstanding faculty needed to support an expansion of the animal agriculture industry in our state," said Kirk.

But the \$70 million investment in the Initiative will help turn that situation around. Funds will be used to remodel Anthony Hall and for new research farm facilities, including a swine farrowing barn and nursery, grower/finisher facilities and a new horse barn and arena. It will renovate an existing building for the installation of a high speed treadmill for evaluation of performance horses working at racing speeds. It will construct new infectious disease containment facilities at the veterinary research farm. And it will construct a new agriculture and livestock education center to replace the old livestock pavilion.

The state's agricultural industry believes that this investment in the future will yield big dividends.

With this additional funding support, MSU is expected to develop solutions to animal manure problems. Solutions are critically important if the industry is to expand or even maintain its current level of production. And finding appropriate, environmentally sound manure application techniques is a key to maintaining a "good neighbor" policy with non-farmers in rural areas.

The investment will help expand, perhaps even double, the beef feedlot and cow calf production in the state and create a forage based beef industry.

It will also encourage expansion of the state's poultry industry, which currently

produces only about half of the eggs consumed in Michigan. Turkey production could be doubled.

With the feed and slaughtering capacity in this state, Michigan will be able to produce and market a million additional hogs each year.

The initiative will help to optimize the health and performance of horses in support of the state's racing industry.

It will boost the health of the sheep industry, in part by filling the now-vacant sheep extension veterinary position.

Finally, it will allow Michigan State University to continue working with dairy farmers to make dairying more profitable, and help the industry meet the opportunities presented by the new, large dairy processing facilities in the state.

This revitalization of Michigan's animal agriculture project will benefit all sectors of the state's agricultural economy.

For example, it will allow more farmers to diversify their operations by taking advantage of Michigan's unique environment for livestock production.

The project will also expand local livestock grain markets, and help reduce the need for costly "out of state" grain shipment. By some estimates, the extra demand for corn and soybeans created by this livestock expansion could boost prices by 25 to 30 cents a bushel.

But what about the impact on the total Michigan economy? What kind of return

**Continued...see
"Initiative" page 9**



9 Grain Quality Committee Considers Dust Control Measures

Eaton County farmer and MFB Director Mark Smuts was in Portland, Oregon, recently as a member of the AFBF Grain Quality Advisory Committee to inspect export facilities, and to meet with Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) personnel. MFB Commodity Specialist Bob Boehm also participated in the two-day meeting.

The advisory committee includes farmers from across the country, who are charged with providing direction to the AFBF Board of Directors on grain quality issues.

Top on the list of discussion was the recent controversy surrounding the use of water to control dust. Allegations have been levied against some grain companies that the practice has been abused, by adding more water than is needed to adequately control dust.

The committee heard from several industry representatives about the pros and cons of water use for dust control as well as other measures, such as the use of soy oil.

"While most agreed that dust levels must be reduced for environmental considerations and worker safety concerns, several industry representatives admitted the system

is susceptible to abuse," Boehm said. "The higher cost of oil compared to water for dust control is not economically feasible either."

Although managers of the export facilities advocated the use and need for water in dust control, many critics are suggesting that the FGIS be responsible for maintaining and enforcing stricter standards.

The committee also discussed other quality-related issues, including review of current grain standards, grain quality discounts, grain testing equipment and standardization, funding alternatives for the FGIS and amendments to the Plant Variety Protection Act.

The advisory committee toured two export terminals including the Columbia Grain, Inc.'s Terminal 5 Elevator. The 4 million bushel export terminal is located 100 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River, and sports a maximum load-out of 2,000 tons per hour for ocean-bound vessels. This ship was bound for Japan, with an expected trip of 13 days at sea.



Initiative... continued from page 8

can Michigan taxpayers expect from their investment in the animal agriculture business?

They can expect high dividends indeed. A focus on the non-farm impact from expansion of the dairy industry helps make the point. The dairy industry comprises the largest single element of Michigan's agricultural economy and has the most impact on the rest of the state.

An analysis by the MSU Agricultural Economics Department noted that there are around 5,000 commercial dairy farms in the state. Their output provides over a quarter of the cash farm receipts of Michigan agriculture. The Initiative has targeted a nearly 15 percent increase in the size of the state's dairy herd to produce an additional three quarters of a billion pounds of milk each year.

What would this market expansion mean in terms of economic development? Again, citing figures from the MSU economic analysis, the addition of 50,000 cows to the state's dairy herd would mean over fifteen hundred more jobs. It would increase net farm income by over \$17 million dollars a year. It would boost local property tax receipts by nearly \$4 million dollars a year. And it would generate \$123 million dollars being spent each year on supplies, utilities, insurance and other services for the dairy industry. As these expenditures percolate through the rest of the economy, there will be additional indirect benefits to employment and tax receipts.

So, for a \$70 million dollar investment in the revitalization of Michigan's animal agriculture, farmers and other rural residents will harvest hundreds of millions of dollars in benefits each year just from the dairy industry. Going beyond that, and taking into account the impact from expansion of beef, swine, poultry, sheep and the horse industries -- then, you're looking at nearly half a billion dollars a year in increased agricultural sales value.

This would generate additional jobs and income from the processing and distribution industries, and as the impact of this expansion multiplies, it could produce over \$625 million a year in direct and indirect value for the Michigan economy. Within a decade, this amount could exceed a billion dollars a year.

It's no wonder that Gov. Engler, lawmakers, farmers and other rural residents are excited by the potential of this investment. They see the value of planning and spending now to harvest a bounty of economic growth in the future.



Super Sale-a-thon

Over 55 stores in Michigan to serve you! Stop in today & save!



12.99
GAL. Reg. \$18.49



10.99
GAL. Reg. \$15.49



15.99
GAL. Reg. \$19.49



BARN PAINT
Available in 5 gallon cans only. Choose from alkyd or latex in white or red. (B42RA12, B42WA12, B46RA5, B46WA35) [See store manager for pricing.]

[Guarantee or limited warranty on all Sherwin-Williams coatings. See label for details. All paint shown offers one coat coverage, applied as directed.]

For new or weathered decks!

STEP 1 Restore that natural wood look

DECK BRIGHTENER

14.99

2.25 LB. Reg. \$19.99
Removes dirt and mildew stains

STEP 2 Protect your deck's new beauty

RAINCOAT® WATER REPELLENT FOR DECKS

13.99

GAL. WHEN SOLD IN 5-GAL. CAN
5-GAL. SALE PRICE: \$69.95 REG. \$89.95
Available in clear, cedar & redwood



Roof coating savings!



ALUMINUM ROOF COATING

7.99

GAL. WHEN SOLD IN 5-GAL. CAN

5-GAL. CAN SALE PRICE: **39.95**
Reg. \$63.45

MOBILE HOME ALUMINUM ROOF COATING WITH FIBER

6.79

GAL. WHEN SOLD IN 5-GAL. CAN

5-GAL. CAN SALE PRICE: **33.95**
Reg. \$47.45



Ask about our extended payment plan!

THE PROS KNOW. ASK SHERWIN-WILLIAMS® Sale Ends August 28th

©1993 The Sherwin-Williams Company (Not responsible for typographical errors or art work. Sherwin-Williams reserves the right to correct errors at point of purchase.)

20% DISCOUNT

Bring in this ad and receive a 20% discount off the regular price of any product sold in our Sherwin-Williams stores. OFFER EXPIRES: 8/28/93

(Not valid on sale items, in-stock wallcovering or in conjunction with any other discounts.)

10 Cash Crop Farm Financial Analysis Shows Reduced Returns

Ralph E. Hepp, Agricultural Economist
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University

The cash crop report number 569 is a summary of the financial and production records kept by crop farmers enrolled in the TELFARM record program through Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service.

The report includes 24 grain farms producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and dry edible beans and 18 Saginaw Valley crop farms producing sugar beets, corn, soybeans, wheat and dry edible beans.

The report has three purposes:

- 1) to provide statistical information about the financial results on crop farms during 1992,
- 2) to provide information on the trends in resource use, income and costs during the last three years, and
- 3) to provide production costs for comparative analysis and forward planning.

The 42 crop farms are located in southern Michigan and are selected for the report because they specialize in grains and other field crops, include inventory and crop production data, and represent various sizes of crop farms.

Business analysis reports are also published for farms specializing in potato, dairy, fruit, and swine enterprises. The TELFARM participants are not necessarily representative of all Michigan crop farms, but are those that desire an excellent record-keeping system and assistance in records and financial management from the Cooperative Extension Service. Typically, TELFARMERS operate larger farms than the average Michigan crop producer and obtain a larger percent of their income from agriculture.

- FINANCIAL TRENDS -

Returns on cash grain farms in 1992 decreased from the previous two years (Table 1). The return on owned capital was 4.4 percent in 1992, which was down from 9.5 percent in 1991 and 5.8 percent in 1990. The total value of production per acre was \$245 in 1992, \$288 in 1991 and \$262 in 1990.

Table 1. Trend in Earnings on Michigan Cash Grain Farms, 1990-1992

	YEAR		
	1990	1991	1992
Tillable Acres	675	778	767
Capital Owned	\$467,775	\$517,584	\$523,146
Total Revenue	\$177,943	\$223,674	\$188,275
Operating Expenses	\$149,362	\$173,063	\$160,492
Net Farm Income	\$ 28,581	\$ 50,611	\$ 27,783

Table 2. Trend in Earnings on Michigan Saginaw Valley Cash Crop Farms, 1990-1992

	YEAR		
	1990	1991	1992
Tillable Acres	955	856	806
Capital Owned	\$750,985	\$658,051	\$590,835
Total Revenue	\$363,432	\$271,736	\$286,202
Total Expenses	\$273,423	\$221,022	\$222,937
Net Farm Income	\$ 90,009	\$ 50,714	\$ 63,265
Return to owned capital			

Table 3. Michigan Cash Crop Farms by Level of Profitability, 1992

	Level of Profitability		
	High	Medium	Low
Tillable Acres	849	878	667
Capital Owned	\$486,617	\$869,024	\$515,254
Revenue per Acre	\$ 316	\$ 297	\$ 248
Expenses per Acre	\$ 222	\$ 250	\$ 260
Net Farm Income per acre	\$ 94	\$ 47	\$ -12
Return to owned capital	15.3%	4.4%	1.6%

Table 4. Michigan Cash Crop Farms by Size, 1992

	Size		
	Less than 400 Acres	400-800 Acres	Greater than 800 Acres
Tillable acres	281	572	1,567
Capital owned	\$267,281	\$442,092	\$973,580
Total revenue	\$72,575	\$169,375	\$463,383
Operating Expenses	\$63,607	\$141,694	\$365,343
Net Farm Income	\$8,968	\$ 27,681	\$ 98,040

Crop yields in 1992 were about the same as 1991, with the decreases in crop value coming from decreases in prices and

crop quality due to weather conditions. Total production cost per acre was \$255, which was slightly lower than 1991 and 1990. Crop supplies and machinery costs decreased.

Returns on Saginaw Valley cash crop farms held up very good in 1992 considering the crop conditions (Table 2). Value of production per acre was \$324 in 1992, compared to \$284 in 1991 and \$341 in 1990. Management income per acre, the residual earnings after all costs are subtracted from income was \$30 in 1992. This compares with \$9 in 1991 and \$45 in 1991. The farms in the summary this year were smaller than previous years, so the average sales and expense items need to be adjusted for the acres cropped.

- RESOURCE USE -

The value of farm capital owned on cash grain farms was higher in 1992, with a higher value placed on the land and

machinery per acre. The estimated hours of labor per acre was 4.2 in 1992.

The value of farm capital on Saginaw Valley crop farms decreased slightly, with the estimated number of hours of labor per acre at 5.7 in 1992.

The sample of farms selected for the report shows cash grain farms with 767 tillable acres and 40 percent of the land rented.

The farms with sugar beets in the rotation had 806 tillable acres and 62 percent of the land rented.

- LEVEL OF PROFITABILITY -

Table 3 presents analysis factors for crop farms by level of profits per acre. The 42 cash crop farms were divided into three groups by return on owned capital from less than 3 percent, 3 to 7 percent and greater than 7 percent.

The major difference between the high profit farms compared to the low profit farms was the number of tillable acres, the yields and financial returns per acre. Yields per acre were higher on high profit farms which resulted in greater revenue during the year.

Low profit farms had fewer owned tillable acres, less investment, and fewer hours of labor used in production. Total operating expenses per acre were lower for high profit farms, with interest depreciation, and repair expenses lower.

The return to owned capital was 15.3 percent on high profit farms and -1.6 percent on low profit farms. Net farm income per acre was \$94 on high profit farms and -\$12 for the least profitable operations.

- FARM SIZE -

The 42 crop farms were divided into three size groups by number of acres with small farms less than 400 tillable acres, medium farms between 400 and 800 tillable acres and large farms greater than 800 tillable acres (Table 4). The small farms averaged 281 tillable acres, medium farms averaged 572 acres and the large farms averaged 1,567 acres.

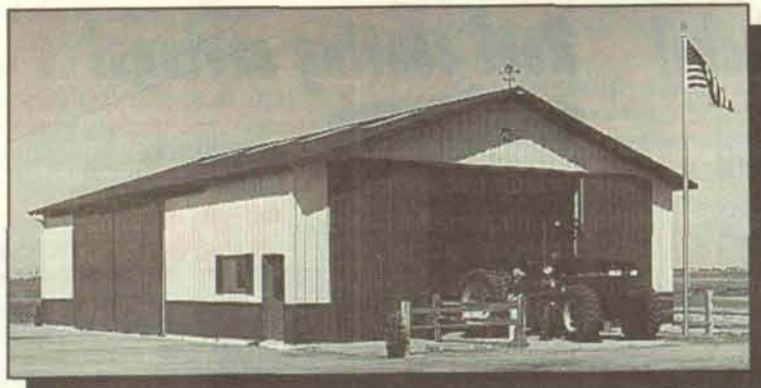
Capital investment per acre was about the same for the three size categories. Number of hours of labor per acre was about 5.4 hours on medium farms and 4.3 hours on the large farms. Small farm operators owned a larger percent of the land and larger farm operators rent a larger percent of the tillable land.

Small farm operators had a net farm income of \$32 per acre. When charges are placed on family labor and equity capital, the management income decreases to a negative \$43 per acre and a .9 percent residual return to owned capital.

Medium farm operators had a net farm income of \$48 per acre. When charges are placed on family labor and equity capital, the management income per acre decreases to a negative \$5 per acre. The return on owned capital was 5.3 percent.

Large farms experienced lower costs per acre and had a \$63 net farm income per acre. The management income per acre was \$23 after a value was placed on family labor and equity capital. The return on owned capital was 9.4 percent.

New Things are Happening at Morton Buildings!



Morton Buildings is leading the industry with:

- > New structural designs
- > New structural capabilities
- > New color combinations
- > New building styles
- > New exterior applications
- > New interior options
- > New sliding door technology
- > New gutter systems
- > New informative video tapes
- > New corrosion protection
- ✓ 50-year column and snow-load protection (with no weight limit)
- ✓ 20-year protection against red rust (including acid rain)
- ✓ 10-year wind-load protection on AlumaSteel® sliding doors (with no weight limit)
- ✓ 5-year wind-load protection on complete building (with no weight limit)

Call your local office today!

Adrian, MI (517) 263-0541
Brown City, MI (313) 346-2702
Kalkaska, MI (616) 258-2580
Rockford, MI (616) 874-6400
Three Rivers, MI (616) 279-5271

800-447-7436
MORTON BUILDINGS

Governor Appoints Beef Industry Commission

Governor Engler has made three appointments to the Michigan Beef Industry Commission. They are William Sheridan of Mason, Gary Voogt of Marne and Pam Bontekoe of Marion. The Commission administers the beef checkoff program which is designed to improve profitability by strengthening beef's position in the marketplace and by expanding consumer demand for beef.

William Sheridan will be representing the livestock marketing position and will be replacing Bim Franklin, who is retiring after 18 years of service. Sheridan, an animal science graduate of Michigan State University, is owner of Sheridan Auction Service, Inc., and the Owosso Livestock Sales Co.

Gary Voogt, chairman of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission and a polled hereford breeder, was reappointed for a second term. Voogt is Vice-President of Moore and Bruggink, Inc., Consulting Engineers in Grand Rapids.

Pam Bontekoe, co-owner of Bontekoe Farm, was also reappointed for a second term. Bontekoe serves as Michigan's beef director on the National Livestock and Meat Board.



11 Western Michigan One of Most Threatened Agricultural Regions



Western Michigan has made the American Farmland Trust's (AFT) list as 1 of 12 of America's most threatened agricultural areas. In selecting the areas for its list of "The Top 12 on the Edge," AFT cited the regions' economic importance as food-producing areas and the threat to their agricultural resource base from rapid population growth and urban-edge sprawl.

AFT, a national farmland conservation group based in Washington, said the farmland lies in urban-influenced counties either in or adjacent to metropolitan statistical areas.

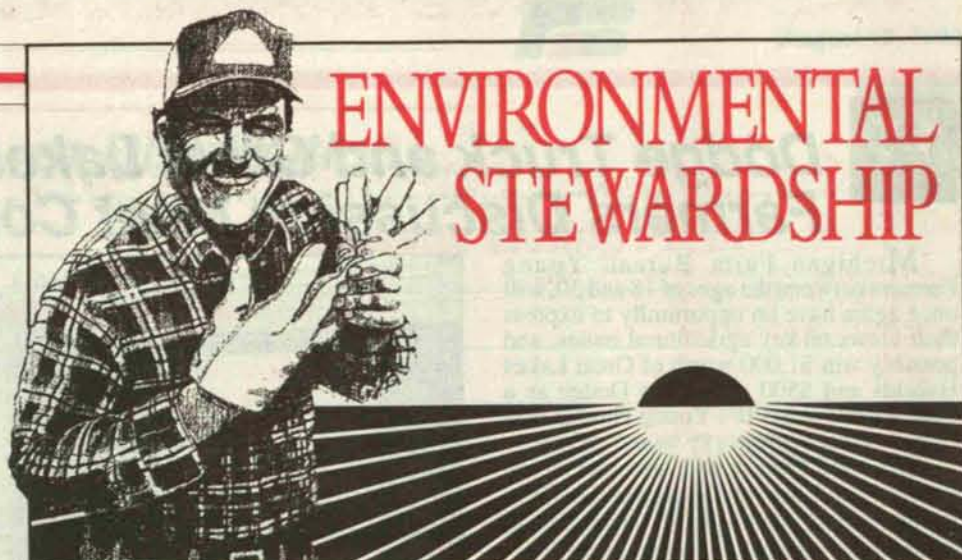
Agricultural regions named to the Top 12 list in order to greatest threat were California's Central Valley, south Florida, California's coastal region, mid-Atlantic Coast/Chesapeake Bay area, North Carolina Piedmont, Puget Sound Basin, Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison metro area, Oregon's Willamette Valley, Twin Cities metro area, Western Michigan, Shenandoah and Cumberland Valleys of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, and the Hudson River and

Champlain Valleys of New York and Vermont.

AFT said that while the 12 most threatened agricultural regions collectively represent only 5 percent of U.S. land of farms, they account for 17 percent of total U.S. agricultural sales, 67 percent of domestic fruit production, 55 percent of domestic vegetable production and 24 percent of dairy products. Production per acre is nearly six times greater in the 12 regions than other nonurban-influenced counties.

The most threatened agricultural regions saw population grow by 21 percent from 1980 to 1990, twice the national average. In fact, 40 percent of the country's population increase in the eighties occurred within the 12 areas.

Meanwhile, farmland in the areas declined by more than 3 million acres from 1978 to 1987, or by 34 acres every hour. The rate of decline was 40 percent greater than in other U.S. counties. While conceding not all the loss can be attributed to non-farm use, AFT said much of it is likely to represent permanent conversion.



Government Conservation Expenditures Highest Ever

Spending on conservation activities by USDA and state and local governments has increased steadily over the past decade. In recent years, rental payments for land retired for conservation purposes have become the largest category of USDA conservation expense.

USDA and related state and local government expenditures for conservation exceeded \$3.6 billion in 1992 and could reach \$3.9 billion in 1993. This total has been increasing in recent years, but could take its first drop in 1994 with budget tightening occurring at all levels. USDA expenditures account for the bulk of government conservation spending. In 1992, USDA spent 86 percent of the total (\$3.16 billion), compared with 8 percent for states (\$291 million) and 6 percent for local governments (\$203 million).

Total USDA conservation expenditures for 1993 are expected to be around \$3.4 billion, up \$244 million from 1992. A slight drop is budgeted for 1994. Related state and local government spending on conservation increased steadily through 1991, dropped about \$20 million in 1992, but rose again for 1993 to more than \$533 million, the highest ever. However, appropriations at the local level actually declined by almost 20 percent.

Rental and easement payments are estimated to account for over half of USDA conservation expenditures in 1993. The bulk of these are rental payments to participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for land retired from production. Rental payments will also be made for land enrolled in the Water Bank Program and easement payments for land accepted into the new Wetlands Reserve Program.

Technical assistance and extension expenditures of \$184 million in 1993 would be the highest ever and could account for nearly one-fourth of the USDA total for conservation purposes. However, the proportion is much lower than prior to 1988 when CRP rental payments became the largest single component of USDA conservation expenditures.

Cost-sharing for practice installation in 1993 accounts for just over 10 percent of USDA spending, with lesser proportions going to conservation data and research and to project conservation programs. The only category of conservation spending in 1993 that is below its 1992 level is that for project conservation programs.

AFT said it examined total agricultural production, population growth, production per acre, specialty crop production and farmland decline in arriving at its list of 12. AFT said other high-value agricultural areas in the U.S. are also facing serious growth pressures and conversion threats, including the Pioneer and Connecticut River Valleys in the Northeast, the Great Lakes fruit belt in upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, the Wasatch Front in Utah, southwestern Arizona and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and New Mexico.

Looking Out For The Environment

Sinkhole Management Protects Groundwater Quality

Sinkholes are common in many regions of the United States. Besides being a physical threat to people, equipment and animals, sinkholes can create a water quality hazard. Surface water or irrigation runoff can wash soil sediment, fertilizers, animal waste, bacteria and ag chemicals into the ground water below. This bypasses the normal protection that is offered by the isolation, filtering and chemical breakdown processes in the soil.

If you're a rancher or farmer with sinkholes on your property, you can help protect ground

water by properly managing the sinkhole. You should also be on the look-out for sinkhole development if you live in an area where they are common.



Don't use sinkholes as dump sites. They may look like a convenient

place to dump trash, animal carcasses, used engine oil and empty ag chemical containers. But disposing of these materials in sinkholes can pollute your



Don't locate a septic system, feed lot or animal waste lagoon near known or suspected sinkholes. If sinkholes appear near such sources of bacterial contamination, consider moving your livestock operation.

water supply and expose you to financial and legal liability. Be sure to remove any trash already in sinkholes on your property.



You can help protect sinkholes from surface runoff and contamination by

placing a grass filter strip or diversion channel around the sinkhole entrance. The method you should use depends on the field slope and where the sinkhole is located (see "Protecting Sinkholes" below.)



Sealing a sinkhole with concrete or plastic liners should be contemplated

only under extreme conditions. This can be expensive and is generally ineffective. Diverting runoff should always be considered before sealing a sinkhole. Contact a specialist trained in sinkhole geology before attempting to seal a sinkhole.

Call your local Soil and Water Conservation District, county Extension agent or Department of Health representative for additional advice. By properly protecting sinkholes, you will help safeguard water quality for you, your family and your neighbors.

This information is provided by the Alliance for a Clean Rural Environment, a non-profit, non-political organization encouraging environmental stewardship and protection of water quality, supported by the makers of crop protection chemicals.

Roots to Profitability.



Increase Wheat Yields

Spring is the time to treat wheat with ACA to gain your advantage. ACA can be used as a spring dormancy break application with your topdressing fertilizer to boost your yields.

1992 Yields

ACA-treated wheat had an average increase of 10.76 bu/acre with the highest yield increase at 22.22 bu/acre. On farm yield increases in 1992 varied from 5.16 to 22.22 bu/acre. The four-year average yield increase wheat growers have seen using ACA has been 8.53 bu/acre.

See the Benefits of ACA

Better root systems Increased Profits
Heathier Plants Increased Yields
Easier Harvesting Proven Performance

To see the difference apply ACA with anhydrous, liquid 28% N, Liquid Starter, impregnated on dry or sprayed.

Contact Your Local Clean Crop Dealer or call 1-800-292-2701 for additional information on the ACA Advantage!

Protecting Sinkholes

If you have one or more sinkholes in fields on your farm, you can help prevent runoff from entering ground water by putting a natural barrier around the sinkhole entrance.

On level ground, sinkholes can often be protected with grass filter strips. Grass strips even as narrow as 13 feet can trap enough sediment to be effective. Filter strips will only remove soil sediment from shallow water flow; they won't stop sediment movement in deeper water, such as in gullies or ravines.

The first 3 to 4 feet of a grass strip usually do most of the filtering. The thick

grass barrier will also collect runoff water in front of it, so a good deal of the silt it carries actually settles out in the cropping area before it washes into the grass.

On sloping ground, sinkhole protection will require you to divert water flow away from the entrance. Building soil embankment berms and diversion channels is the best solution. At the highest point above the sinkhole, shape an area a few yards wide in a half-moon shape so water moving down the slope will be diverted equally to either side.

After shaping the soil, fertilize and seed the area to control erosion during sod formation.

Keeping The Promise



12 Dodge Truck and Great Lakes Hybrid Sponsoring Young Farmers Discussion Meet Contest

Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers between the ages of 18 and 30, will once again have an opportunity to express their views on key agricultural issues, and possibly win \$1,000 worth of Great Lakes Hybrids and \$500 cash from Dodge as a state winner of MFB's Young Farmer Discussion meet contest.

The state finalist will also receive an expense paid trip to the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Ft. Lauderdale to compete in national competition and possibly win a 1994 Dodge Dakota Pickup.

The national winning grand prize, a 1994 Dodge Dakota Pickup, includes a club cab, 4 wheel drive, complete with the SLT Premium Trim Package and a 5.2 liter Magnum V-8 engine.

Contest topics include:

District level; 1. What are some alternatives and innovative uses of agricultural commodities and by-products?

State level; 2. How will primary and secondary education be funded?

3. What can be done to encourage the introduction of beginning farmers into agriculture?



1992 MFB State Discussion Meet Contest winner, Robert Sollman of Eaton County, in national competition during the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in California.

4. What should be the provisions of the 1995 Food Security Act (Farm Bill)?

The district level contests started August 4 in Escanaba for District 11. Other contest dates and locations are:

District 1, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren, **Sept. 1,** Holiday Inn, Kalamazoo

District 2, Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, **Sept. 2,** Schuler's, Jackson

District 3, Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne, **Aug. 30,** Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

District 4, Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Ottawa, **Sept. 9,** Middleville Inn, Middleville

District 5, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Shiawassee, **Sept. 16,** Holiday Inn West, Lansing

District 6, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Sanilac, St. Clair, Tuscola, **Aug. 31,** Westpark Inn, Sandusky

District 7, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, **Sept. 23,** Sandy's Serendipity

District 8, Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, **August 25,** Holiday Inn, Midland

District 9, Benzie, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, N.W. Michigan, Wexford, **Sept. 10,** Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville

District 10, Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego, Preque Isle, **Sept. 20,** Days Inn, Gaylord.

For more details, call your county Farm Bureau office or 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3234.

A NEW MONEY SAVING HEALTH PLAN

FOR FARM OWNERS & OPERATORS

Comprehensive Medical/Surgical
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSAL
FARM OWNERS/OPERATORS

COVERAGE: CMM 250 CMM 500 CMM 1000

GROUP SIZE: Sole Proprietor Group Size (2-99)

Annual Premiums	
Current Health Insurance	\$4,444
New Farm Bureau Group Program	3,492
Member Savings	\$ 952

Note: the savings with the new Farm Bureau Plan

In these tough economic times all business owners are looking for ways to improve their bottom line. Now 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 69 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.



FOR A FREE, NO OBLIGATION RATE QUOTE — FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW OR CALL DIRECT 1-800-292-2680, EXT. 3239 OR 3240.

Please mail to: Michigan Farm Bureau
Membership Services
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, MI 48909

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

County _____

Type of Farm/Business _____

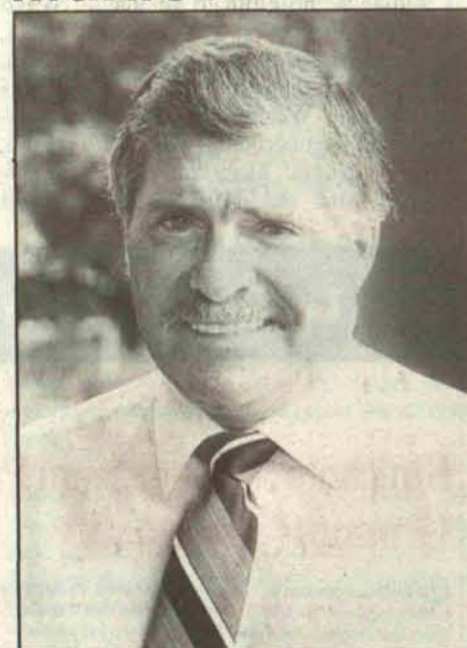
Current Health Insurance _____

Number of Full Time Employees Sole proprietor (1 person group)

2-4 5-9

10-24 25 and over

Corn Growers Appoint Keith Muxlow



Keith Muxlow of Brown City has been appointed executive director of the Michigan Corn Marketing Committee (MCMC) and the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA). The appointment of Muxlow, who served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1980 until Dec. 31, 1992, was announced by MCMC Chairman Dan Putman of Williamston, and MCGA President Larry Nobis of St. Johns.

Muxlow's major responsibilities will include management of the corn marketing program of Michigan, which is authorized by P.A. 232, and to oversee the collection and use of funds for promotion and research of the Michigan corn industry. His office is located in the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

"We're pleased to have this well-recognized leader in the agricultural industry working for corn growers in this state," said Putman. "Keith served as a legislator for 12 years and was also a successful farmer."

Muxlow was a dairy farmer for 25 years in partnership with his brother on an 1,100 acre farm near Brown City on the Sanilac-Lapeer county line. Their 250-cow dairy operation included 700 acres of corn. During his 12 years in the Michigan Legislature, he was recognized by MFB's Agri-Pac as a "Friend of Agriculture."

MFB Organizing Hay List for Disaster Area Distribution

These bales from McBain, Michigan, were bound for dairy farmers in Dubuque County, Iowa, located in the Northeast corner of the state. Nearly 40 farmer-members of the Prosper Christian Reformed Church in Falmouth donated their time, labor, and equipment to put up the nearly 185 big round bales, after property owner John Koetje, offered the hay free if someone would put it up, according to State Representative John Gernaat. In addition to the donated hay, time, and labor, the trucks, trailers and diesel fuel were also donated by local farmers, businesses and other organizations. Four semi-trailers were loaded the evening of Aug. 5, and arrived on schedule in Iowa on Aug. 6 by 10 a.m. for distribution to 17 farmers.



Due to extreme drought conditions in the southeastern U.S., and flooding in the mid-west, Michigan Farm Bureau is laying the groundwork to accumulate information from Michigan farmers who may have hay for distribution in disaster areas.

"Once we begin to receive the information from our members, we'll send that information directly to disaster coordinators in those states that have been hit by drought and floods," said Ken Nye, MFB Commodity Activities and Research Director. "We've received a number of phone calls from members wanting to know how and what they can do to help farmers in those disaster areas."

Although the ultimate amount of need won't be known for some time, Nye said it's critical that efforts to accumulate this kind of information get underway so that Michigan farmers can be of assistance when it's needed. Those needs will vary, too.

"From what we've been told, farmers in the Midwest will need to take stock of their situation before they know how much feed they'll actually need," explained Nye. "Although they may be flooded out, adjoining farms do have feed that may be available."

"Many farmers in the southeast, on the other hand, have no feed - period. They're faced with either relying on purchased feed from outside the region, donations or selling their livestock," he said.

One Michigan farmer's generosity to help Midwest farmers has mushroomed into a considerable multi-state effort to deliver nearly 4,000 bales of hay, and nearly nine tons of feed from Michigan and Indiana farmers. Cass County Farm Bureau member, Rob Fretz, has been organizing efforts to ship hay to South Carolina. "According to ag agents in South Carolina, it's just like a dessert - there's no pasture, no forage, no crops," he said.

Ironically, South Carolina farmers were responsible for organizing fund raisers and hay shipments to Michigan in the Greenville area in 1988. Those efforts generated roughly \$28,000 to aid Michigan farmers in addition to several loads of hay.

"We definitely owe those farmers in the Southeast in their time of need - this is farmers helping farmers," said Fretz. "We've really been blessed this year and if guys would stop and think and give a helping hand by donating just 50 or 100 bales of hay, it sure would help those guys out down there."

Readers with hay available either for sale or donation, should fill out the coupon on the upper right of this page, and mail it back to: MFB CARD Div. Hay List, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460.

Information required to list your hay is name, address, phone number, quantity of bales or tons, type of bale (round or square), type of hay (alfalfa, alfalfa mixed, etc.), which cutting (1st, 2nd, 3rd), weight of bale, hay test results (if tested), the best time of day to be reached, and, most importantly, if hay is to be donated or sold. If you want to do both, indicate the quantity in each category.

According to Nye, once the lists are distributed, individuals will be contacted directly by either disaster coordinators and/or farmers in those areas. Transportation arrangements will have to be made on an individual basis. If you need additional information, call Nye at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 2020.

Hay Disaster Listing Form

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: (____) _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____
 1st Cutting: _____ 2nd Cutting: _____ 3rd Cutting: _____
 (indicate number of bales available)
 TYPES OF BALES: Big Round _____ or Square Bales _____
 AVG. WEIGHT OF BALES: _____
 TYPE OF HAY: _____
 AMOUNT OF HAY TO DONATE: _____
 AMOUNT OF HAY TO SELL: _____ PRICE: _____
 TRUCKING AVAILABLE? yes/no _____

Mail to: MFB CARD Div. Hay List
 P.O. Box 30960
 Lansing, MI 48909-8460

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 to next car category, subject to availability at time of rental.
- (In the U.S.) Valid on a compact car or above, excluding premium, luxury and specialty cars. (In the United Kingdom). Valid on self-drive rentals from a group B car category and above, excluding group E car category and above.
- One certificate 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.
- This certificate and the car rental pursuant to it are subject to Alamo's conditions at time of rental.
- This certificate is null and void if altered, revised or duplicated in any way.
- Offer valid through September 30, 1993, except 2/11-2/13/93, 4/8-4/10/93, 5/27-5/30/93, 7/1-7/4/93 and 7/23-8/28/93.

For reservations call your Professional Travel Agent or call Alamo's Membership Line at 1-800-354-2322. Request Rate Code BY and ID# **BY - 223212** when making reservations.

U77B



ONE FREE DAY

- Valid for ONE FREE DAY on any 2 day or longer rental
- (In the U.S.) Valid on a compact car or above, excluding premium, luxury and specialty cars. (In the United Kingdom). Valid on self-drive rentals from a group B car category and above, excluding group E car category and above.
- One certificate 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.
- This certificate and the car rental pursuant to it are subject to Alamo's conditions at time of rental.
- This certificate is null and void if altered, revised or duplicated in any way.
- Offer valid through September 30, 1993, except 2/11-2/13/93, 4/8-4/10/93, 5/27-5/30/93, 7/1-7/4/93 and 7/23-8/28/93.

For reservations call your Professional Travel Agent or call Alamo's Membership Line at 1-800-354-2322. Request Rate Code BY and ID# **BY - 223212** when making reservations.

F04B



Where all the miles are free™

- Michigan Farm News Classifieds -

01
Farm Machinery

NEW AND USED irrigation and manure spreading equipment. Pumps, travelers, agitators PVC and aluminum pipe. Call for listing. We deliver! **Plummer Supply, Inc.** 1-800-632-7731.

NEW WIDE FRONTS for JD 2510 through 40.20 tractors, \$1540. 517-523-2803.

RB DRYER WAGON. L.P. burner, 200 bushel capacity with hoist, 12 ton gear. Excellent condition, delivery available. Call after 7pm. Price \$6500. Call 1-906-883-3525.

02
Livestock Equipment

4-STAR horse and stock trailers, all aluminum, 5 year warranty. Gary Robb. 313-752-7337, Romeo, MI.

02
Livestock Equipment

FREE CATALOG: Wholesale Veterinary Supplies. Vaccines, wormers, supplements, medications, insecticides, disinfectants, syringes, needles, buckets, pails, mastitis treatments, implants, pour ons, ear tags, rainwear, gloves. Much more! K.V. Vet Supply, Box 245, David City, NE 68632. 1-402-367-6047.

FREE FARM SUPPLY CATALOG: Flush Trays, Nursery Pens, Farrowing Stalls, Live-stock Equipment, Farm and Ranch Supplies. Rettey, Box 261, Department 119, Colchester, IL 62326.

JOHN DEERE 6 row stalk chopper, model #27. John Deere 16A flail chopper. Both in excellent condition. Call 517-644-3519.

03
Farm Commodities

PEACHES for canning, freezing, fresh eating or resale. Pick your own or fresh picked daily. Extra 5% discount to M.F.B. members.

Sunrise Farms
Benton Harbor, MI
Call 1-616-944-1457

04
Livestock

HERFORD FEEDER STEER for sale, 400-500 lbs. Call 517-291-3939 after 6pm.

HOLSTEIN SERVICE AGE bulls, \$800-\$900. Call 517-644-3519.

LIVESTOCK TRAILERS: Heavy duty, bumpers and goosenecks. Call for quotation. Nobody sells for less! D.R. Sales, 9461 Talladay, Willis. 1-313-461-1414.

QUALITY ANGUS BREEDING STOCK Performance tested. Bulls semen tested. Free delivery. Also Border Collie Stock Dogs. Call today. **BORDNER ANGUS FARMS** Sturgis, MI 616-651-8353.

REGISTERED POLLED Herfords. Breeding age bulls, heifers and bred heifers. MSU performance tested. Robert Rye, 1-517-734-3005.

YORKSHIRE and Hampshire Boars and open Gilts. Also, F-1 York-Hamps American and English Yorks. Test data on Boars. Marvin R. Cook, Mulliken, MI. 1-517-649-8988.

06
Agricultural Services

BIRD FERTILIZER SERVICES. 1100 N Irving, Greenville. Fertilizer, chemicals, seed, lime, feed. Soil testing, truck spreading and custom spraying. Call 616-754-3684.

ELIZABETH SUE'S COUNTRY SHOP & FEED Vitaplus Feed, Triumph Feed, antiques, country gifts, quilts. Monday-Saturday, 8-5pm. 322 Walnut Street, Stanton, MI. Call 1-517-831-5024.

EXPERIENCED Michigan agribusiness attorneys with farm backgrounds. Knowledge and experience in all farm areas; restructure, stray voltage, bankruptcy, estate planning. **EAST SIDE:** Thomas J. Budzynski, 43777 Groesbeck Hwy., Mt. Clemens, MI 48036. 313-463-5253; **WEST SIDE:** Robert A. Stariha, 40 W. Sheridan, Fremont, MI 49412, 616-924-3760.

FARMERS ELEVATOR Company, Lakeview. Grain seeds, beans, pet supplies, bagged and bulk fertilizer, ortho products. Laredo and Wrangler boots, Tingley work rubbers. Leanin' Tree Greeting Cards. 1-517-352-7261

09
Real Estate

FOR RENT, DAIRY FARM near Byron Center, MI. 186 acres, 85 acres hay, 55 corn, 128 head tie-stall with large attached free stall barn. Milk tank and equipment in good condition. Manure pit, large tool shed and beautiful house. Call 1-616-896-9827 days or 1-616-896-8910 evenings.

PLAY GROUND: 220 acres. About 166 acres excellent wooded deer hunting, about 20 acres excellent fishing water, nearly 1/2 mile trout stream. Four bedroom modern house, two steel sheds. Terms! 1-616-743-6380.

WANTED TO BUY: Used bulk milk tanks, 500 and larger. 1-800-558-0112.

12
General

150 & 120-GAL. gas tanks for pickup: woodburner, water heater, water softner, 1978 White Road Commander, 400 Cummins, small cam, twin-screw, 10-speed transmission. 517-278-6031.

BINS, DRYERS, legs, air systems. Heinrich Grain Systems, Webberville, MI 48892. Call 1-517-468-3442.

CHORE BOY MILKING SYSTEMS Starline equipment. McBride, Produce, McBride, MI 48852, Phone days 517-762-5370.

PRESSURE TREATED fence posts, hi-tensile fence supplies. Nevil Supply: 517-386-3517 or 517-386-2382.

FOR SALE: New, several 800-1000-1250-1500-2000 and 3000 bulk milk tanks complete, special price, will trade. 1-800-558-0112.

12
General

DAVIDSON CEMENT GROOVING, INC. NO water needed. Wider, rougher grooves for better traction. Call 1-800-365-3361

DAVIDSON HOOF TRIMMING, INC: 7 crews will travel in Michigan and to other states for your hoof trimming needs. Est. since 1982. Call 1-800-365-3361.

ROBINSON EQUIPMENT: M-46M-91, Lakeview. Your authorized sales, parts and service for Massey Ferguson, Claas, Kubota, Troy-Bilt, Bolens, Land Pride, Woods, Top Air. 1-517-352-7206.

SEPTEMBER 17-19 SHOW Farmers Antique Tractor & Engine Association, 7600 Forrister Road, Adrian, MI 49221. Call 1-517-436-3529. Show, Flea Market. Public welcome!

12
General

STRAW CHOPPERS: We rebuild and balance. Some exchanges. We stock chopper parts. **ENGINE REBUILDING** our specialty. Auto-Truck-Tractor-Antique-Continental-Kohler-Onan-Wisconsin engine dealer. **Hart's Auto Parts Cecil, Ohio 419-399-4777**

THE FENCER'S HELPER Hardware Store. Wire, tools, accessories, electrical products, insulators. Over 100 products, all at wholesale prices. For a free catalog, call 1-800-851-3382.

JOHN DEERE 350B Dozer with 6 way blade. New engine, transmission, steering clutches and reverser. Excellent condition. Ready to work. \$12,500. Call 517-694-0460.

Buy 2 Issues of Michigan Farm News Get the Third Issue FREE!

Deadline for the next issue is August 23, 1993

Call 1-800-968-3129 to Place Your Classified Ad Today!

or use the coupon below and mail your classified ad to

Michigan Farm News
Buy Line/Daily News
P.O. Box 6
Stanton, MI 48888

Classified Ad Codes

- 1. Farm Machinery
- 2. Livestock Equipment
- 3. Farm Commodities
- 4. Livestock
- 5. Help/Position Wanted
- 6. Agricultural Services
- 7. Auctions
- 8. Building Materials
- 9. Real Estate
- 10. Seeds
- 11. Wanted to Buy
- 12. General
- 13. Ponies/Horses

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classified Ad Code Requested _____ Number of Issues _____

Desired Insertion Date(s): _____

Method of Payment

Check \$ _____ (payable to Michigan Farm News Classified)

Visa Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Master Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Classified Rates
\$8 for up to 24 words
30 cents each additional word

Write your ad here, including phone number and area code

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36

PERMA-CHINK®
SYSTEMS, INC.

To be a winner, you have to work hard!

Performance is important to me...that's why I use LIFELINE™ wood finishes throughout my Home!
Dale Earnhardt



PERMA-CHINK® SYSTEMS
LIFELINE™ stains are working hard each day to maintain the beauty and protection of your log home.

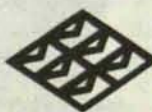


Timeless Wood Care Products
716 Nims Street
Muskegon, MI 49442
1-800-524-3040

Attention: Special Offer To Farm Bureau Members

Now you can save up to 50% on most popular brand name vitamins and prescription drugs. Plus, we offer the leading brands of ostomy and diabetic supplies!

Call TOLL-FREE for your FREE Prescription Drug or Medical Supply catalog
1-800-228-3353



HEARTLAND FIELD DRUG
PRESCRIPTION SERVICE & MEDICAL SUPPLIES
5023 Grover Street ♦ Omaha, NE 68106

September Discussion Topic – "National Ag Policy"

Congress is expected to begin writing the 1995 Farm Bill late next year or in 1995. The politics of agriculture, however, have changed dramatically since the last Farm Bill was written. The focus of lawmakers who work on the 1995 farm legislation will reflect those changes.

The predominant concerns that will come into play include increasing pressure to reduce the federal deficit, more environmental orientation, more consumer responsiveness, more willingness to challenge the justification of outmoded programs and more careful consideration of economic and social consequences resulting from expenditures of scarce federal budget dollars on agriculture.

Farm program spending is a popular target and could become one of the casualties of the fight to cut the federal deficit, despite the fact that farm program spending accounts for less than one percent of the total federal budget. Robert Young, co-director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Institute at the University of Missouri, said one more deficit reduction bill and "we've squeezed out any advantage of farm program participation, especially among corn and wheat producers."

Farm program spending cuts in recent years have been the largest in any one program area, except for defense spending. Farm program expenditures now account for just under 20 percent of the USDA's nearly \$70 billion budget. More than 50 percent of USDA's budget is spent on domestic nutrition programs.

It is clear that the environmental agenda will also continue to pose challenges for farm programs. Agriculture's political strength has been diminished, while that of the environmental and consumer-oriented organizations has been strengthened due to population changes and congressional redistricting.

Politically, when budget cuts are proposed, agricultural programs are among the first to

be targeted for further reductions. This is the result of the declining impact of farmers, increased concentration in agriculture - which conflicts with the image of family farming that consumers would like to preserve - and programs that appear to reward politically unpopular activities such as idling acreage.

Farm Bureau's role in promoting particular alternative program options must be weighed in light of the prevailing political environment. Agricultural interests alone, even if totally united, cannot command a majority in the House or the Senate. Other interests must join together to generate a working majority to pass a farm bill or other legislation important to agriculture. Alliances with other sectors of the economy will be essential if agriculture is to prevail on such issues.

Efforts to preserve agricultural price and income support programs will continue to be pressured by efforts to cut spending by even greater levels than those under consideration today. It will be very difficult to promote aggressive new programs for agriculture. The influences of budget

reduction, environmental improvement, rural development and consumer protection will result in increased scrutiny of many commodity programs, in an attempt to make them more politically palatable. Maintaining the status quo will be increasingly difficult.

In developing new parameters for agricultural programs, alternatives must be thoroughly explored. Farm Bureau can only respond to these challenges if there is an honest evaluation of political strengths and vulnerabilities. If we are to win on the key issues in the farm bill debate, we must view agricultural programs and farm bill issues as they are, not as we wish they were.

Agriculture must capitalize on its advantages and develop proposals that are politically practical in order to preserve a meaningful form of support and stability for basic agricultural commodities.

(This article based on information provided by Rob Nooter, AFBF director of governmental relations, and by the Iowa Farm Bureau)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do your group members participate in farm programs? Yes ___ No ___ Why?
2. How can farm programs be restructured to be less vulnerable to budgetary reductions and not compromise their policy objectives for the next farm bill?
3. What affect does farm program subsidies have, long-term, on market prices to farmers?
4. What changes should be made in the 1995 Farm Bill?
5. How can current farm program subsidies and income supports be defended and justified to a growing non-farm public?
6. What form of commodity price support or income stabilization is most defensible, sustainable and market oriented?

Outstanding Young Ag Leader Applications Due Sept. 1

Young Farmers intent on competing in the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Outstanding Young Ag Leader contest must be recognized as their county's winner and the make application to the state level on or before Sept. 1, 1993, according to MFB Young Farmer Chairman Kurt Inman.

"Hard work, intelligent planning and the development of leadership skills lead to success in the agricultural industry, which should be recognized," said Inman. "Recognizing these successful young farmers not only pays tribute to the individual, it also emphasizes the need for highly efficient farm leaders if agriculture is to satisfy the future demands."

Four finalist will be selected from all of the county winners submitting applications. Those four finalists will then be interviewed by a panel of judges during the MFB annual meeting, where a state winner will be determined.

The state winner in the Outstanding Young Ag Leader Contest will receive an expense paid trip for themselves and their spouse to the AFBF annual meeting held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Great Lakes Hybrids will also award the state winner \$1,000 worth of products. Blue Cross Blue Shield will also award all four finalists an MFB Carhart jacket.

For more information, contact your local county Farm Bureau office, or call MFB at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3234.

WORRIED
FACES
OF OUR
INSUREDS.



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.¹ With costs averaging about \$30,000 per year² 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.³

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 ®

a subsidiary of TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES

1. Consumer's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance, HIAA 1989
2. U.S. News & World Report, Aug. 13, 1990
3. Independent analysts of the insurance industry who base their analysis on financial strength and operating performance.

TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND AN AMEX BROCHURE/APPLICATION - FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW OR CALL DIRECT 1-800-292-2680, EXT. - 3236.

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Please mail to: Michigan Farm Bureau Membership Services
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, MI 48909

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Phone _____

County _____

16 Grain Bin Inspections - A Word to the Wise

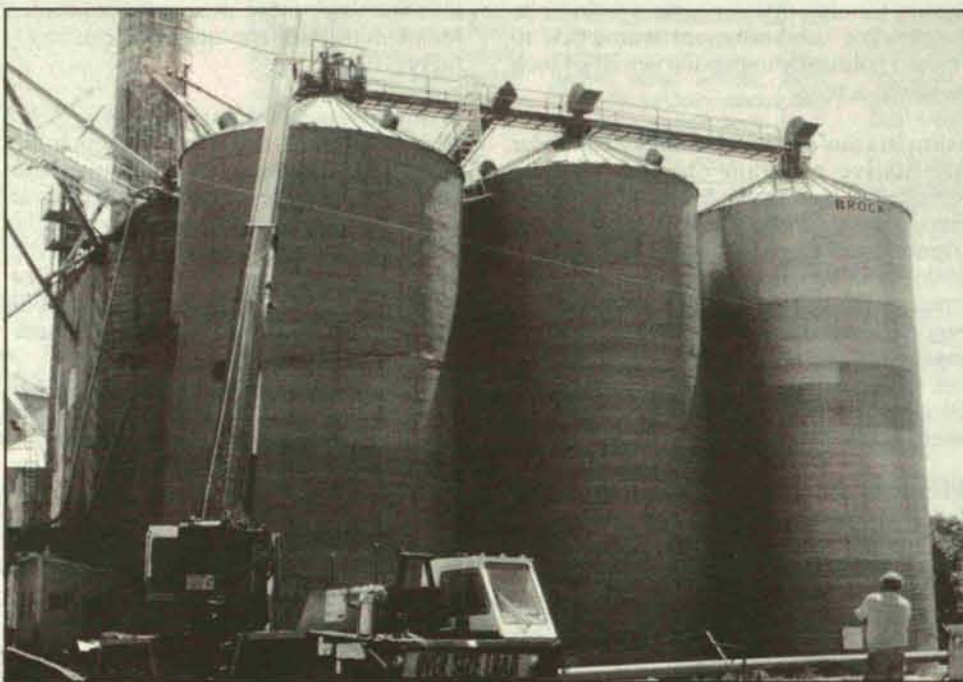
Farmers with on-farm grain storage facilities may want to conduct a close inspection of their grain bins before refilling them with the 1993 crop. This 40,000 bushel bin, owned by Mueller Bean Co. in Sunfield, Mich., was full of wheat when it started to buckle. It was caught in time by an employee before going all the way down.

Although not sure what caused the bin to buckle, Mueller Safety Director and Company Chairman, Vern Mueller, said they suspect the stiffeners located inside the bin may have gotten out of alignment.

"At this point, it's just a guess, because we haven't had a chance to get inside and inspect it yet," said Mueller. "Farmers should check their own bins and make sure their stiffeners are aligned, and that the splice plate hasn't become loose. The stiffeners are what transpose the weight from the top to the bottom of the bin. If they're not aligned properly, the load will shift and break the chain of support, causing a problem."

Mueller added that the splice plates used on some stiffeners are not the same thickness as the stiffeners themselves, causing

problems as well. Attempts were made to unload the bin from the bottom, and vacuuming wheat from the top which caused the buckling to worsen. Workers finally cut a series of 14 holes around the bin to relieve the pressure and get the level of wheat below the buckling point so that it could be unloaded normally.



Case-IH, Great Lakes Hybrids, Dodge Truck, Sponsoring Distinguished Young Farmer Contest

Michigan young farmers have an opportunity to once again compete for 80 hours free use of a Case-IH tractor, receive \$1,000 worth of Great Lakes Hybrid product, a \$500 cash award from Dodge Truck, and an all expense paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting in Ft. Lauderdale to compete nationally in the Distinguished Young Farmer contest.

Contestants must first receive the Distinguished Young Farmer award at the county level before submitting application to the state contest by the Sept. 1, 1993 deadline, according to MFB Young Farmer Chairman Kurt Inman.

"The award is based on the individual's ability to be successful at the profession of farming and demonstrated leadership participation," explained Inman. "Heavy emphasis is placed on farm management ability and how much progress has been made since the individual started farming. It's important to realize that the individual's progress, rather than total net worth is the determining factor."

It's also important for applicants to realize that all confidential information is treated just that way, Inman pointed out. Only the three preliminary judges used to select the four finalists have access to the business information, and the application's name sheets have been previously removed and designated by a code for complete impartiality and confidentiality.

Once the four finalists have been selected, they'll be interviewed by another panel of judges at the MFB annual meeting where a state winner will be determined and announced. For more information, contact your local county Farm Bureau office, or call the MFB Young Farmer Department at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3234.

Erdman May MFB Volunteer of the Month



Michael D. Erdman of Stephenson in Menominee County, was awarded the MFB Volunteer of the Month for May, after being nominated by his county Farm Bureau. Erdman, who is the Agricultural Extension Agent for Menominee County, was recognized for his efforts in conducting "Ag in the Classroom" classes for 17 fourth grade classes, reaching a total of 370 children.

"Mike's engaging personality and enthusiasm for agriculture has been a positive influence on our future citizens," said Jeanne Foster, Menominee County Promotion and Education Chairperson. "He has also vigorously advocated wildlife crop damage control in this county. His farm surveys have lent credibility to claims of high deer populations destroying farm crops. We salute Mike for his cooperative spirit!"

TAKE THE BITE OUT OF DENTAL CARE COSTS



Member dental insurance is the affordable way to assure that you and your family receive the dental care services you require — even when sudden and costly needs arise.

Measure the rates against your annual dental care bills and consider the advantage!

Single \$18 per month • Couple \$32 per month
Member/Child \$32 per month • Family \$41 per month



TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND A BROCHURE/APPLICATION, PLEASE FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW OR CALL DIRECT 1-800-292-2680 EXT- 3234

Please Print

Please mail to: Michigan Farm Bureau
Membership Services
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, MI 48909

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

County _____