

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



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In This Issue...

NAFTA Hearing:
Michigan agricultural representatives testify to House Ag Task Force on merits of NAFTA..... page 3

Avoiding Stress and Shipping Fever in Incoming Cattle:
Get some helpful tips from the UpJohn Company on how to avoid health problems this fall as your new feeders arrivepage 5

Market Outlook:
Be watching for short-lived price rallies and lock them in while you can. Latest USDA Supply and Demand Reports.....page 6

New State Unemployment Reporting Requirements:
Get a look at the new forms for unemployment insurance effective Oct. 25.....page 7

Grain Bin Preparation:
Cleaning tips from MSU's Doug Landis for your grain bins and grain equipmentpage 8

Combine Preparation:
Stay ahead of the harvest time crunch with adequate preventive maintenancepage 10

Operation Green Stripe:
Learn how this farmer made good stewardship a practical part of his operation.....page 11

Preventing Harvest Losses:
Get a step by step guide in analyzing what your combine could be costing youpage 12

Improve Combine Efficiency:
Pointers from CASE-IH on improving your Axial Flow's productivity.....page 13

MMPA's Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators:
Millers of Elsie Selected..page 16

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NAFTA: A Response to H. Ross Perot

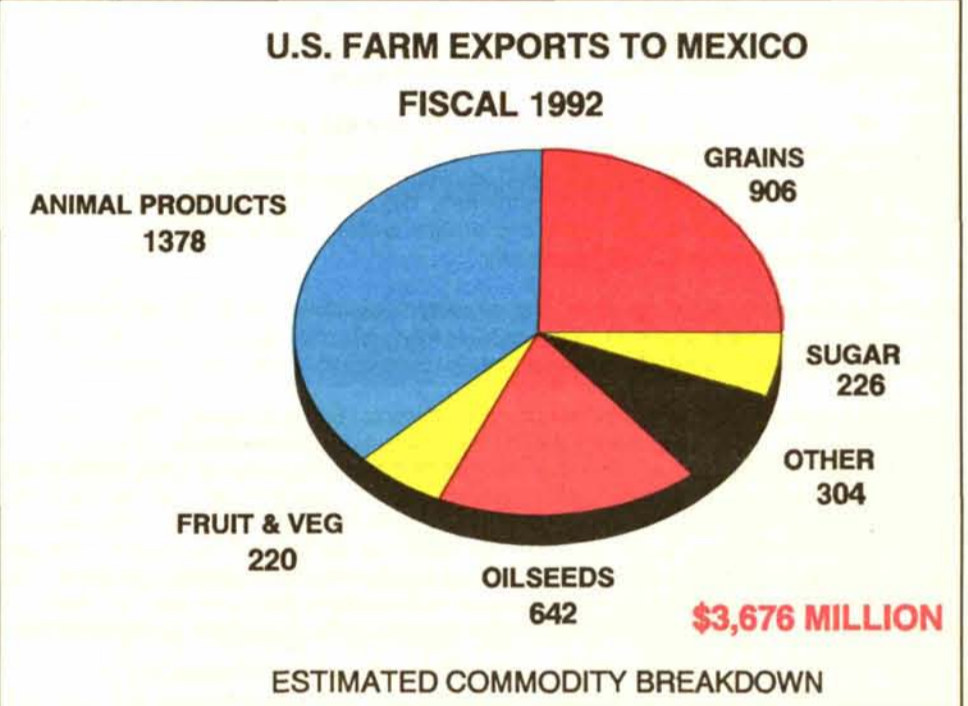
Lansing was a recent rallying point for Ross Perot and U.S. Sen. Don Reigle (D-Flint) in their efforts to defeat NAFTA. Despite the fact that Michigan ranks third in the country in exports to Mexico with over \$1.6 billion in trade last year, Reigle and Perot seem intent on jeopardizing that trade and the nearly 31,000 Michigan jobs currently dependent on those exports.

Perot has staked his arguments against NAFTA on an economic analysis which he paid for and co-wrote with author Pat Choate. Coincidentally, Perot's economic study is the only one that shows a loss of U.S. jobs, out of 28 economic studies.

Studies have shown that NAFTA will produce more jobs than it will cost -- approximately 170,000 more in the U.S. at wage levels 12 to 17 percent higher than the jobs they'll replace, according to the Institute for International Economics.

More than 280 U.S. economists, including all 12 living U.S. Nobel Laureates in economics, have written to Pres. Clinton to express support for NAFTA.

In this issue, you'll find several of Perot's assumptions followed by factual information based on legitimate economic analysis, by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative.



Perot:
"U.S. business has great burdens compared to Mexico -- such as higher wages and more health benefits. The United States cannot compete for jobs with the low wage Mexican work force."

Facts:
* U.S. workers compete successfully with lower wage Mexican workers because they
Continued on page nine see:
"NAFTA: Response to Perot"

Operation Green Stripe to Benefit Michigan FFA Chapters

Thanks to the generosity of the Monsanto Company, Michigan FFA chapters can learn environmentally sound farming practices and earn money for local chapter activities under a new program designed to protect Michigan streams and waterways.

Michigan FFA chapters participating in Operation Green Stripe will recruit farmers willing to plant grass filter stripes along streams and drainage ditches bordering their farms. When the stripes are planted and verified by the state FFA, the local chapters will receive educational grants of \$100 per farmer signed up for up to five farmers.

Monsanto Co. will provide the grant money, and grass seed is being donated by cooperating seed dealers across the state. Quincy area livestock farmer John Knirk was signed up by the Branch Area Career Center FFA which signed up the maximum five farmers they could receive a grant on, and then went on to sign an additional three farmers, according to Agri-Science Instructor Bill Earl.

"It's nice to be able to tie this project into the student's curriculum so that they can learn firsthand about water quality and better soil management practices," Earl said. "This project produces very visible benefits, and farmers have been willing to hear the students out on the project - there really hasn't been any resistance."

"Operation Green Stripe will promote agricultural practices that will result in cleaner streams in this state," said Charles Snyder, FFA state advisor. "Controlling soil erosion, in addition to reducing stream sedimentation, also lessens the amount of farm chemicals that wash into streams in trace amounts during heavy rainfall."

Snyder said he encourages cooperating farmers to work with FFA students to develop green stripes that not only reduce erosion but provide wildlife habitat as well. The stripes have to be 16-1/2' wide and at least 150' long or the length of the field. If a producer chooses

to use the buffer stripe as part of his setaside for the farm program, which is allowed, the stripe must be 33-1/2' wide to qualify for ASCS setaside payments.

"We expect to see some really exciting innovations from this program," Snyder said. "This is an opportunity to tell the non-farming community that farmers care about water quality, wildlife and the environment. It's a chance to say that farmers, on their own and without regulation, are maintaining their operations in an environmentally responsible way. And it's a chance for future farmers to learn ecologically sound practices."

Local chapters must apply to the state FFA to participate in the program. Chapters

will be selected based on the quality of their plan for implementing the Operation Green Stripe objectives.

The nine FFA Chapters that have participated thus far in Operation Green Stripe and the number of sites enrolled are:
Branch Area Career Center5 sites
Camden Frontier4 sites
Hastings5 sites
Lenawee AM5 sites
Lenawee PM5 sites
Olivet1 site
Onstead1 site
Whittemore-Prescott2 sites
Coopersville1 site

At a kick-off ceremony for Operation Green Stripe at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Knirk, near Quincy, participants toured a part of the five miles of green stripes planted at the farm.



2



U.S. Agriculture and Trade – Poised for Growth – If Allowed To Do So

Two interesting items dealing with international trade recently came across my desk. One was a document that excerpted a speech by Dennis Avery of the Center for Global Food Issues of the Hudson Institute. Avery told the U.S. Meat Export Federation that "viewed objectively from a global standpoint, there is no question that U.S. agriculture is, potentially, one of our most important growth industries." Avery pointed out that billions of people in Asia are gaining the higher incomes to upgrade their diets - and what they want most is meat, milk and eggs, most of which they will have to import.

That puts U.S. agriculture in an enviable position. "America has the world's biggest comparative advantage in agriculture," said Avery. "We have the climate and the cropland, cleared and ready. No tropical forests need be cleared to expand our farm production. The land is served by the world's best infrastructure. We have the world's best-trained farm managers. This competitive edge in farming is larger and more permanent than a comparative advantage in any manufacturing industry."

Reading those kinds of comments from a respected economist helped remind me why all farmers should be enthusiastic about the export growth opportunities presented by passage of NAFTA and, further down the road, successful completion of the GATT agreement.

However, another article reminded me of some of the subtle trade barriers that have to be overcome before American agriculture can reach its full export potential. Marcia Zarley Taylor, writing in *Top Producer* magazine, described a meeting she had with some of the European Community's top food safety regulators. They assured her that there was no scientific basis for banning imports of U.S. beef treated with natural hormones. "But the facts didn't matter," she wrote. "Public attitudes had been scarred by a steroid scandal decades ago. Until someone could convince the Western European public that these hormones in no way mimicked synthetic steroids, a ban would stay in effect. Bingo, millions of dollars of perfectly safe U.S. sirloin barred from the five-star restaurants of London, Berlin and Paris," she wrote.

Not all trade barriers can be overcome by negotiations and treaties. Public perceptions of our products mean a great deal. We, as farmers, need to continue to be sensitive to how our production practices are perceived by our customers. And we need to support our commodity organizations' efforts to aggressively promote our farm products abroad.

At the same time, there's no way we can tolerate obviously unjustified "non-tariff" trade barriers like the European hormone ban. Your Farm Bureau organization fights to make sure our government doesn't let our competitors get away with unfairly labeling our products as "unsafe".

But despite the occasional problem, I'm very optimistic about the future of farm exports. When I was on an AFBF-sponsored trade mission to Mexico in 1992, I saw firsthand how the Mexican supermarkets were stuffed with U.S.-made food products. Because of our reputation for quality, consumers in Mexico demand the "Grown in U.S.A." label. That's a label we can be proud of.

Jack Laurie
Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

Iosco County Farm Bureau Hosts Farm Accident Rescue Training Seminar

Approximately 40 emergency personnel from area ambulance, fire, police, and hospital agencies in Iosco and Alcona Counties received hands-on training for farm accident situations, thanks to the efforts of Iosco County Farm Bureau.

Participants received classroom instruction during the morning portion of the program, and then traveled to the dairy farm of Russ and Jane Nelkie for lunch and to learn basic farm machinery operations, appropriate chemical spill response, and toured farm facilities. Rescue personnel also received instruction on appropriate air-med evacuation procedures for transporting accident victims.



In Brief...

Watered Grain Investigation Spreads

The Agriculture Department is widening its investigation into charges that some grain firms abuse the practice of adding water to grain. Grain handling firms are allowed to use a water mist to control explosions and fires, but suspicions have been raised that elevators may be padding profits by increasing the weight of grain with excessive amounts of water.

Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.Dak.) held a hearing on a proposal to ban the practice of adding water to grain and most of the debate among farm groups is on whether the practice should be limited or eliminated, according to a recent *Wall Street Journal* report.

A No Win Position for Environmentalists

Industry and forest service initiative to speed up logging on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, where forests are being threatened by an infestation of spruce beetles is being opposed by environmentalists, according to *Greenwire*, a daily executive briefing on the environment.

Forestry officials say the logging is necessary, while the trees still have economic value. The anti-logging faction opposes the harvest of timber, though the trees may eventually be killed by beetles with no benefit to be derived by either side.

More Fruit and Vegetables Headed to School

The USDA said today it will add more fresh fruits and vegetables to the mix of commodities it provides to schools. The department also plans to increase the variety of fresh produce in the 17 percent of the school lunch program's food needs it provides.

The government currently offers apples, pears, grapefruits, oranges, tomatoes and potatoes. Approximately 25 million students participate in the school lunch program, valued last year at \$680 million, the USDA said.

Farm Workers Union Tries to Evade Debt

The United Farm Workers Union is trying hard to avoid paying a \$2.9 million judgment to an Arizona-based lettuce producer. The court ruled the producer was harmed by the union's illegal lettuce boycott, according to a *United Press International* report.

The union claims payment of the judgment would wipe out its reported \$2 million in assets and bankrupt the workers' group. The union has stalled payment through other appeals, but an Arizona Superior Court judge upheld the verdict earlier this summer and ordered the UFW to pay lettuce grower Bruce Church, Inc., \$2.9 million in damages for interfering with the grower's business relationships during the boycott in 1988. The union now is trying to appeal the Arizona ruling in Los Angeles, where it says most of its assets are.

Farm Work at Night Means Jail Time for this Farmer

An Idaho farmer arrested for operating his hay baler at night near a residential area has received support from citizens flooding the police department with telephone calls. Farmer Kevin Rowley was arrested by police after refusing to stop baling hay in a small field surrounded by houses.

Idaho has a right-to-farm law that seems to indicate farmers have a right to continue farming practices, even though it may constitute a nuisance under city ordinances, says Idaho Farm Bureau Information Director Mike Tracy. Tracy said the law is not entirely clear, when it comes to cases where the land involved is inside city limits and is zoned residential. The issue may have to be decided by the courts. Police spokesmen say police usually don't get complaints from urban residents against farmers.

Alar Lawsuit Dismissed on Technicality

A federal judge in Spokane, Wash., has dismissed a \$250 million lawsuit against CBS, Inc. The court ruled that Washington apple growers failed to prove that a "60 Minutes" broadcast falsely linked the agricultural chemical Alar to cancer.

CBS apparently slipped past the suit under cover of the First Amendment, which requires plaintiffs bringing product disparagement lawsuits to prove media reports were false. The court found a standoff between apple growers' claims that no proof linked Alar to cancer risk and the CBS contention that its evidence was valid.

"Even if CBS' statements are false, they were about an issue that mattered, cannot be proven as false and, therefore, must be protected," the judge said. The dismissal was a bitter pill for apple growers who spent approximately \$1 million in pursuing the lawsuit. There is no word yet whether the decision will be appealed.

The CBS story relied heavily on EPA rulings on the chemical use and a study provided by the Natural Resources Defense Council, a California-based environmental group. The court ruled that "a news organization is not a scientific testing lab, and these services should be able to rely on a scientific government report, when they are relaying the report's results."

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Health Insurance Deduction

MFB Position:
MFB strongly supports H.R. 1695

MFB Contact:
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

H.R. 1695, sponsored by Congressman Bob Carr (D-East Lansing), is pending in House Ways and Means Committee. The bill would increase the federal tax deduction for health insurance premiums paid for by self-employed persons to 100 percent and make it permanent. The 100 percent deduction would be made retroactive to June 30, 1992.

Currently, self-employed persons can deduct only 25 percent of the cost of their health insurance premiums. The 25 percent deduction will expire Dec. 31, 1993.

Dyed Fuel Requirement

MFB Contact:
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The Clean Air Act amendments require that starting Oct. 1, 1993 all diesel powered motor vehicles must use low sulfur fuel to reduce sulfur emissions into the atmosphere. The Act defines a motor vehicle as any self-propelled vehicle designed for transporting persons or property on a street or highway. Regulations issued by EPA to implement the requirement have raised questions which the American Farm Bureau has answered with the following information.

Farmers using both high sulfur and low sulfur diesel fuel will need two tanks to store the fuels on their farms. The same is true for co-ops and service stations if they supply both high and low sulfur fuel. Low sulfur diesel fuel is mandated to be used by on-highway vehicles, including pickups and grain trucks that go from farm to town, starting Oct. 1, 1993. Farmers may still use high sulfur fuel in off-highway equipment and machinery used for only on-farm purposes. High sulfur off-highway diesel and heating oil must be dyed blue. Low sulfur fuel must be used for on-highway travel, but also may be used for off-highway vehicles -- low sulfur fuel used off-highway will have to be dyed a different color.

In practice, farmers can get by with one diesel storage tank if, (a) they use only low-sulfur diesel in all their farm equipment and other vehicles, (b) they store high sulfur fuel for farm use and fill up their diesel pickups, grain trucks and other on-highway vehicles in town with low-sulfur fuel, or (c) they have only off-highway equipment and use only high sulfur fuel in it.

Low sulfur diesel fuel should have little or no effect on engine parts or performance, but may cost more per gallon. The EPA is reportedly planning to aggressively enforce the Clean Air Act amendments. Farmers operating vehicles on highways should be careful to avoid using high sulfur fuel in those vehicles.

USDA Reform from Top Down is Goal

Cutting down the number of USDA field offices by almost a third, from 3,700 to 2,485, will not be the whole story of department reorganization Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy has in mind. Neither will the streamlining of the department be done in a hurry. Some of the changes will require congressional approval and will have heavy political implications. That likely will require hearings that will not be completed until sometime next year.

Likewise, the plan to cut the number of agencies within the department also will take time and face political opposition. Until those functions are consolidated at headquarters, Espy says there is no point in consolidating offices out in the countryside.

Consolidating the functions of the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation will not be an easy task and may be perceived by some as making these services less accessible to farmers and ranchers.

Rampant Inflation Stifles Russian Reform

Runaway inflation is taking a heavy toll on Russia's economic recovery plans. The newly independent country's August inflation of 30 percent was 11.7 percent above the preceding month. Skyrocketing prices for energy and grain led the inflation rate as restrictions on coal prices were lifted, and wheat prices soared from 30,000 rubles at the end of June to 70,000 rubles in August.

Budgetary problems are hampering Russia's efforts to maintain its strict monetary policy. The International Monetary Fund is threatening to withhold the second \$1.5 billion installment of a \$3 billion loan to ease Russia's movement to a free economy, unless the country returns to the path of economic reform.

Meanwhile, other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States are defaulting on payments to Russia with outstanding debts totaling 2.2 trillion rubles and little hope of being able to pay for delivered fuel or repay earlier credits.

North American Free Trade Agreement

MFB Position:
Michigan Farm Bureau strongly supports NAFTA

Action Needed:
Contact your U.S. Representative in Washington, D.C., or local District Office and ask him to support NAFTA.

MFB Contact:
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) received a significant boost with the recent signing by President Clinton of labor and environmental side agreements.

The side agreements provide safeguards for labor and the environment. As the date for submission of NAFTA to Congress approaches, the Clinton Administration is mounting a strong effort to win approval of the agreement.

On Sept. 14, a Michigan House Agriculture Task Force conducted a hearing on NAFTA. A total of 15 representatives from agriculture and two others testified or submitted written comments in support of NAFTA. The agricultural representatives included spokespersons from:

1. Leach Farms, (feedgrains, sugarbeets, soybeans).....Saginaw County
2. Guthrie Farms, (feedgrains, livestock).....Barry County
3. Miller Farms, (fruit)Berrien County
4. Great Lakes Gladiolus FarmBranch County
5. American Farm Bureau Federation.....Washington, D.C.
6. Michigan Farm BureauLansing, Michigan
7. MACMA Processing Apple Growers Marketing Comm.
8. Michigan Soybean Association
9. MACMA Red Tart Cherry Growers Marketing Comm.
10. Michigan State Grange
11. Michigan Apple Committee
12. Michigan Milk Producers Assoc.
13. Michigan Cattlemen's Assoc.
14. Pigeon Cooperative Elevator
15. Michigan Pork Producers Assoc.

In addition to the above agricultural interests, testimony supporting NAFTA was given by representatives from the Mackinac Center and the Michigan International Trade Coalition. No witnesses appeared to oppose NAFTA.

Michigan Farm Bureau (517) 323-7000

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Weather

30-Day Forecast – Near Normal Temps, Above Normal Precipitation

September began with an active weather pattern in Michigan, with the passage of a series of strong cold fronts leading to wide temperature swings and occasional heavy rainfall.

Precipitation totals for mid-August through mid-September neared the 10-inch mark in some western sections of the Lower Peninsula, which is more than three times the normal rainfall for that period.

While the National Weather Service seasonal 90-day outlook is still calling for cool, wet conditions through November, the latest 30-day outlook for mid-September through mid-October calls for temperatures to average out near or slightly above normal.

Precipitation during the 30-day period is also expected to be above normal. The added late season growing degree day units would easily bring most summer crops to maturity. However, a continuation of heavier than normal rainfall would likely result in soft or muddy soils, reducing opportunities for fieldwork as fall harvest begins.

8/15/93 to 9/15/93	Temperature		Growing Degree Days		Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal	Actual Accum.	Normal Accum.	Actual (inch.)	Normal (inch.)
Alpena	64.4	+ 1.9	1874	1929	5.35	3.29
Bad Axe	66.9	+ 0.3	2179	2317	4.77	2.70
Detroit	71.9	+ 3.1	2847	2522	3.81	2.83
Escanaba	64.3	+ 1.9	1627	1537	3.71	3.60
Flint	67.2	+ 0.7	2454	2522	4.69	2.83
Grand Rapids	68.3	+ 1.0	2455	2573	9.48	3.14
Houghton	62.0	+ 1.6	1532	1759	4.04	3.94
Houghton Lake	64.9	+ 1.1	2059	1929	5.72	3.29
Jackson	67.8	- 0.8	2446	2510	6.01	3.03
Lansing	67.8	+ 0.6	2436	2510	4.40	3.03
Marquette	61.1	+ 1.4	1557	1759	4.33	3.94
Muskegon	69.0	+ 2.2	2422	2212	5.94	3.59
Pellston	63.9	+ 2.5	1830	1995	5.82	3.40
Saginaw	68.1	+ 1.1	2395	2317	6.28	2.70
Sault Ste. Marie	61.6	+ 1.0	1422	1537	5.24	3.60
South Bend	70.5	+ 2.0	2758	2573	7.48	3.14
Traverse City	66.7	+ 1.1	2130	1995	5.30	3.40
Vestaburg	65.3	- 1.2	2126	2287	7.27	3.41

Observed and growing degree day totals are accumulated from March 1 – Sept. 15. Normals are based on district averages. Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

Good Crop Year Likely if Rains Allow Complete Harvest

Wet weather has challenged many Michigan farmers attempting to get a start on harvest activities, with some portions of the state receiving as much as four inches or rain in the past week.

As of Sept. 19, corn silage harvested stood at 10 percent complete, compared to 25 percent on average. Overall, corn was 70 percent dented, with 75 percent of the crop rated good to excellent.

Soybeans were rated 75 percent good to excellent, with 80 percent of the crop turning color, 5 percent ahead of average. Dry bean harvest was 20 percent complete, but was being hampered by rains. The crop is rated 60 percent good to excellent.

Farmers continued to struggle with third cutting hay harvest, with only 55 percent of the harvest complete. Winter wheat planting was 15 percent complete.

Like many farms in Michigan corn harvest was just getting underway Sept. 16 at the Jack Knirk farm near Quincy as this field was being opened. The operation annually puts up 15,000 tons of corn silage, in just 15 days, thanks to a couple of machines like the one pictured below and a fleet of trucks. Corn silage is stored in concrete bunkers for use in the operations 6,000 head cattle operation.



Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	9/30...10/15	9/30...11/30
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	N.....A	B.....A
W. Corn Belt	A.....A	B.....A
E. Corn Belt	A.....A/N	B.....A
Wint. Wheat Belt	A.....N	B/N.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	B.....A	B.....N
Pac. NW Wheat	B.....A	N.....N
Delta	A.....B	N.....N/A
Southeast	A.....B	N/A.....N
San Joaquin	B.....N	A.....N

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

Michigan's September Fruit Report a Mixed Bag

The Sept. 1 forecast of grape production in Michigan was 55,000 tons, 17 percent above the 1992 crop, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized, the yield would be 4.9 tons per acre.

Concords were coloring well. The dilution effect from continual rains have kept brix gain below normal. Black rot and other diseases have become more apparent, but it is too early to determine whether this will reduce yields.

The outset of the Niagara harvest will be about Sept. 15. Concord harvesting, which usually lasts one month, will begin a week later.

The U.S. grape forecast was 5.63 million tons, down 7 percent from 1992. Five million of those tons are grown in California. Output in New York and Pennsylvania was forecast at 205,000 tons, down from 258,000 tons a year ago.

The Michigan plum-prune production forecast is a slim 4,000 tons, half of last year's output. The yield would be 1.67 tons per acre. The harvest of Stanley plums began in the Southwest about Aug. 26.

The percent of the crop going to fresh market will be well below normal. The four-state plum-prune production was forecast at 27,000 tons, down from 38,100 tons in 1992. The California prune crop was placed at 135,000 tons, 27 percent lower than in 1992.

The state pear output was pegged at 5,500 tons down 8 percent from 1992. About one-half of the Michigan harvest was completed by Sept. 1.

Quality and size were excellent. The National pear production forecast was 935,000 tons, a 1 percent gain from a year ago. California, Oregon and Washington produce over 96 percent of the nation's crop.

Marketing of a New Tomato Successful

Marketing of a New Tomato in Columbus and Philadelphia has been three times more successful than expected. Bob Precheur, vegetable specialist at Ohio State University, notes an Aug. 5 *New York Times* report that DNA Plant Technology is expanding distribution of its "Freshworld Farms" tomato tenfold.

The company reports capturing 15.8 percent of the market in the two cities after three months of testing. Consumers were apparently willing to pay more for a better tomato, Precheur says. The new tomato is not genetically engineered but has been bred conventionally to remain fresher longer.

It was developed from a patented technique that accelerates the breeding process. The "Freshworld Farmers" tomato is a vine-ripened variety that stays fresh for 10 to 14 days. Most vine-ripened tomatoes have a shelf life of three to seven days. The idea of such breeding programs is a year-round supply of tomatoes with improved taste, heartier texture and deep-red color.

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Proper Fall Arrival Preparation Critical for New Feeders

Avoid stress and shipping fever in incoming cattle

Autumn's cooler temperatures, shorter days and turning leaves foreshadow the cold and storms of winter. Although nature is shutting down, fall can be a time of new beginnings.

For most cattle feeders it's one of the busiest, most stressful seasons of the year, because of high incoming cattle numbers and the challenges posed by fluctuating weather.

It's also stressful for incoming animals, for a host of reasons, including:

- environmental changes, including variations in temperature and humidity, as well as dust inside trucks;
- massive exposure to viral and bacterial disease organisms due to commingling;
- feed deprivation during shipping and ration changes;
- dehydration; and
- fatigue associated with long hauls.

These factors create an atmosphere ripe for potential disease outbreaks, most notably bovine respiratory disease (BRD), or "shipping fever."

"Cattle, by nature, are prone to respiratory problems," says Zane Leininger, DVM, at the Colorado Veterinary Clinic in La Junta, Colo. Respiratory problems in incoming cattle probably can't be eliminated, but they can be reduced through management techniques, he states. Calf preconditioning, facilities, nutrition, vaccinations and observation all play a vital role in keeping BRD in check.

Don't "Buy" Problems

Dale L. Kurtz, DVM, at Pioneer Animal Clinic in Scottsbluff, Neb., believes in buying preconditioned calves for the feedlot. These calves, which have had some vaccinations, build up immunities prior to shipment, affecting the degree of disease seen in the lot.

Buying quality cattle is another consideration. "You can buy a lot of problems trying to save a dollar. You may be better off to pay a little more for a higher quality calf, rather than gambling on the amount of money you'll lose in death losses and treatment costs with higher risk animals," Leininger believes. The veterinarian also advocates knowing as much of the calves' history as possible.

Provide Adequate Facilities

Incoming facilities play a vital role in disease reduction. Large pens with adequate bunk space are needed, so all cattle have the opportunity to eat at the same time. None should be forced back, Kurtz says.

Water, too, is key, and some calves are not used to drinking out of a tank. Kurtz believes it's important to create the sound of running water, so calves can identify where the water is located. Facilities should be watered down, if they are excessively dry and dusty, to prevent dust inhalation.

"If you don't have an adequate environment for the calf, you compound problems early on, with calves not getting water and not getting feed. This can predispose them to respiratory problems," says Kurtz.

Get Calves on Feed Fast

Getting calves on feed immediately gives their bodies ammunition to fight dis-

eases. To entice calves to the feed bunk, loose, long-stemmed hay mixed with a starter ration should get them eating. Usually calves begin eating the starter ration after the first couple of days. Kurtz then recommends removing the hay, so calves get optimum energy from the ration.

Lighter weight calves may require a less energy-dense ration and take longer to step up to a full ration than yearlings, according to Leininger. Again, he stresses, it's helpful to know the calves' history and what they are accustomed to eating.

Provide Full Range of Vaccines

A good working relationship with a veterinarian and knowing the history of the animal and the feedlot determine the vaccinations a calf will get. Most producers use a four-way viral vaccination with IBR, P13, BRSV and BVD.

In addition, Leininger recommends vaccination for blackleg and other clostridial infections. Light weight calves may get pasteurized vaccines. Meanwhile, because Kurtz has seen an increase in hemophilus in his practice area this past year, he also recommends a hemophilus vaccine.

The use of killed versus live or modified-live virus vaccines depends on the calves' condition.

Both veterinarians prefer to vaccinate calves on arrival to start building up immunities. Kurtz may delay the vaccinations for a day, but rarely longer; however, he sometimes delays other processing procedures until calves are less stressed.

In addition to vaccines, the veterinarians recommend mass medication of incoming calves as needed - particularly if producers anticipate problems.

Observe Calves Carefully

From day one of arrival, calves should be monitored for signs of sickness. Even though the incubation time for BRD and other diseases is two to three weeks, some calves already have been in the transport system that long and may be sick on arrival.

With smaller calves, producers are better off walking, rather than riding, the pens to listen for possible symptoms of respiratory disease. With highly stressed calves, observation should be done two or three times a day.

If a calf is sick or suspected to be sick, Kurtz and Leininger recommend pulling it immediately and initiating treatment. Waiting a day means getting behind on treatment, which can mean the difference between a live or dead calf, according to Leininger.

Naxcel® Sterile Powder is one antibiotic Kurtz and Leininger use to treat BRD. "I think it [Naxcel] has a lot of merits. We know from research that the product penetrates diseased lung tissue, and it has a pretty broad spectrum of efficacy. It definitely fits well into a treatment program," Kurtz says.

Leininger adds that his practice also prescribes Naxcel frequently. "It's a good product with a low dose and no withdrawal - plus it doesn't appear to cause any muscle irritation," he explains.

Dry Conditions Result in Second Largest U.S. Cattle Placements for August

Dry conditions in the Southeast and Southwest sparked a wave of "forced" movement of younger cattle in Texas feedlots, resulting in the second largest August placements figure on record, according to Knight Ridder Financial News.

August placements also were the largest in five years and 11 percent above the 10 year average, suggesting that rally attempts will be capped through the end of the year, said Chuck Levitt, livestock analyst with Alaron Trading Corp.

Marketings also normally outstrip placements by 2 percent in August, but this year placements were 11 percent above marketings. The brisk placements and historically large on-feed supplies should magnify concerns over heavyweight cattle. Traders speculate that placements were boosted by profitable returns and a bullish outlook for the November-December winter period.

August marketings were five percent above last year, but were two percent below the 10-year average.

Both veterinarians used Naxcel at the recommended dose level for a three-day treatment. Depending on disease severity, Leininger may use it up to five days.

"The most important thing is to treat calves early, treat them with the right drug and with the right amount [of drug] for the right amount of time," Leininger declares.

What's important to remember is that, while producers can't eliminate BRD and other respiratory problems, when introducing new calves to the feedlot, they can lessen the incidence and impact of these problems with careful management techniques and effective treatment programs.

Reprinted from Upjohn's "Exchange"

Feeder Cattle Council Announces Fall Sale Dates

The Michigan Feeder Cattle Producers Council has scheduled four annual feeder calf sales in Northern Michigan during October, according to council member and Alpena County feeder calf producer Steve Gonyea. He estimates that all four locations have held sales for at least 30 consecutive years. This year's dates and locations are:

Date	Location	Time	Estimated Head
October 11	Paulding	12 noon	1,200
October 12	Rapid River	10 a.m.	1,100
October 18	Alpena	6:30 p.m.	750
October 19	West Branch	12 noon	1,200

"I'd like to stress that these are quality northern Michigan cattle out of some good cow herds," said Gonyea. "The heifers will be selling guaranteed open, while male calves are guaranteed castrated. In addition, some of the calves will be pre-vaccinated, and will be marked as such."

A majority of the animals being sold are spring calves weighing 450 to 600 pounds. There will also be some yearling cattle available. Pens of cattle are generally marked with the consignor's name which is important for the buyer and the seller who may have developed a reputation of raising and selling quality feeder calves from past sales, Gonyea concluded.

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Market Outlook...



Dr. Jim Hilker, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

The USDA released the Sept. 1 crop production estimates on September 9. While these are the best estimates available, with the late maturing crops in large sections of the corn, soybeans and spring wheat areas, it may be the November report before we get a good handle on this year's production. There are a substantial number of acres that will still be at risk Oct. 1. However, we will need to keep making pricing decisions in the interim. Many times the best pricing opportunities arise when the least amount of information is available.

The Sept. 1 quarterly Grain Stocks Report will be released Sep. 30 -- be watching for it. The stocks figures released for corn and soybeans will be used as the ending stocks figures of the 1992-93 marketing years. These Stocks Reports often bring big

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

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

surprises. Be ready to move if the conditions warrant it.

WHEAT

The September USDA Crop Production Report only updated the spring estimates. And that number was lowered by 63 million bushels, which lowered total production the same amount to 2.493 billion bushels. The U.S. all wheat yield was lowered from the August estimate of 40 bushels per acre to 39 bushels per acre.

The USDA also released an updated Wheat Supply/Demand Balance Sheet (Table 2). Here, even though the projected supply dropped, the 1993-94 fundamentals did not improve.

This is due to the USDA lowering expected feed use and exports by 50 and 25 million bushels, respectively, from their August estimate. What this means is that the 1993-94 ending stocks estimates are significantly

higher than last year. The Grain Stocks Report should shed some more light on the wheat feed use number as most of the wheat fed is fed in the summer quarter.

Strategy:

In the near-term, consider holding unpriced wheat for a rally. In the longer-run, if exports don't pick up, it's hard to get optimistic about the wheat market. Check the basis in your area to determine if you should be holding cash wheat or a basis contract.

CORN

The September report projected the 1993 U.S. corn crop would be 7.229 billion bushels. This compares to the August estimate of 7.423 and last year's number of 9.479 billion bushels.

The lower estimate was due to two factors. There was a slight, 100,000 acres, drop in projected harvested acres. And the yield estimate was dropped from 116 bushels per acre in August to 113.1 bushels per acre in the September report.

The Michigan 1993 corn production estimate was left unchanged at 241.5 million bushels with a projected yield of 110 bushels per acre.

The USDA also released an updated Supply/Demand Balance Sheet which is shown in Table 1. As can be seen, we are projected to still have an adequate supply of corn for the 1993-94 marketing year despite the small crop.

This is due to the huge beginning stocks coming from last year's record crop. At the same time, the USDA lowered projected production; they also lowered projected use.

The feed use estimate was lowered 50 million bushels and the export projection was lowered 75 million bushels.

The feed use projection was lowered due to fewer hogs seeming to be out there than previously projected and the export number was lowered due to higher projections for crop production in the rest of the world. So even though projected supply dropped 193 million bushels, projected ending stocks dropped only 68 million bushels.

Strategy:

Given the above projections, fundamentals would suggest that harvest cash prices would be in the \$2.25 range in mid-Michigan.

In the short run (October-January), supply scares could make it go higher, and in the longer-run (spring), slack demand could put pressure on the normal seasonal increases.

Be prepared to price more on rallies, but at the same time be prepared to use on-farm storage if a rally has not come by harvest.

SOYBEANS

The September U.S. soybean production estimate was left almost unchanged from the August estimate, 1.909 versus 1.902 billion bushels. This surprised the market which had projected a marginal downward adjustment. Projected harvested acreage was lowered 100,000 acres and projected yield was raised .2 of a bushel. The Michigan estimate was left unchanged at 36 bushels per acre.

As shown in Table 3, the USDA also released new supply/demand estimates for the 1993-94 soybean marketing year. As with corn and wheat, they lowered their projected use figures. Crush and exports expectations were lowered 10 million

bushels each. The net result was projected ending stocks were raised 25 million bushels.

As might be expected, the market did not handle these figures very well and the market dropped significantly. Fundamentals would suggest, given the numbers in Table 3, that the market over did the downward adjustment.

Strategy:

Consider waiting to price unpriced 1993 beans for a rally, especially if you have already priced a significant amount.

HOGS

The USDA Sept. 1 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report will be released on Sept. 30 -- about the time you receive this issue of *Michigan Farm News*.

It will be interesting to see how the numbers are adjusted to reflect the fact that weekly slaughter numbers have been below what the June Report would have indicated for most of the summer.

Strategy:

Consider keeping current in the near-term. As for the longer-term, your pricing decisions will depend of the market reaction to the report. If the report causes a market rally, consider locking in the price on some of your future production.

Table 1
Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For CORN

	USDA Proj.	USDA Proj.	Hilker Proj.
	1991-92	92-93	93-94
Corn Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Set-Aside and Diverted	4.7	3.5	7.0
Acres Planted	76.0	79.3	73.7
Acres Harvested	68.8	72.1	63.9
Bu./A. Harvested	108.6	131.4	113.1
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	1521	1100	2150
Production	7475	9479	7229
Imports	20	6	10
Total Supply	9016	10,585	9,390
Use:			
Feed	4878	5250	5100
Food/Seed	1454	1510	1550
Total Domestic	6332	6760	6650
Exports	1584	1675	1400
Total Use	7916	8435	8050
Ending Stocks	1100	2150	1340
Ending Stocks Percent of Use	13.9%	25.5%	16.6%
Regular Loan Rate	\$1.62	\$1.72	\$1.72
U.S. Season Average			
Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$2.37	\$2.07	\$2.35

Source: USDA & Hilker

Table 2
Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For WHEAT

	USDA Proj.	USDA Proj.	Hilker Proj.
	1991-92	92-93	93-94
Wheat Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Set-Aside and Diverted	10.0	3.5	0.5
Acres Planted	69.9	72.3	72.1
Acres Harvested	57.7	62.4	63.9
Bu./A. Harvested	34.3	39.4	39.0
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	866	472	529
Production	1981	2459	2493
Imports	41	70	75
Total Supply	2888	3001	3097
Use:			
Food	789	830	845
Seed	94	93	94
Feed	253	194	325
Total Domestic	1136	1117	1264
Exports	1280	1355	1125
Total Use	2416	2472	2389
Ending Stocks	472	529	708
Ending Stocks Percent of Use	19.5%	21.4%	29.6%
Regular Loan Rate	\$2.04	\$2.21	\$2.45
U.S. Season Average			
Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$3.00	\$3.24	\$2.85

Source: USDA & Hilker

Table 3
Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For SOYBEANS

	USDA Proj.	USDA Proj.	Hilker Proj.
	1991-92	92-93	93-94
Soybean Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Planted	59.2	59.3	59.5
Acres Harvested	58.0	58.4	56.2
Bu./Harvested Acre	34.2	37.6	34.0
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	329	278	290
Production	1987	2197	1909
Imports	3	2	5
Total Supply	2319	2477	2204
Use:			
Crushings	1254	1280	1240
Exports	685	775	645
Seed, Feed and Residuals	102	132	104
Total Use	2041	2187	1989
Ending Stocks	278	290	215
Ending Stocks, Percent of Use	13.6%	15.1%	10.8%
Regular Loan Rate	\$5.02	\$5.02	5.02
U.S. Season Average			
Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$5.58	\$5.50	\$6.50

Source: USDA & Hilker

8 Steps You Can Take to Avoid the Second Leading Cause of Farm Fatalities in Michigan

Falls are second only to tractor accidents as a cause of fatalities among Michigan farmers and their family members. Nationwide, about a third of all agriculture-related injuries are the result of falls from farm equipment or structures.

Falls are most often caused by a potentially dangerous condition that has simply been overlooked. Perhaps an oil spill didn't get cleaned up. Or tools were left laying on the floor of the tractor cab. Maybe worn soles on someone's shoes should have been replaced long ago.

Take the time to wipe up spills or remove ice from a walkway. Remember to wear proper footwear. Rubber boots provide better traction than hard, smooth-soled shoes.

Always make sure your path is clear of any obstructions -- especially when you're car-

rying heavy objects that can alter your balance.

Mud or manure on the steps of farm equipment also poses a serious slip-and-fall hazard. To avoid a fall, always try to keep three points on the machine at all times -- two hands on the handrail and one foot on the step, or both feet on the steps and one hand on the handrail. And never jump from tractors or other equipment; use the steps and handrails.

Other tips for preventing falls:

- Falls can be a real hazard in your farm shop. Keep the floor clean and unobstructed. The good housekeeping you practice there can prevent a serious injury.
- Rubber mats can help prevent slips and falls in milk parlors.
- Be sure all steps are properly constructed and in good condition, with proper handrails. Keep them clear of obstructions.

- If you have a loading dock, be sure it, too, is properly equipped with steps and handrails.
- Be sure ladders are in good condition and properly set before you climb. Follow the four-to-one rule of one foot out at the base for every four feet of height.
- Keep your body between the rails of a ladder. Move the ladder rather than risking a fall.
- Stay off the top three rungs of a straight ladder or the top two steps of a step ladder.
- Use proper footwear and a safety rope with harness if you work on a roof or in a tree.

You can prevent most falls with just a little extra care. The time you spend to clean up a spill or move objects out of your way will be much less than the time you would spend recuperating from a serious injury.



From Farm Bureau Insurance

Make Sure Grain Bins are Clean Before the Harvest Rush Begins

Taking time now to make sure that the combine, grain handling equipment and storage bins are squeaky clean is a good way to minimize potential for costly insect damage later in the year.

"A thorough cleaning in and around the bin and of all handling equipment is strongly recommended," says Douglas Landis, MSU Extension entomologist.

Landis recommends removing all debris from handling equipment, from inside the grain bin and from under the false flooring of the grain bin, an especially good place for insects to breed.

He also recommends directing an insecticide spray into cracks, corners and other hidden places of the grain bin that cannot be adequately cleaned.

Sanitary sprays can be used in any empty bin regardless of the grain that will be stored in the bins later.

Once the grain has been properly dried and cleaned and put into the grain bins, use special products registered for use on stored grains. They are listed in Extension bulletin E-1582, "Chemical Control of Insects and Nematodes in Field and Forage Crops."

Landis cautions farmers to read all insecticide labels to be sure the product they intend to use is specifically registered for use in stored grains. "Insecticides and fumigants are effective only in properly dried and cleaned grain," Landis points out.

Some insecticide sprays or dusts can be mixed directly with new grain as it goes into the bin to protect the grain from insects. They are recommended if the grain is to be stored longer than one year.

Surface sprays of insecticides can be applied and raked into the surface of new grain to help prevent insects from getting into the grain and also to control surface feeding caterpillars such as the meal moth and Indian meal moth.

The caterpillars are often abundant in poorly ventilated grain when moisture has condensed at the surface. Remove the damaged grain before spraying, then keep the grain well ventilated.

Fumigants can be used to kill insects that have invaded the grain mass. They are sometimes applied to newly binned grain in place of sanitary sprays and grain protectants.

Fumigants can be costly, however, and can be applied only under certain restrictions. To buy and use fumigants, growers must be certified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture in the fumigation standard.

New restrictive standards include the use of self-contained breathing equipment (scuba gear) in place of a gas mask and the use of gas detection devices in some situations.

The best practice is to take preventive steps against insect damage by putting properly dried, as clean as possible, grain in the bin and carefully managing the bin's operation -- temperature, ventilation and moisture current -- throughout the storage season.

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HEALTH HARVEST

A Health and Wellness Publication of Michigan Farm Bureau September 1993 VOL 10, No. 1

FIGHTING



the new FLU

Health experts' best guess is that the coming flu season is going to be a bad one (continued) → → → → → → →





FIGHTING THE NEW FLU

The harsh Beijing flu is expected to hit the United States this fall, and a new variant of the strain means that most Americans will not have any natural immunity against it. "Even though you were exposed to similar strains in the past, you might not be able to defend yourself against this new one," says Dr. Lone Simonsen of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). "It will be very important to get a flu shot this fall."

New Strain

According to the CDC, the new virus strain emerged very late in the 1992-93 flu season, infecting people and killing the elderly into May — two months after influenza usually disappears.

The milder form of the flu was dominant throughout the season, accounting for 75 percent of the cases between September 27 and May 15. But last spring, the virus' genetic makeup mutated suddenly, which explains why some people who had gotten flu shots fell ill. This mutation means that even people who have been exposed to Beijing flu (or who have had flu shots) in the past will be vulnerable this coming flu season.

Get your flu shot.

The **GOOD** news is that the new flu virus strain was caught early enough for scientists to incorporate it into this fall's flu vaccine.

Reprinted from the Hope Health Letter, Vol. XIII, No. 9, September 1993.

Life

Help for the HEARING impaired

What do 21 million Americans have in common with former president Ronald Reagan, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, and comedians Phyllis Diller and Art Carney? All suffer from hearing loss that, in most instances can be helped by a new generation of computerized hearing aids or, if deafness is profound, a new surgical procedure that implants a receiver deep inside the ear.

Help for the hearing impaired is available and much improved. Digital technology is transforming the hearing aid into a tiny, increasingly sophisticated computer that can be programmed to meet the needs of an expanding number of users. Yet only one out of every four people with hearing loss actually wears a hearing aid — leaving close to 16 million unnecessarily isolated in partial or total silence.

If you suspect you have a hearing loss, you should first see a physician for a medical examination. If infection and blockages are ruled out, and hearing loss is confirmed, the doctor may recommend that you see an otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat specialist), otologist (specialist in diseases of the ear) or a licensed audiologist (trained professional in the science of hearing).

Excerpted from the Johns Hopkins Medical Letter, Health After 50, Vol. 5, Issue 4, June 1993.



Heart Healthy Exercise

Aerobic exercise conditions the cardiovascular system. Walking, swimming, biking, and running are all types of aerobic exercise.

For aerobic exercise to be effective, it must be done continuously, at sufficient intensity, for at least 20 minutes — ideally, four or five times a week. The intensity of the exercise should be 60 to 80 percent of your maximum aerobic capacity (the hardest your heart can work). Physiologists have worked out a simple formula to determine the proper exercise intensity:

- First, calculate your maximum aerobic capacity by subtracting your age from 220. This is your maximum heart rate, as measured by your pulse. (For example, a 55 year old has a maximum aerobic capacity of 220 minus 55, or 165.)
- Your target heart range, as it is called, is between 60 and 80 percent of this figure. (For example, 60 percent of 165 is 99; 80 percent is 132. The target heart range for a 55-year-old is between 99 and 132.)
- While exercising, take your pulse to see if it's in this range.

Get Fit with Exercise Videos

Exercise videos can help you get into shape in the comfort and privacy of your own home, but selecting the right video from the many choices on the market is difficult. Dr. Ann Swank, associate professor of physiology at the University of Louisville applies three criteria to videos: safety, effectiveness and quality of exercise leadership. Here are eight that meet her criteria:

- 1 **Kathy Smith's Starting Out.** Low impact aerobics and body toning. Beginners; 58 minutes.
- 2 **Richard Simmons Sweatin' to the Oldies.** Low impact aerobics. Beginners; 43 minutes.
- 3 **Jane Fonda's Workout with Weights.** Weight training. Beginner and intermediate exercisers. 98 minutes.
- 4 **Anybody's Workout with Len Kravitz.** Low and high impact aerobics and body toning. Intermediate and advanced exercisers; 98 minutes.
- 5 **Angela Lansbury's Positive Moves.** Flexibility for older adults. 46 minutes.
- 6 **Dancin' Grannies: Mature Fitness/Beginners.** Stretching and aerobics for older beginners. 45 minutes.
- 7 **Dancin' Grannies: Mature Fitness: Trim and Tone.** Low impact aerobics and toning for older beginning and intermediate exercisers. 50 minutes.
- 8 **Richard Simmons and the Silver Foxes.** Low impact aerobic for older beginning and intermediate exercisers. 40 minutes.

Based on information provided in the Hope Health Letter, Vol. XIII, No. 9, September 1993.

Style

How to know if you have hearing loss

The standard wisdom is that if you think you have hearing loss, you're probably right. In most instances, a hearing aid will help you compensate. Make an appointment with your physician if you:

- Have difficulty hearing over the telephone;
- Must strain to understand conversation;
- Cannot follow a conversation when more than one person is speaking at a time;
- Are told that you turn the TV volume up too high;
- Don't hear common sounds, such as the phone or doorbell ringing;
- Misunderstand words and ask people to repeat themselves;
- Have difficulty hearing the speech of women and children which is higher pitched and more difficult to distinguish than the lower pitched speech of men;
- Think other people mumble;
- Misunderstand what others are saying and respond inappropriately;
- Avoid activities because you cannot hear well and fear being embarrassed as a result.

Not for Recovering Alcoholics

These beers are NOT designed for alcoholics, however, since "nonalcoholic" doesn't mean alcohol free. Many researchers believe that such beverages may be the first step back to drinking for many recovering alcoholics. It is unknown whether the danger is psychological or whether it comes from the minute amount of alcohol itself. In addition, these beers are not designed for children: some experts, in addition, believe that these beverages may serve as "training beers" for kids.

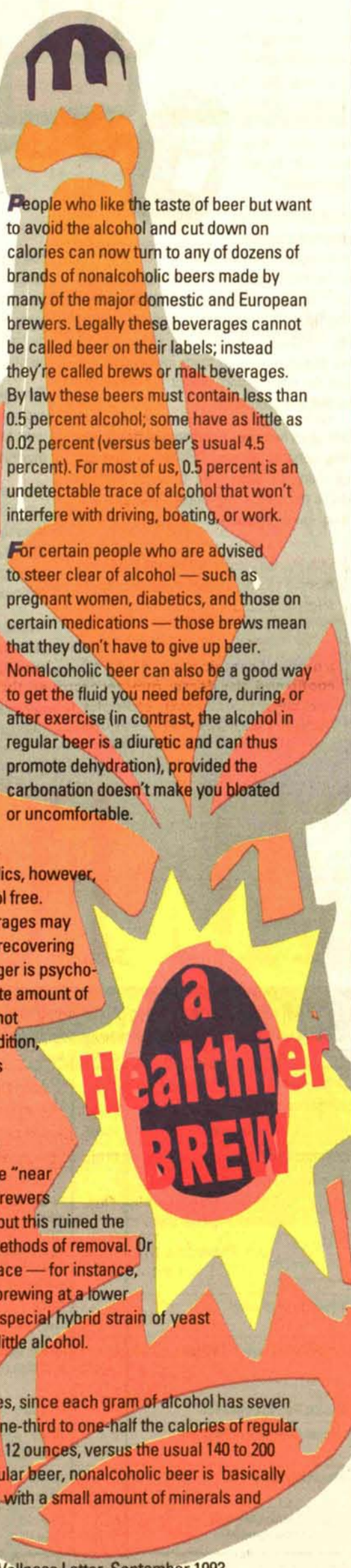
No More "Near Beer"

Thanks to modern technology, the taste of these beers has come a long way since the "near beers" of the Prohibition era. In the past, brewers heated the beer to evaporate the alcohol, but this ruined the flavor; now they use more sophisticated methods of removal. Or they may inhibit fermentation in the first place — for instance, by quickly cooling the hot malt, or else by brewing at a lower temperature. At least one brewer uses a special hybrid strain of yeast that ferments the beverage, but produces little alcohol.

Fewer Empty Calories

Limiting alcohol eliminates "empty" calories, since each gram of alcohol has seven calories. Nonalcoholic beers have about one-third to one-half the calories of regular beer — anywhere from 50 to 95 calories in 12 ounces, versus the usual 140 to 200 (about 100 calories in light beers). Like regular beer, nonalcoholic beer is basically carbohydrates from barley malt and hops, with a small amount of minerals and B vitamins.

Adapted from the University of California Wellness Letter, September 1993.



People who like the taste of beer but want to avoid the alcohol and cut down on calories can now turn to any of dozens of brands of nonalcoholic beers made by many of the major domestic and European brewers. Legally these beverages cannot be called beer on their labels; instead they're called brews or malt beverages. By law these beers must contain less than 0.5 percent alcohol; some have as little as 0.02 percent (versus beer's usual 4.5 percent). For most of us, 0.5 percent is an undetectable trace of alcohol that won't interfere with driving, boating, or work.

For certain people who are advised to steer clear of alcohol — such as pregnant women, diabetics, and those on certain medications — those brews mean that they don't have to give up beer. Nonalcoholic beer can also be a good way to get the fluid you need before, during, or after exercise (in contrast, the alcohol in regular beer is a diuretic and can thus promote dehydration), provided the carbonation doesn't make you bloated or uncomfortable.

Office Calls

The following questions and answers come from Sparrow Hospital's physician referral and information service called "NurseLine". They are timely and commonly asked questions.

Q. My son will be starting school this fall for the first time. Should I have him immunized? If so, what kind of immunization shots should he receive?

A. According to Dr. Howard Burgess, a family practitioner on staff at Sparrow Hospital, if your child has received normal scheduled booster shots at 18 months of age he should receive additional immunizations before starting elementary school. Receiving these shots at this time is recommended to insure his immunity to several diseases. The immunizations he should receive include diphtheria and tetanus booster, oral polio booster, and a repeat of the measles, mumps and rubella immunization. Some physicians also recommend repeating whooping cough immunization. Check with your family physician or pediatrician, or call your local health department if you have questions.

Q. Every fall, strep throat becomes a common illness in my family. What is the best treatment for this infection and at what stage is it most contagious?

A. The best treatment for strep throat is penicillin, according to Dr. Stanley Dudek, an Otolaryngologist on staff at Sparrow Hospital. If a person is allergic to penicillin an alternate treatment is erythromycin. For strep throat the earlier the treatment the better added Dr. Dudek. The stage that strep throat is the most contagious is in its early stages when symptoms first begin.

Q. Can you recommend any free or low-cost health screenings that may be offered in the community for people with little or no health insurance?

A. According to Sparrow's Community Health Education Department in the Lansing and mid-Michigan area Sparrow Hospital's Health-O-Rama, a community-wide health screening special event will be held at the Lansing Mall, September 18 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free and low-cost health screenings will be offered including blood pressure, bioelectrical impedance/body fat composition, vision & glaucoma testing, hearing, pulmonary function, height/weight measurement, blood panel test, blood test for prostate screening, colorectal cancer and screening kits. Counseling and referral will also be available with Sparrow pharmacists, doctors, nurses and dietitians.

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

The above questions and answers are for general information purposes only. If you have symptoms or health related questions, consult our physician.

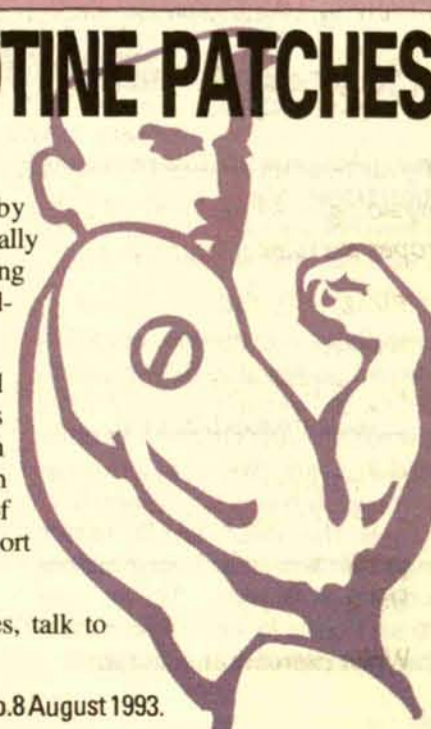
MORE ON NICOTINE PATCHES

The new nicotine patch, available by prescription is designed to curb (and eventually eliminate) the craving for nicotine by releasing small doses of the chemical into the bloodstream.

People who use nicotine patches are urged to join a stop smoking program. Studies show that 20% of smokers using the patch alone (without a behavior modification program) are able to quit; but up to 45% of smokers who use the patch with a support program are successful.

For more information on nicotine patches, talk to your doctor and pharmacist.

Adapted from Hope Health Letter, Vol. XIII No.8 August 1993.





Fighting Cancer in Rural Michigan

A woman living at the western end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula discovers a small lump on her breast. Because she cannot make the long trip to Marquette to have it checked, she chooses to ignore it.

A farmer near Bad Axe develops skin cancer on his arm, but fails to notice because he doesn't know the warning signs.

A woman in Barry County is recovering at home from a mastectomy and follow-up chemotherapy. She is experiencing problems and her family is suffering financially. Where do they turn for help?

Throughout Michigan and nationwide, people struggle daily with such situations. Quick and easy access to health care is always important. It is imperative when it comes to cancer, because the earlier the diagnosis, the better the chance of recovery.

"Unfortunately, many people are not in a position to have easy access to the health care they desperately need," said Dr. G. Marie Swanson, director of the Cancer Center at Michigan State University and professor of medicine.

The Cancer Center at MSU supports a number of projects which address the problem of lack of access to health care. In particular, the Cancer Center focuses on the issue of cancer in rural populations.

"In that aspect, we are unique," Swanson said. "We are one of only a handful of cancer centers in the United States that supports cancer research in rural areas."

Founded in 1988, the Cancer Center at MSU is the nucleus for cancer research, education and service. In keeping with the land grant tradition, many of the Cancer Center's programs are community based. Research is conducted in the community, solving critical problems and providing new resources, while investigators contribute to progress in cancer research.

Following are three examples of projects the Cancer Center at MSU is supporting in rural areas of Michigan, and the impact these projects are having on cancer patients and their families.

FARM CANCER CONTROL PROJECT

Every year in Michigan, nearly 700 farmers develop some type of cancer. **About 12 percent of those cancers are attributable to farm work with the largest number of cancers affecting the skin and lip.**

The Cancer Center, in collaboration with MSU's Center for Michigan Agricultural Safety and Health (CMASH) is in the final year of a project designed to help farmers in the state's Thumb Area avoid the dangers of skin cancer. **"We've been trying to encourage farmers to protect their skin from the sun,"** said Dr. Kenneth Rosenman, MSU associate professor of medicine and co-director of the project. "We are urging them to see a doctor for early diagnosis and to have their skin examined on a regular basis."

This intervention is happening in a number of ways — information brochures, educational videos, information booths at county fairs, and hat give aways that are provide more practical, sun-shielding benefit.

"Farmers used to wear these wide-brimmed hats," Rosenman said. "Now they've gone to baseball caps which don't cover the ears or the back of the neck." Ear tips are especially prone to skin cancer.

To increase access to health care, the project is planning to train health care personnel to better diagnose and treat skin cancer.

"We will be sending four nurse practitioners to Houston for training for the diagnosis of skin cancer," Rosenman said. "These nurses will go back to their communities, applying what they learned."

In the first year of the project, a baseline survey of farmers was done to see what they do to prevent skin cancer. The second year involved interventions. In the final year, the researchers are seeing if they've made an impact.

"Have people gone to their doctors? Are they using sunscreen? This is what we're trying to find out now," Rosenman said.

The project is supported by the Cancer Center of MSU, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the American Cancer Society of Michigan.

"It's hard to say," she said. "Keep in mind that this is not a population based study. All of the women were taken from a population that is seeing a physician. It shows that they already have regard for their health."

12 private physicians are helping in the project — 11 in the Upper Peninsula and 1 in the lower peninsula. Health practitioners share information on the mammogram project through a computer network system called "UPRNet." The network allows the 12 family practices sites to share information, not only on the mammogram project but on all the latest medical information.

A 1988 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services allowed UPRNet to start up. Since then, it's been used to teach medical students throughout the Upper Peninsula and northern lower peninsula.

RURAL PARTNERSHIPS IMPROVE ACCESS TO CANCER CARE

"Cancer patients often have limited access to continuing cancer care," said Dr. Barbara Given, MSU professor of nursing and associate director for Cancer Prevention and Control for the Cancer Center. Given is co-director of a project that provides specialized continuing cancer nursing care in rural southwest Michigan.



The project, called "Rural Partnership Linkages for Cancer Care," seeks to provide state of the art cancer care for patients and change the patterns for cancer care with emphasis on earlier diagnosis, effective treatment, symptom management and continuing care in their local community.

Through the Linkages Project, comprehensive cancer care networks are being created in 3 southwest Michigan counties by linking existing community resources with regional cancer centers.

The networks include local hospitals, clinics, hospices and home health care agencies, the Kalamazoo Community Oncology Program and the MSU/Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies. The program is currently in operation in Barry, Allegan and Van Buren counties.

Project directors hope to enroll as many as 600 patients. The project is funded by a \$2.27 million grant from the National Cancer Institute awarded to the MSU College of Nursing, the Cancer Center at MSU and the MSU College of Human Medicine Family Practice Department.

MEDICAL FOCUS

Summary of American Cancer Society Recommendations For the Early Detection of Cancer in People Showing No Evidence of Disease

Test or Procedure	Sex	Age	Frequency
Sigmoidoscopy, preferably flexible	M & F	50 and over	Every 3-5 years
Fecal Occult Blood Test	M & F	50 and over	Every year
Digital Rectal Examination	M & F	40 and over	Every year
Prostate Exam*	M	50 and over	Every year
Pap Test	F	All women who are, or who have been, sexually active, or have reached age 18, should have an annual Pap test and pelvic examination. After a woman has had three or more consecutive satisfactory normal annual examinations, the Pap test may be performed less frequently at the discretion of her physician.	
Pelvic Examination	F	18-40 Over 40	Every 1-3 years with Pap test Every year
Endometrial Tissue Sample	F	At menopause, if at high risk	At menopause and thereafter at the discretion of the physician
Breast Self-Examination	F	20 and over	Every month
Breast Clinical Examination	F	20-40 Over 40	Every 3 years Every year
Mammography***	F	40-49 50 and over	Every 1-2 years Every year
Health Counseling and Cancer Checkup****	M & F M & F	Over 20 Over 40	Every 3 years Every year

*Annual digital rectal examination and prostate-specific antigen should be performed on men 50 years and older. If either is abnormal, further evaluation should be considered.

**History of infertility, obesity, failure to ovulate, abnormal uterine bleeding, or unopposed estrogen or tamoxifen therapy.

***Screening mammography should begin by age 40.

****To include examination for cancers of the thyroid, testicles, ovaries, lymph nodes, anal region, and skin.

Revised November 1992.

"NAFTA: Response to Perot"

are five times more productive. The U.S. economy can support higher wages because it has better transportation facilities, communications infrastructure, and closer proximity to markets.

* Mexico will have lower wages than the United States with or without the NAFTA; companies that want to move to Mexico because of low wages already can do so. However, wages are not the key issue; if they were, then lesser developed countries would be the economic superpowers instead of the developed countries.

* With the productivity of the U.S. work force, the United States already has gained over 225,000 net jobs due to freer trade with Mexico. Our bilateral trade balance has swung from a \$4.9 billion deficit in 1986 to a \$5.4 billion surplus in 1992.

Perot:
The United States is already deindustrializing; NAFTA will accelerate this process by moving U.S. manufacturing jobs to Mexico.

Facts:
* The United States is not deindustrializing.

* Manufacturing provides 23 percent of U.S. GDP, the highest percentage since World War II.

* The United States has a \$7.5 billion surplus with Mexico in manufactured goods trade.

* U.S. companies continue to invest in the United States -- approximately \$500 billion last year, as compared to \$6 billion in Mexico.

* NAFTA would reduce or eliminate existing incentives to move manufacturing jobs to Mexico.

* NAFTA removes Mexican tariffs -- which are 2 1/2 times higher on average than their U.S. counterparts -- and tough nontariff barriers that require U.S. companies to have factories in Mexico in order to sell in Mexico.

* NAFTA removes Mexican requirements that companies in Mexico buy Mexican components, currently an important incentive for suppliers to produce in Mexico instead of exporting from the United States.

* By providing increased access to the growing Mexican market, NAFTA will strengthen U.S. manufacturing by increasing exports of U.S. manufactured goods.

Perot:
The current U.S. made surplus with Mexico is a "mirage" because it consists of capital goods; these goods are going to build Mexican factories that will export to the United States.

Facts:
* The United States exports lower proportion of capital goods to Mexico than to other countries. While capital goods account for 40 percent of our exports worldwide, they compose only 33 percent of our exports to Mexico.

* Factories built in Mexico with capital goods exported from the United States will primarily service the 88 million person Mexican market. For example, in 1990, approximately 70 percent of sales by U.S.-owned Mexican companies were to the Mexican market.

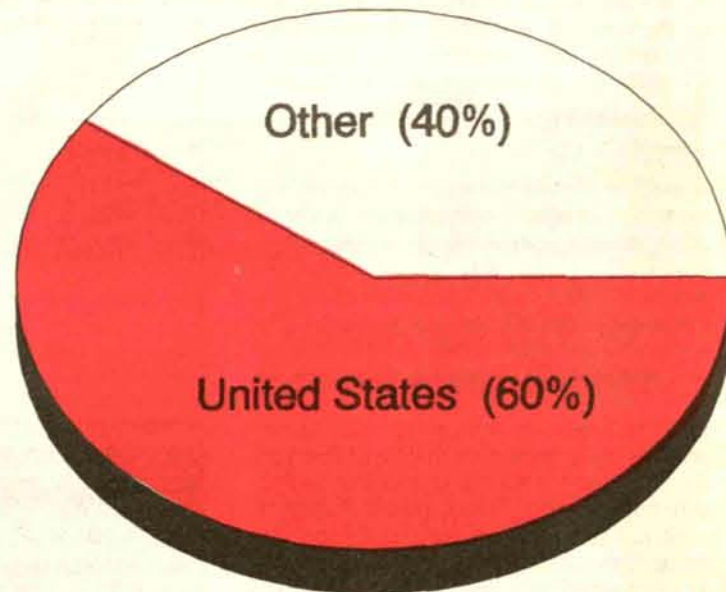
* Exports of capital goods are good for the U.S. economy because they support high wage jobs; other leading economies, such as Germany and Japan, also export capital goods.

Perot:
Mexicans cannot afford to buy U.S. products.

Facts:
* Mexicans already buy U.S. products in droves.

* The average Mexican spends \$380 per year on U.S. goods and services, more than the average Korean (\$360) who earns twice as much, and almost as much as the average Japanese (\$400) who earns 10 times as much.

Mexicans spend 60% of their earnings buying goods from the U.S., a figure far higher than any other nation.



*Mexicans bought \$40.6 billion worth of U.S. goods and services last year, \$5.4 billion more than Americans bought of Mexican goods and services.

* Mexicans have the highest propensity to buy U.S. goods of any foreign country.

Continued page 10 see: "NAFTA: Response to Perot"

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.

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Please mail to: Michigan Farm Bureau
Membership Services
P.O. Box 30960
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ANNUAL PER CAPITA PURCHASE OF U.S. GOODS



10 Getting Ready for Harvest is a "Head" Game

A safe, successful harvest starts with the head - the one on the combine and the one on the operator, according to Loren Soyke, marketing representative at Deere & Company's Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois.

Soyke says the combine head is the most neglected area of the machine for pre-harvest inspection and maintenance, but overall combining performance is heavily influenced by the way grain enters the machine. "And I can't stress just how important it is for the operator to keep his or her head in the game during the most intense and stressful part of the crop year," he said.

On corn heads, the deck plates adjustments may be more important than ever this year due to wide variations in weather and ultimately ear size. "Deck plates should be adjusted according to the size of the ears being harvested," he said. "This adjustment is overlooked by many growers, but if it's too wide you can lose ears and shell ears in the head. If they're set too narrow, you'll take in too much trash."

To avoid kernel damage and bunch feeding, Soyke says it's important to see that augers on corn heads and bean heads are running at the right speeds. "It's particularly important on a soybean head with a flex platform," Soyke cautioned. "Otherwise the resulting pinching and binding of the crop going into the machine will result in poor threshing performance."

Other header adjustments include making sure the rear strippers and floor strippers are adjusted to the auger flighting, gathering chains are adjusted for proper tension, and making sure the snapping rolls aren't worn.

Moving past the head, feeder house chains need to be properly adjusted. Loose chains can flop around and cause bunching. Also make sure the feeder house speed is at the slow setting.

Soyke says growers harvesting corn and beans with the same machine should make sure the feeder house drum is set properly for each crop - up for corn and down for beans. "In the midst of a frantic harvest, many growers simply change headers and charge on," he said.



Growers pay close attention to concave clearance and speed as they're harvesting, but according to the Soyke, they tend to

speed up the cylinder if threshing efficiency drops off. Speed damages grain, so the right response is to tighten the concave. "Just

remember, the concave thrashes, cylinder speed smashes," Soyke reminded.

Combine operators should try to do 90 percent of the separating at the cylinder and concave and only 10 percent on the straw walkers. "Usually when a grower says he's getting grain losses at the walkers, he's actually throwing too much grain on them," he said.

The most important preparation for harvest, Soyke says is mental. Growers should spend some time going over the basics of safety in maintaining and operating their combine. In the rush of a busy harvest, it's tempting to take shortcuts.

A few steps that shouldn't be overlooked during the rush of the season are:

- Start or move the combine only after everyone is well clear of the machine.

- Make sure all shields are in place.

- Stop the engine and remove the ignition key before working on the combine.

- Always check for overhead obstacles and power lines.

Pesticide Use in the Great Lakes Watershed

A report by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) estimates that at least 56 million pounds of pesticides are used annually in the Great Lakes Watershed which includes the United States and Canada.

GAO estimates, based on federal and private data sources, show 46 million pounds of pesticides used on agricultural crops, 8 million on lawns and more than 2 million pounds on golf courses in the watershed.

"Even though 56 million pounds is a lot of pesticide, it is only 4 percent of the 1.1 billion pounds used annually in the U.S.,"

says Fred Weiner, GAO senior evaluator in charge of the report.

He notes the report's basic objective was to provide a baseline for the amount of pesticide use in the basin since no data systems currently exist to track such.

The report notes that pesticides are only one of the sources of chemical pollution in the

lakes which contain 95 percent of the nation's fresh water and provide 3 billion gallons daily for domestic use.

For a free copy of the report, *Pesticides, Issues Concerns Pesticides Used in the Great Lakes Watershed*, request report #GAO/RCED-93-128, write: U.S. GAO, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015 or phone (202) 512-6000.

Estimated Annual Pesticide Usage in the Great Lakes Watershed (in pounds) - from GAO Report

	United States	Canada	Total
Corn, soybean and field crops ^a	24,547,600	12,781,000	37,328,600
Fruits	5,324,900	1,283,900	6,608,800
Vegetables	1,315,200	848,900	2,164,100
Lawns	8,000,000	^b	8,000,000
Golf Courses	2,400	^b	2,400,000
Total	41,587,700	14,913,800	56,501,500

^aThe U.S. pesticide usage estimate includes the amounts used on corn and soybeans only. The Canadian estimate includes the amounts used on all field crops, including corn and soybeans.

^bInformation not available.

"NAFTA: Response to Perot"

spending approximately 15 cents out of every dollar earned on U.S. goods and services.

Perot: NAFTA is backdoor deregulation of U.S. Health and Safety Standards.

Facts: * NAFTA makes no changes to our stringent U.S. standards.

* NAFTA includes a commitment by all three countries to work toward harmonizing standards up to U.S. levels.

* Only the U.S. Congress can change our health and safety standards.

Perot: NAFTA gives Mexican trucking firms an advantage over U.S. trucking firms due to regulatory differences.

Fact: * Mexican trucks already have access to our border states while U.S. trucks are closed out of the Mexican market.

* NAFTA will open the Mexican borders to U.S. trucks and would phase out Mexico's restrictions, eliminating the current Mexican advantage.

Perot: NAFTA jeopardizes highway safety by opening U.S. highways to Mexican trucks and drivers that will not have to meet U.S. standards.

Fact: * NAFTA does not exempt Mexican or Canadian vehicles or drivers from our environmental or safety standards.

* All U.S. regulations regarding trucks (size, weight, and equipment), drivers (language and hours of service) and the environment (fuel and emission standards) must be complied with by Mexican and Canadian drivers.

* Mexican drivers are also tested for licensing according to standards fully comparable to standards used in the U.S.

Perot: There should be a trial period for the NAFTA, during which any country could pull out of the agreement.

Facts: * The NAFTA text permits any country to withdraw at any time for any reason. Article 2205 provides that any country "may withdraw from this agreement six months after it provides written notice of withdrawal to the other parties."



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.

11 Could You Benefit From Operation Green Stripe?

For Quincy area farmer Jack Knirk, Operation Green Stripe addressed a number of issues for the family partnership's 2,700 acre cropping and 6,000 head cattle operation. Acreage enrolled in operation Green Stripe provides runoff control along five miles of drainage ditches, while also being utilized as part of Knirk's ASCS setaside acres. Knirk estimates he's got nearly 25 acres doing double duty as filter strips and setaside acres. Below, Knirk talks with members of the Branch Area Careers Center, the local chapter that signed Knirk up in the program.

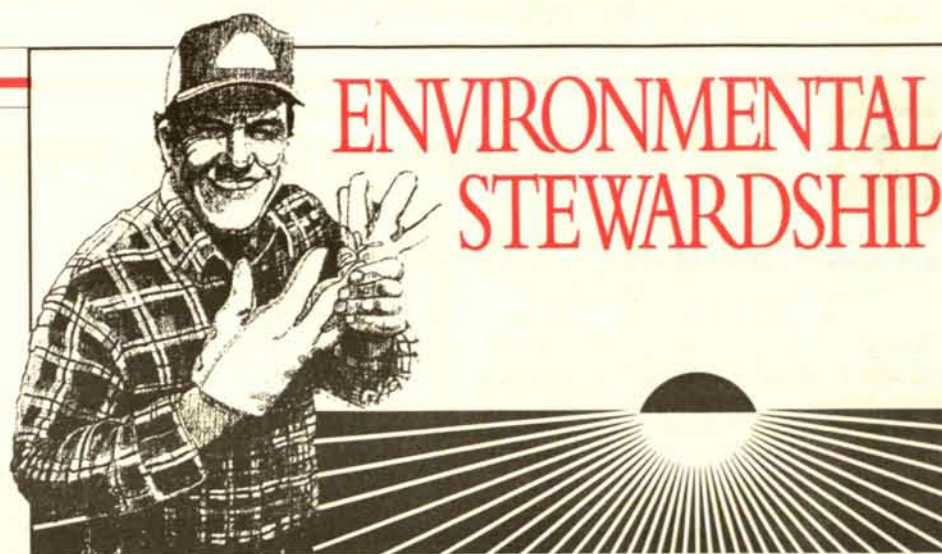


Gentle rolling ground, manure disposal from as many as 6,000 head of livestock and an interest in protecting the water that flows from his fields, were more than enough reason for Quincy area cattleman Jack Knirk to become an active participant and supporter of Operation Green Stripe.

Knirk, who farms 2,750 acres in addition to running a large feedlot operation in partnership with his father and brother, had been looking into installing buffer strips along the nearly 5-1/2 miles of drainage ditches that run through their farm for the last three years.

"We raise most of our own corn and spread all of the manure from 6,000 head of livestock back onto nearly 900 acres each year," Knirk said. "Needless to say, it's critical that we have these green stripes to protect the water, and to help keep the manure and chemicals where we want it instead of in our local water supplies."

Knirk investigated using the buffer strips as part of his farm program acreage, and discovered the ground could be used as either Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres or setaside acres. "We didn't want to sacrifice our corn base by going into the



CRP, so we opted to use the strips as setaside," Knirk explained. "We've got approximately 25 acres now planted to green stripes. The only catch was that the strips had to be 33-1/2' wide as required by ASCS, to qualify for setaside acreage."

Knirk planted a oat/perennial rye mix, part of which was donated by Reading Feed and Grain, shortly after corn planting was completed last spring. The oats provided an immediate vegetative cover, while the ryegrass, which is a slower growing grass similar to yard grass, will be there for a longer lifespan Knirk explained. He then mowed the strips in August.

All totaled, Knirk estimates that he's got less than \$1,000 invested in the 25 acres of green stripes but expects far greater returns.

Soil tests are taken on a regular basis, and water samples from the ends of tile outlets are analyzed to make sure that fields aren't being overloaded with phosphates and nitrates.

Knirk said that the stripes have shown no chemical stress, which is proof positive that chemicals, manure or soils aren't getting into the water. But those are just part of the benefits Knirk expects from the green stripes.

"I like to drive in and look at my corn fields and you'd be surprised how many deer, pheasants and all kinds of other game are inhabiting these stripes and it's great to be able to look down along your creeks and ditches and see these stripes," Knirk said.

"Public image is half of the problem we have in dealing with environmental issues. We know that farmers are good stewards and environmentalists, but if we can convey that message to the consumers and to the environmental groups, we've gone a long way toward resolving many issues, Knirk concluded."

Operation Green Stripe Fact Sheet

- Operation Green Stripe is a program which encourages farmers to plant vegetative buffer strips and maintain them for three years. The program reinforces farmers' dedication to the land and support for the local community.

- A vegetative buffer strip can reduce the amount of farm field sediment that runs into a stream, and the herbicides attached to it by 30 to 50 percent.

- On a 15-foot strip, the first three-four feet usually does most of the filtering. The thick grass barrier also collects 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 strip.

- Operation Green Stripe is an education and conservation experience for local FFA chapters. Not every chapter can participate. The state FFA will choose only select chapters.

- Chapters will receive \$100 from Monsanto for each farmer recruited to participate in the program.

- The green stripe established in Operation Green Stripe must be at least 15.5 feet wide (strip must be 33-1/2 feet wide for ASCS setaside requirements). The length of the green stripe must be the full length of at least one field selected by the farmer.

- A variety of distributors will provide free grass seed to farmers in the program.

For more information, call Charlie Snyder, FFA Project Consultant at (517) 353-9221.

Looking Out For The Environment

Managing Crop Residues

Conservation tillage has long been used to improve tith, conserve moisture and provide food and cover for wildlife. It's also an excellent way to prevent soil erosion and protect surface water supplies from contamination by field runoff. About 65 percent of the environmental compliance plans signed by farmers include some form of conservation tillage.



The key to protecting surface water near your farm is to implement your approved conservation plan. Crop residues on your fields will absorb the impact of falling rain and slow water runoff, reducing

erosion considerably. Soil conservation practices will also help reduce the unwanted movement of ag chemicals from your fields into streams or lakes.

The amount of residue you will have depends on the crop you last harvested. Corn, for example, produces about 60 pounds of residue per bushel.

while soybeans produce about 50 pounds. In addition, the size, texture and weight of each individual piece of corn residue is greater, so more ground cover is provided.

To be sure your tillage operations are meeting residue goals, use the measuring steps outlined below. If you are missing the targets, look for ways to boost residues.

The Right System For You
The proper tillage system for you will depend on your soil type, weather conditions and tillage practices. Remember, the more you till the residue, the more it is buried. Every tillage operation you perform reduces the remaining cover somewhat. The tillage practices you select should allow for at least 30 percent residue cover on your field after planting. Some compliance plans require as much as 40 to 50 percent residues on the soil surface.



Use the accompanying measuring steps to determine the amount of residue in your fields. After awhile you'll know what a certain residue level looks like. For more information on residue management, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District, the Soil Conservation Service or the Cooperative Extension Service.

30% TO 50%
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.

HOW TO KEEP CROP RESIDUES

1. Include a high residue producing crop, such as corn, in your rotation sequence.
2. Reduce the number of tillage passes.
3. Plant rye or wheat as winter cover crops.
4. Set chisels and disks to work the soil shallower.
5. Drive slower during tillage operations.
6. Use straight shanks and sweeps on chisel plows instead of twisted shanks.
7. Convert to a minimum till or no till system.

Measuring Residue

Choose a typical part of the field. Select a 100 foot line with marks every 12 inches. Stretch the line diagonally across the crop rows so each end of the line is over a row.

Walk the line and count each mark with crop residue directly under it. (Don't count residue smaller than 1/8 inch in diameter.)

The total number of marks directly over a piece of residue is the percent cover for the field. For example, if you counted 45 marks, you have about 45 percent crop residue.

Repeat the procedure at least three times in different areas of the field and average the findings.

DMI Introduces New Precision Row Marker

DMI Inc., announces the availability of a new Row Marker for farmers wishing to maximize the efficiency of fertilizer placement by incorporating strip tillage or other "Indexing" techniques. The new DMI Row Markers are designed to be mounted on DMI Nutri-Plac® 3250 mounted or 4250 pull-type applicators with no alterations.



◀ NEW DMI ROW MARKER

Indexing is an environmentally sound practice of placing the seed in a precise relationship to banded dry fertilizer in pre-marked "strips" of soil, resulting in optimum absorption of nutrients. The DMI Row Marketing aids in this process by marking crop rows for precise tracking and optimizing placement of the seed. Fertilizer performance is increased in both crop yield and in lower fertilizer amounts lost to erosion and run off, as compared to broadcast applications.

DMI Row Markers are available in sizes to fit 30" spacings (8 row, single-fold fits 20' 3250; 12 row, double-fold fits 32.5' 3250 and 4250), and 8 row 38" spacings (double-fold fits 27.5" 3250). A special sequencing valve automatically alternates between right and left hand rows. Hydraulic flow control sets raising and lowering speed independently. Marker disc blade is 14" in diameter. For more information, contact Bob Wiegand at DMI, Inc., phone (309) 965-2233.

12 Get the Maximum Crop by Properly Adjusting Your Combine

You've prepared your land. You've planted it. You've invested both money and labor in fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides.

Now it's time to put all the grain in the tank. Of course, that's a tough goal to meet, or even approach, because your combine is such a complicated machine with so many parts that must work in concert to maximize your yield.

First step in maximizing that yield...in getting the most out of your fields is to study the reasons for the losses you do have and make every possible adjustment to minimize them.

You really have to work at diagnosing the reasons for your losses because the spur-of-the-moment adjustments that many farmers make frequently lead them astray...lead them away from the correct adjustments.

What are the sources of losses?

When you understand the flow of the crop through your combine and the function of each major combine system, you'll be in an ideal position to determine where the losses are occurring and to take the necessary steps to minimize them. There are three major areas of loss:

- **Pre-harvest loss** is the loss that has occurred before you harvest your crop. This includes the seeds on the ground due to weather, insect damage, or other adversity. There's no way any combine can harvest that grain.

- **Header loss** is caused by cutting too high, reel shatter, and other header misadjustments.

- **Separator loss** from the rotor and cleaning system is caused by improper adjustment or the lack of proper attachments.

Determine the amount of loss at each source

To determine how much grain you're losing from each source, take a full cut at your regular operating speed without using the straw spreaders.

Select an area in the field that seems typical of the entire field and is away from the edges and end of the field. Cut a swatch a little longer than the length of the combine and stop; back up a distance equal to its length so that you have a situation similar to that shown in the illustration. This will give you three "counting areas" as follows:

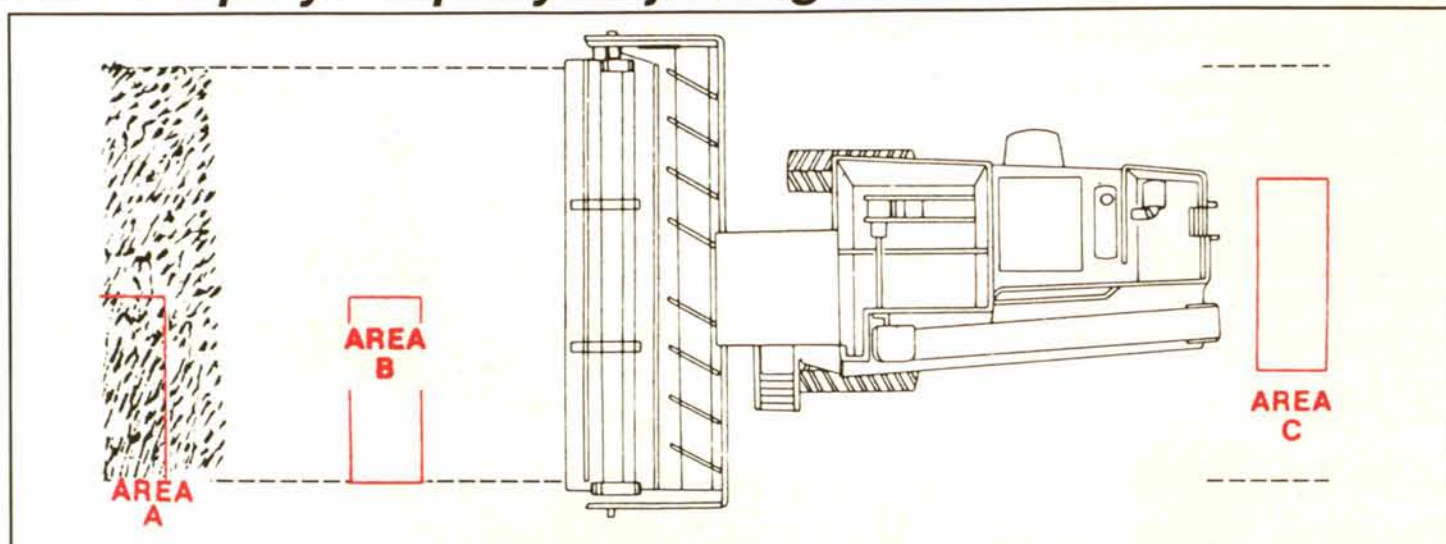
- Area A has not been entered by the combine.
- Area B has been combined but not passed over by the separator.
- Area C is directly behind the separator. It has been combined and passed over by the separator, but it has not been backed into or had extra straw dropped into it.

Caution: Be sure the combine is shut down and all moving components are completely stopped before starting evaluations.

Your next step is to count the grains lost on the ground in each "counting area." Each "counting area" should be equal to about 10 square feet.

The grains you find in Area A are pre-harvest losses. The grains in Area B are pre-harvest losses plus header losses. The grains in Area C are pre-harvest losses plus header losses plus separator losses. Obviously, header losses equal Area B minus Area A, and separator losses equal Area C minus Area B.

To convert the amount of loss you find at any point to bushels, refer to the seed loss tables in your Operator's Manual. Losses



should be checked in several areas and averaged to eliminate the effects of any uneven feeding.

Making the Proper Adjustments

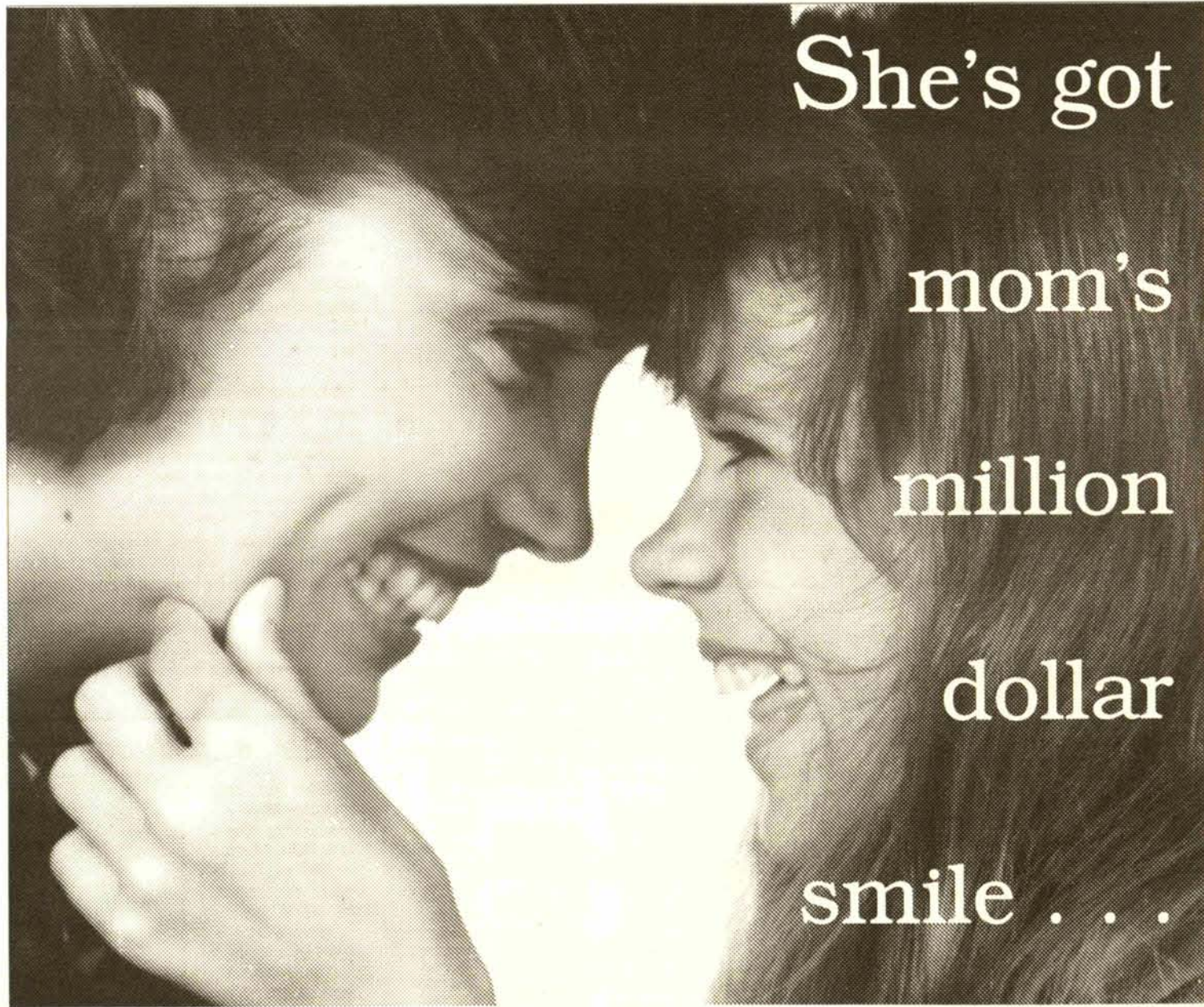
Once you have made the loss counts just described, you'll know what systems, if any, need adjustments.

To reduce header losses, make sure the header is adjusted properly as explained in the Operator's Manual.

Before making adjustments for separator losses, be sure there are no grain leaks due to missing bolts, open cleanout doors, or other obvious causes. If separator loss is high, you'll want to determine whether the loss is from the rotor or cleaning system.

You can do this by fully opening the shoe and chaffer sieves for a test interval. If the separator loss remains high, it's due to rotor losses. If it decreases, the loss is due to improper cleaning system adjustments. (Note: Your sample will be poor during this test interval because of excessive trash.)

For adjustments to the rotor and cleaning system, see your Operator's Manual.



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MAKING YOUR FUTURE MORE PREDICTABLE

Ways to Increase Your Combine's Efficiency

The following tips were provided by CASE-I.H. as suggestions that owners of Axial-Flow combines may want to consider. Here are some suggestions that have helped many rotary combine operators increase their efficiency:

- If congestion becomes a problem in green, weedy crop conditions, you may want to reduce the rotor-to-concave clearance and/or increase the rotor r.p.m. to help the green material move through the rotor cage. You can do this with either the standard or the specialty rotor.

- Some operators have improved the movement of green material through a standard rotor with minimum grain loss by installing notched separator bars on the rotor over the separator grate area.

- When harvesting hard-to-thresh grains with either rotor, you can help your combine complete the threshing operation by retarding two or more of the directional vans to the slow position over the concaves, beginning with the first two vanes.



For very severe hard-to-thresh conditions, such as a heat stressed crop, you can install interrupter bars on the concaves.

In most cases, however, once you obtain a desired concave clearance, all you need to do to achieve ideal operation is to vary rotor speeds.

Harvest Your Crops with the Environment in Mind

All across the U.S. farmers are becoming more conscious of the ecological aspects of their operations. Many of them are following tillage practices that will conserve moisture and reduce wind and water erosion.

Combining also has its ecological aspects. For one thing, you'll want to avoid overloading your machine. In addition to adding extra stress to the combine, overloading can cause soil compaction. You may want to consider duals. And don't forget the damage grain carts and trucks can do to soil structure. A few extra trips may be preferable to the soil compaction that can occur with the addition of sideboards.

Proper distribution of chaff and straw is the key to effective residue management, which directly affects the yield of your next crop. Adjust your spreader for even distribution and avoid windrowing for better residue decomposition.

Check List for Corn Headers

1. Level the corn head.
2. Check all divider points for free movement and height adjustment.
3. Inspect gatherer chains for wear and adjustment. Gatherer chain flights should be aligned to mating chain, except in rocky field conditions.
4. Inspect gatherer chain idler sprockets for wear, damaged teeth, and bearing failure.
5. Inspect gatherer chain tension control brackets for free movement.
 - a. Disassemble and lubricate idler bracket rods with Never-Seez.
 - b. 1/4" maximum clearance at spring sleeve to washer.
6. Inspect gatherer drive sprocket shields.
7. Inspect main drive chain drive and sprockets.
8. Check stalk roll spacing.
 - a. Check for wear at stalk roll front support pin and bushings and bearings.
 - b. 3-3/4" between roll centers.
 - c. Free to turn without binding.
9. Inspect stalk roll knives for condition and adjustment.
 - a. Should be knife edge to knife edge.
 - b. Knife edge clearance 1/32" to 5/64".
10. Inspect front and rear stalk roll weed knives for damage.
 - a. 1/16" maximum clearance.
 - b. Add optional rear weed knives if conditions require.
11. See that stalk roll stripper plates are adjusted uniformly. 1-1/4" at front 1-3/8" at rear for normal crop conditions.
12. Check stalk roll slip clutches; adjust as needed.
 - a. Disassemble, clean off all dirt and trash, lubricate clutch jaw/hub to clutch holder face and pilot surfaces and reset to recommended spring height setting.
 - b. Increase lubrication frequency to 50 hours.
13. Inspect stalk roll frames for cracks or other damage.
14. Check auger-to-trough-bottom adjustment. 1" clearance auger-flight-to-trough-bottom.
15. Check auger-to-stripper adjustment. 3/4" clearance at upper center stripper, See Operator's Manual for proper adjustment for feeder opening.
16. Check auger slip clutch; adjust as needed. (If equipped.)
 - a. Loosen springs and rotate clutch plate to be sure it's free to slip.
 - b. Reset spring length to 1/2" minimum.
17. Inspect auger drive chain and sprockets.
18. Check the oil level in all gear cases with the header in the down position.
19. Inspect the lubrication lines to all stalk roll points. Check for any holes in the lubrication lines.
20. Lubricate all grease points.
21. Check for proper reflectors.
22. Make sure all safety and instruction decals are readable.
23. Be sure all shields are in place.

Check List for Grain Headers

1. Level the header.
2. Inspect reel drive chain (5/16" to 5/8" free movement).
3. Check operation of reel speed sensor. (800 Series header.)
4. Check reel lift adjustment.
5. Check fore and aft reel adjustment and freedom of movement. Set for crop.
6. Check reel tine pitch on pick up reels.
7. Check knife guard alignment and knife hold down clip clearance.
8. Check knife wear and adjustment of knife hold down clips.
9. Inspect knife wear plate and all sections.
10. Check knife registry.
11. Check knife drive belt for cracks or wear.
12. Check belt idler pulleys for alignment and wear.
13. Check auger drive chain for wear or adjustment (3/16" to 3/8" free movement).
14. Auger-to-stripper clearance should be 1/4" all the way across the stripper.
15. Check short auger extension for proper setting to feeder width. See Operator's Manual.
16. Check auger-to-bottom clearance. On flex headers it should be 1/8" from bottom with the auger in its highest flex position. On rigid headers it should be 1/2" from bottom.
17. Check adjustment of auger fingers for crop being harvested.
18. Check auger slip clutch spring setting.
19. Slip the auger slip clutch before harvesting.
20. Set counter balance spring. Adjust as required. (Flex headers only.)
22. Inspect header height control linkage adjustment. (Flex headers only.)
22. Inspect header height control tube for free movement. (Flex headers only.)
23. For headers equipped with electro-hydraulic sensing check all electrical wires and connections for cracks and corrosion.
24. Select skid position depending on ground conditions. (820 headers only.)
25. Adjust floating dividers. (Flex headers only.)
26. Knife: apply light engine oil to the entire length.
27. Lubricate all fittings with multi-purpose lithium base grease.
28. Lubricate the pickup reel tubes.
29. Lubricate the header height control tube support at points with light engine oil. Check all joints for freedom of movement.

- Michigan Farm News Classifieds -

01

Farm Machinery

2310 FOX CHOPPER: Two heads, 1000 R.P.M. Excellent condition. Call 1-517-546-1686.

FOR SALE: GLEANER F Combine, 13' grain head, 4 row narrow, 430 corn head. \$4,800. Call 517-875-3736.

FOR SALE: Lilliston 6200 Edible bean combine. Farmall 200 with 4-row bean puller and Innes windrower and conveyor. Call 1-517-726-1014.

J.D. 450 DOZER \$7000. J.D. 2640 tractor and loader, \$10,900. J.D. 544A loader, new tires, \$14,900. Case W.14 loader, new motor, \$12,000. Georgia John Farms 313-629-9376.

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

02

Livestock Equipment

USED POULTRY equipment. Big Dutchman feeder, cages, automatic waterers, 10 ton feed bin and 45x250 coop. Call 1-517-883-3714.

02

Livestock Equipment

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03

Farm Commodities

ALFALFA MIXED HAY and grass, 4x5 round bales. Stored inside! Delivered semi loads. Gene Wager, 1-517-967-3361 days. 1-517-772-7031 evenings.

SCOTCH PINE Christmas trees. Freshly cut, painted, baled and loaded on your vehicle for only \$5 per tree. Contact Richard Bradley Tree Farms, 5360 South Dickerson Road, Lake City, MI 49651. Call 1-616-825-2895.

WHEAT, STRAW: Square bales. Call 1-616-623-2261.

WILLING TO SELL: 1992 High Moisture Corn, stored in glass lined Harvestore Silos. Omega Farms, Williamston, MI Call 517-468-3366.

04

Livestock

FOR SALE: 60 HEAD 750-800# pre-conditioned/prime colored steers. Northland Farms Call 517-422-3763 (Farm) or 313-881-3172 (Info).

PUREBRED Yorkshire and Hampshire Boars and open Gilts. Also F-1 York X Hamps, Back fat and Loineye. Test data. Also, days to 230 pounds. Marvin Cook, 1-517-649-8988.

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.

MILKING SHORTHORN Registered bull. Call 313-428-9247.

REGISTERED HEREFORD bull for sale. Good pedigree. Pedigree is Advance and Grand Valley L1 Domino. Can be purchased for beef price. Call 1-616-794-2525.

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

05

Help/Position Wanted

WORK WANTED: Farm job wanted. Experience in Dairy, Beef and Crops. Also, have worked in Feed Mill. Call 1-616-896-8422 after 5:30 pm.

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, 4377 Groesbeck Hwy., Mt. Clemens, MI 48036, 313-463-5253; **WEST SIDE:** Robert A. Stariha, 40 W. Sheridan, Fremont, MI 49412, 616-924-3760.

RECYCLED DIESEL air filters. Recycle Now, Inc. a Holland, Michigan based company, committed to recycling diesel and industrial air intake filters using the Sonic Dry Clean method. No liquids or detergents used. Half the cost of a new filter! Better than a new filter! For more information, call 1-616-396-7724 or fax 1-616-396-8102.

09

Real Estate

MODERN 340 ACRE Dairy Farm. Central Michigan between Flint and Lansing. 140 cow capacity, double 6 Herringbone milking parlor, 25x80 and two 20x30 Harvestore silos, 20x70 cement silo. Good ground, lots of tile drain, 4-bedroom home, 5 tractors and all farm machinery for only \$445,000. LaValley Realty, Inc. 1-517-723-6707. Ask for Clyde LeValley, 1-517-725-6366.

09

Real Estate

490 ACRES: 5 bedroom country home. 2 1/2 baths, fireplace, several outbuildings. A real show place! Upper Michigan, near Wolverine, \$350,000. (F-759) Faust Real Estate 1-517-263-8666

11

Wanted to Buy

BUYERS OF STANDING timber and veneer logs. Devereaux Sawmill, Inc. Pewamo, MI. Call 1-517-593-2552.

WANTED: Corn, soy beans. Top prices paid, fast! Don't speculate, our expertise can eliminate price risk through sound marketing. Call Michigan Experts, The Smith Brothers, 1-800-878-2767.

12

General

13,000 GALLON BULK storage tank for LP or ammonia, \$7,500. 616-874-7319.

ANGUS BREEDING stock and black calves at West Michigan Association Registered Angus Sale: Saturday, October 2, 1pm. Allegan County Fairgrounds. Information call: 1-616-423-7546, 1-616-878-9313.

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

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CYLINDER HEADS: Block and transmission case repair. Cast iron repair specialists. All work guaranteed. Kingman Engineering 703 Curtis Street, Mason, MI 517-676-1417.

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FREE GUIDE: Tensile Fence. Strong, lasting, economical! Also, portable electric fence. Phone order supplies, 1-800-KENCOVE. 1-412-459-8991.

HAVESTORE SILOS: two newer, 20x60, A.O. Smith Harvestores with 1 Goliath unloader, good condition, best offer or will trade. Call 616-834-5896.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER: \$60/per ton animal bedding made from recycled newspaper, chopped not shredded. More absorbent-less flies-less odor. Clean Future 517-876-6051 Turner MI. Les Keely, 517-654-2208 517-873-6089.

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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

12

General

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13

Ponies/ Horses

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1993 County Annual Meetings Quickly Winding Down

Don't miss an opportunity to have input on policy issues critical to your farm operation such as NAFTA. Make sure you attend your county Farm Bureau's annual meeting to discuss and vote on major policy recommendations that will be forwarded to the MFB Policy Development Committee in preparation for state annual debate and discussion.

- ALPENA:** Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Long Rapids Hall, Alpena
- ANTRIM:** Oct. 13, 7 p.m.
Central Lake High School, Central Lake
- ARENAC:** Oct. 4, 7 p.m.
Omer Community Building, Omer
- BENZIE:** Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Link Family Restaurant, Honor
- BERRIEN:** Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Business Meeting - Youth Memorial Bldg
Berrien Springs
Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Awards/Recognition Night -
Youth Memorial Bldg, Berrien Springs
- CALHOUN:** Oct. 5, 7 p.m.
Belcher Auction Facility, Marshall

- CASS:** Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.
S.W. MI Univ., Matthews Lib., Dowagiac
- CHARLEVOIX:** Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
Whiting Park, Boyne City
- CHEBOYGAN:** Oct. 5, 8 p.m.
VFW Hall, Cheboygan
- CHIPPEWA:** Oct. 28, 8 p.m.
Lions Club, Kincheloe
- CLINTON:** Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.
St. Johns High School, St. Johns
- COPPER COUNTRY:** Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
American Legion Hall, L'Anse
- EATON:** Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
American Legion Hall, Charlotte
- EMMET:** Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
VFW Post, Harbor Springs
- HIAWATHALAND:** Oct. 25, 7 p.m.
Terrace Bay Inn, Escanaba
- IOSCO:** Oct. 13, 7 p.m.
Masonic Temple, Tawas City
- IRON RANGE:** Oct. 22, 6:30 p.m. CST,
United Sportsmans Club, Merriman
- LAPEER:** Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m.
County Center Building, Lapeer

- LIVINGSTON:** Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Woodshire Building, Fowlerville
- MAC-LUCE:** Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
Blaney Inn, Blaney Park
- MACOMB:** Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
St. Mary Mystical Church, Armada
- MECOSTA:** Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Mecosta Senior Center, Mecosta
- MENOMINEE:** Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
CST, Belgium Town Hall, Stevenson
- MISSAUKEE:** Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Falmouth Elementary School, Falmouth
- MONTCALM:** Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Lourdes Parrish Hall, Stanton
- MONTMORENCY:** Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m.
Hillman High School, Hillman
- MUSKEGON:** Oct. 5, 7 p.m.
Econo-Lodge - Bus. 31, Muskegon
- NEWAYGO:** Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Newaygo Senior Center, White Cloud
- NW MICHIGAN:** Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Twin Lakes 4-H Camp, Traverse City
- OAKLAND:** Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist Church, Clarkston

- OCEANA:** Oct. 11, 7 p.m.
Hart Methodist Church, Hart
- OGEMAW:** Oct. 28, 7 p.m.
County Fair Grounds - West Branch
- OSCEOLA:** Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Reed City High School, Reed City
- OTSEGO:** Oct. 26, 6:45 p.m.
Twp. Hall, Johannesburg
- OTTAWA:** Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Christian School Gymnasium, Allendale
- PRESQUE ISLE:** Oct. 17, 7 p.m.
Moltke Township Hall, Rogers City
- ST. JOSEPH:** Oct. 23, 6 p.m.
Young Auditorium, Sturgis
- VAN BUREN:** Oct. 22, 6 p.m.
FOP Lodge, Lawrence
- WASHTENAW:** Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Farm Council Grounds, Saline
- WAYNE:** Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Eagles Lodge, Belleville
- WEXFORD:** Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
United Methodist Church, Cadillac

Farm Banks Set Record Profits in '92 Says Group

Commercial banks that lend to farmers had record profits in 1992, reflecting tighter management along with a strong performance by farmers and ranchers, according to the American Bankers Association.

The study of 3,886 banks that grant mostly agricultural loans showed earnings of more than \$2 billion in 1992, up 23 percent from \$1.6 billion the year before. The report, completed before the floods and rains soaked the Midwest and drought parched the Southeast, said the strong earnings should continue in 1993. The impact of those two disasters has yet to be determined, according to an *Associated Press* article.

Commercial banks had a record year in 1992, but the report noted that the farm banks did even better, posting a record return on assets, the highest in more than a decade.

"This bodes well for future growth in rural areas, since local economies are closely tied to credit available to farmers and ranchers," said James Chessen, the banking organization's chief economist. "It also marks the seventh year of recovery from the recession that nearly crippled the industry in the early 1980s."

The banks were able to take advantage of more financially sound customers, lower loan losses, more favorable interest rates and stricter lending standards, the report said.

The farm economy did well in 1992. Net farm income, at \$60 billion, rose 3.5 percent from the previous year and was near the record of 60.3 billion reported in 1990.

Farmers and farm businesses lowered their debt burdens. "In fact, farmers concentrated on paying down their debt and took less debt in 1992 by financing a greater portion of production out of current income," the report said.

As a result, the pace of lending slowed in 1992, increasing only 4.1 percent, compared with an 8.6 percent rate of increase in 1991. Still, "Demand for credit by high-quality borrowers was stronger in the agricultural sector than in other business sectors," Chessen said.

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1. Consumer's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance, HIAA 1989
2. U.S. News & World Report, Aug. 13, 1990
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16 MMPA Selects Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators

Photo: Courtesy of MMPA

Jon and Lynette Miller, of Elsie, in Clinton County, were recently selected as the state winning 1993 Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators (OYDC). They represented Michigan Milk Producers Association's (MMPA) District 6 and the Mid-Michigan Local in the annual OYDC conference held Aug. 18-20. The Millers were selected earlier in the year by fellow dairy farmers in their district to participate in the program.

As the state winning cooperators, the Millers will represent MMPA at various industry and Association activities. Mike and Kathleen LaPoe, from Clare, were selected as the runner-up cooperators. They represented MMPA's District 10 and the Clare Local in the contest.

Selection of the OYDC is based on the applicant's farming operations, farm-related and community activities and demonstrated leadership abilities.

The State OYDC Conference, held at MMPA headquarters in Novi, is designed to provide information about milk marketing activities, cooperatives, milk testing procedures and other current events within

the dairy industry. The contest has been held annually over the past 43 years.

"The OYDC program identifies outstanding young leaders in our organization and provides the opportunity for them to gain a greater understanding of milk marketing activities and MMPA," says Elwood Kirkpatrick, MMPA president.

The Millers milk 85 cows and farm 345 acres in the Elsie area. They recently purchased the operation from Lynette's parents, after having been in a family partnership for 14 years. The dairy facility was also recently remodeled with the addition of a new double four milking parlor, and additional freestalls.

All 11 of MMPA's district Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators will be officially recognized at the 1994 annual state delegate meeting to be held next March.

The Millers represented MMPA's District 6 which covers Ionia, Clinton and Shiawassee counties. MMPA is a milk marketing cooperative owned and controlled by approximately 3,600 dairy farmers.



Above (l-r) the Miller family includes Robin, Josh, Jon, Michelle, and Lynette.

1993 MMPA District Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators

- District 1..... Ann Arbor Local
Bruce & Jennie Breuninger.....Dexter
- District 2..... Battle Creek-Homer Local
James Luoma & Lori Laing .. East Leroy
- District 4.....Webberville Local
Michael & Rosemary Benjamin.....Perry
- District 5..... Alma Local
Neil and Darlene StrongRemus
- District 6..... Mid-Michigan Local
Jon and Lynette Miller..... Elsie
- District 7.....Tri-County Local
Kevin & Debbie Daley..... Lum
- District 8..... Deckerville Local
David & Carolyn Arndt Harbor Beach
- District 9..... Pigeon Local
Kurt & Patricia Anderson Pigeon
- District 10..... Clare Local
Michael & Kathleen LaPoeClare
- District 11..... Muskegon Local
William & Terri Stankenas Freesoil
- District 12..... West. U.P. Hauling Local
Barry & Michele Bahrman..... Skandia

August Farm Prices Slightly Higher

The Index of Prices Received by farmers in Michigan for all products as of Aug. 15, was 128 percent of its 1977 base, according to Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service, one percent higher than last month's level of 127 and four percent above 1992's index of 123.

The price index for all crops in Michigan rose 2 percent from July. Corn, wheat and hay prices were all higher, rising one, two and nine percent respectively. Oats and potato prices partially offset the all crops increase by dropping 4 percent from July.

The livestock and products index remained unchanged from last month. Increases in eggs and hogs completely offset price decreases in calves, cows, milk and cattle. Hogs increased two percent while calves and slaughter cows both fell three percent.

Nationally, the All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 142 percent of its 1977 base, up 1.4 percent from July 1993. Price gains from July for oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and apples more than offset price declines for potatoes, lettuce, soybeans, and milk.

The Index of Prices Paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for July was 197 percent of its 1977 average. The index 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 feeds.



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