NAFTA: A Response to H. Ross Perot

Lansing was a recent rallying point for Ross Perot and U.S. Sen. Don Reigle (D-Fla.) 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 farmers 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.

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 strips 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 Center
- Camden Frontier
- Hastings
- Lenawee AM
- Lenawee PM
- Oliver
- Onsted
- Whitmore-Prescott
- Coopersville

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.
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 fire 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 briefing on the environment.

Forestry officials say the logging is necessary, while the trees still have economic, value-added 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 is provided 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 staked payment through other appeals, but an Arizona Superior Court judge upheld the verdict earlier this summer and ordered the UW to pay lettuce grower Bruce Church, Inc., $2 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. But says 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 spokesman says 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 found a standoff between apple growers’ claims that no proof linked Alar to cancer and claims that Washington apple growers failed to prove that a “60 Minutes” broadcast was 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.”

**Michigan Farm News**

Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460.
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 likely require hearings that will not be completed until sometime next year. 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 in mind. Neither will the simplifying 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.

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

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 Farm Branch County
5. American Farm Bureau Federation Washington, D.C.
6. Michigan Farm Bureau Lansing, 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.
14. Pigeon Cooperative Elevator

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

Precipitation totals for mid-August through mid-September reached the 10-inch mark in several southern counties 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 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.

### Michigan's September Fruit Report

The Sept. 1 forecast of grape production in Michigan was 4.9 tons per acre.

The state pear output was pegged at 135,000 tons, 27 percent above 1992. The California prune crop was forecast at 27,000 tons, down from 38,100 tons in 1992. About 90 percent of the prune crop is grown in California, Oregon and Washington and produces over 96 percent of the nation's prune crop. The Michigan 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 was completed by Sept. 1.

### Marketing of a New Tomato Successful

Marketing of a New Tomato in Columbus and Philadelphia has been three times more successful that expected. Bob Precheur, vegetable specialist at Ohio State University, notes that the Michigan grower test plots yielded an average of 5.2 more bushels of wheat per acre, an increase was 8.5 bushels per acre! Now is the time to treat your wheat with ACA to gain your fall starter fertilizer to boost your yields.

**GET THE ACA ADVANTAGE!**

- **Better plant stand establishment**
- **Stronger more fibrous root system**
- **Increased winter survival**
- **Plants are more vigorous and productive**
- **Easy and convenient to apply**
- **Enhanced fall and early spring root growth**
- **Enhanced drought tolerance**
- **Affordable and effective**
- **Increased yields**

**ROOTS TO PROFITABILITY**

CONCENTRATE

INCREASE WHEAT YIELDS WITH ACA!!!

### Good Crop Year Likely if Rains Allow Complete Harvest

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.
Proper Fall Arrivial Preparation Critical for Newcme Cattle

Avoid stress and shipping fever in incoming cattle

Autumn’s cooler temperatures, shorter days and turning leaves foreshadow the cold long, densely-rained days and turning leaves foreshadow the cold long, densely-rained weather. Energy-dense ration and take longer to step up a full ration than yearlings, according to Leininger. He also recommends a hemophilus vaccine because of high incoming cattle numbers during the busiest, most stressful seasons of the year, to know the calves’ history and what they are accustomed to eating.

Both veterinarians used Novaxel 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 drugs and give the right amount of drug for the right amount of time,” Leininger declares.

Don’t “Buy” Problems

Dale L. Kurtz, DVM, at Pioneer Animal Clinic in Charlotte, believes in buying preconditioned calves for the feedlot. These calves, which have had some vaccinations, build up their doses 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 control. Large, enough space for both separate and mixed penning, will have a profound effect on the degree of disease seen in the lot.

Water, too, is key, and some calves are not used to drinking out of a tank. Kurtz believes it’s important to calculate the amount of water calves get on the feedlot. 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, 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 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.”

“BRD, by nature, are prone to respiratory problems,” says Zane Leininger, DVM, at the Colorado Veterinary Clinic in LaVeta. 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.

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 diseases already have been diagnosed in a 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 from the group and initiating treatment. Wait a day means getting behind on treatment, which can mean the difference between 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 prevents the progression of lung lesions, and it has a pretty broad spectrum of efficacy. It definitely fits well into a treatment program,” they say.

Leininger adds that his practice also prescribes Novaxel frequently. “It’s a good product with a low dose and no withdrawal period. It doesn’t appear to cause any muscle irritation,” he explains.

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”
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. These are substantial numbers 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 Sept. 30 -- be watching for it. The stock 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 surprises. Be ready to move if the conditions warrant it.

**Market Outlook...**

### Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Corn</th>
<th>Soybeans</th>
<th>Hogs</th>
<th>Cattle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>Higher Prices</td>
<td>Lower Prices</td>
<td>Lower Prices</td>
<td>Lower Prices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP: Topping</td>
<td>BT: Bottoming</td>
<td>9: Unsure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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.

#### 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.

Table 3, that the market over did the downward adjustment. Strategy:

Consider waiting to price unpriced 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 on 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USDA</th>
<th>USDA</th>
<th>CORN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn Acreage (Million Acres)</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Set-Aside and Diverted</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Planted</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Harvested</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu./A. Harvested</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>111.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks (Million Bushels)</td>
<td>9,016</td>
<td>10,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Use:**

- Feed: 4878 5250 5100
- Food/Seed: 1545 1510 1509
- Total Domestic: 6332 6790 6690
- Total Export: 1591 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, S/Bu: $2.37 $2.07 $2.35
- Source: USDA & Hilker

### Table 2: Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For WHEAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HILKER</th>
<th>USDA</th>
<th>WHEAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Acreage (Million Acres)</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Set-Aside and Diverted</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks (Million Bushels)</td>
<td>9,016</td>
<td>10,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Use:**

- Food: 789 830 845
- Seed: 94 98 94
- Feed: 253 274 325
- Total Domestic: 1136 1117 1264
- Total Export: 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, S/Bu: $3.00 $3.24 $3.25
- Source: USDA & Hilker

### Table 3: Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For SOYBEANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HILKER</th>
<th>USDA</th>
<th>SOYBEANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soybean Acreage (Million Acres)</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Planted</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Harvested</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu./A. Harvested</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>111.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks (Million Bushels)</td>
<td>9,016</td>
<td>10,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Demand:**

- Crushings: 1254 1280 1240
- Imports: 285 270 245
- Total Use: 2354 2418 2396
- Total Supply: 2490 2455 2493

**Production:**

- 1986 2472 2389
- 2416 2472 2389
- 1981 2197 2005
- 3 2 2

**Use:**

- Crushings: 1254 1280 1240
- Imports: 285 270 245
- Total Use: 2354 2418 2396
- Total Supply: 2490 2455 2493
New State Unemployment Insurance Reporting Requirements

John D. Jones, Telfarm Director
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University

New reporting requirements from Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) will require Form 1017, "Employer's Quarterly Wage Detail Report," to be submitted in a very specific machine scannable format. This new requirement affects all taxpayers who must comply with Michigan's unemployment insurance law. This includes any farmer employing 10 or more workers in each of 20 weeks during the current or preceding calendar year, or having a cash payroll of $20,000 or more in any calendar quarter of the current or preceding calendar year.

For enterprises that are "non-farm" (such as packing other farmers produce) you must comply when total annual payroll for that enterprise reaches $1,000.

Effective dates and procedures

The first and second quarters in 1993 will be accepted by MESC under the old format even though the reporting requirements were written to apply from Jan. 1, 1993. So on or before Oct. 25, 1993, employers should be set up to provide their own machine scannable form or type the information on an official MESC scannable form (see sample MESC form lower left).

The data on the new report must appear in precise locations on each page as specified by MESC. Subscribing Telfarm clients are provided with this service at no additional charge with their quarterly labor summary.

To complete MESC Form 1017, the following information is needed:

- Your "legal" farm name and address
- Your MESC number
- Names and social security numbers for all workers
- Wages paid to each worker for the past quarter

Federal and Michigan Unemployment Insurance Exemptions

Some employers are exempt from Michigan Unemployment Compensation tax. Generally, services or wages subject to the federal FUTA laws are also subject to the Michigan laws with a few exceptions.

Current Exemptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Federal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents employed by a son or daughter</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children employed by a parent</td>
<td>Exempt under 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse employed by spouse</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cash Wages (pay't-in-kind)</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Wages (per employee)</td>
<td>Taxable to $9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident alien workers</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-resident temporary workers on exchange &quot;J&quot; or &quot;F&quot; visas</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Taxable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with restricted employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Identify any employers that may be exempt from either or both the state or the federal unemployment insurance program. To pay the minimum unemployment tax, be sure to delete these exempt employers from your payroll before completing the appropriate form. Call the Telfarm Center, your local Extension office or your Michigan Employment Security Commission office if you have further questions.

Market Outlook...continued

CATTLE

The September Cattle-On-Feed Report was released late Sept. 17 -- just after the due date for this report. Go back and look at the numbers if you haven't seen them. One thing is clear, and that is there will be more cattle on feed than for the same period last year for the next few months.

Strategy:

- Keep current, the market is likely to float sideways for a while before gradually inching upwards towards the end of the year.

New Monthly On-Feed Report

The USDA plans to introduce a new monthly on-feed report starting in January, replacing the 7-state and 13-state forms.

The new report will be in two parts:  
(1) on-feed estimates for feedlots with 1,000 head capacity or over; and
(2) on-feed estimates for feedlots with capacity of under 1,000 head. Both reports will be issued on a monthly basis throughout 1994. Starting in 1995, only the report covering 1,000 head plus capacities will be reported monthly; on-feed data in smaller yards will be collected twice a year (Jan. 1, July 1). Weight breakdowns will be dropped.

As usual, there are good and bad things about these changes. The good aspect is that it appears the report will cover a larger geographical area, which will be more representative of the country. The bad part of the change is that they will be dropping the quarterly weight breakdowns.

For me, the weight breakdowns were the most valuable aspect of the reports. Just an on-feed number tells us nothing about when the cattle may be coming to market due to the infinite weight combinations that may be out there.

But don't think for a second that the big slaughter companies won't know. The more equalized the information set, the more market power the producers have. It is not clear to me who the producers are the winners in this change.
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 carrying heavy objects that can alter your balance.

Falls are 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. 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.

Other tips for preventing falls:

- 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.
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.


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 minimum aerobic capacity of 220 minus 55, or 165.)

- Your target heart rate, 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 rate 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:

5. Angela Lanebury's Positive Moves. Flexibility for older adults. 46 minutes.
7. Dancin' Grannies: Mature Fitness. Trim and Tone. Low impact aerobic and toning for older beginner and intermediate exercisers: 50 minutes.

Based on information provided in the Hope Health Letter, Vol. XIII, No. 9, September 1993.
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 once;
- 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 generally 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 brewe 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 beers 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 diptheria 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 step throat the earlier the treatment the better added Dr. Dudek. The stage that step 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 your 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.

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 at the Kellogg Center.

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 its 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 to the investigators contributing 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 farming work with the largest number of cancers affecting the skin and lip.

Those cancers are attributable to farm work with the largest number of cancers affecting the skin and lip.

"Farmers used to wear these wide-brimmed hats," Rosensman 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 in the diagnosis of skin cancer," Rosensman 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? Is this what we’re trying to find out now," Rosensman 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.

MARCH 1993

"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 called "UPRISeNet." The network allows the 12 family practices sites to share information, not only the mammogram project but all the latest medical information.

A 1989 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services allowed UPRISeNet to start up. Since then, it has 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 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 kellogg Cancer Control Program and the MSU/Kalamazoo Community Oncology Program and the MSU College of Medical Education.

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.

THE ROAD TO DIAGNOSIS

Using a $15,000 grant from the Cancer Center at MSU, the staff at the MSU College of Human Medicine’s Upper Peninsula campus is studying whether distance from a hospital or clinic prevents a woman from getting cancer detecting mammograms.

The project works like this: Any woman, age 40 or older, who visits a physician at one of 12 family practice sites is given a questionnaire. The questions help her identify whether she is in need of a mammogram and also ask if distance is a barrier to getting one. The woman is then referred to a lab where mammograms are done.

"After that, it’s a simple matter to how many mammograms were actually done, compared to how many recommendations were made," said Nan Kreher, coordinator of research at the UP campus. "We can verify by just receiving the lab report."

Kreher said a recent pilot study showed that nearly 98% of women did NOT think distance was a barrier to getting a mammogram. Will this study reflect that?

THEMEDICAL FOCUS

Summary of American Cancer Society Recommendations

For the Early Detection of Cancer in People Showing No Evidence of Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test or Procedure</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Pap Test**        | F   | 20-40 Every3 years | 1 in the lower peninsula. Health practitioners share information on the mammogram project through a computer network system called "UPRISeNet." The network allows the 12 family practices sites to share information, not only the mammogram project but all the latest medical information. A 1989 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services allowed UPRISeNet to start up. Since then, it has 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 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 kellogg Cancer Control Program and the MSU/Kalamazoo Community Oncology Program and the MSU College of Medical Education. 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. **The road to diagnosis Using a $15,000 grant from the Cancer Center at MSU, the staff at the MSU College of Human Medicine’s Upper Peninsula campus is studying whether distance from a hospital or clinic prevents a woman from getting cancer detecting mammograms. The project works like this: Any woman, age 40 or older, who visits a physician at one of 12 family practice sites is given a questionnaire. The questions help her identify whether she is in need of a mammogram and also ask if distance is a barrier to getting one. The woman is then referred to a lab where mammograms are done. "After that, it’s a simple matter to how many mammals were actually done, compared to how many recommendations were made," said Nan Kreher, coordinator of research at the UP campus. "We can verify by just receiving the lab report." Kreher said a recent pilot study showed that nearly 98% of women did NOT think distance was a barrier to getting a mammogram. Will this study reflect that? **The road to diagnosis Using a $15,000 grant from the Cancer Center at MSU, the staff at the MSU College of Human Medicine’s Upper Peninsula campus is studying whether distance from a hospital or clinic prevents a woman from getting cancer detecting mammograms. The project works like this: Any woman, age 40 or older, who visits a physician at one of 12 family practice sites is given a questionnaire. The questions help her identify whether she is in need of a mammogram and also ask if distance is a barrier to getting one. The woman is then referred to a lab where mammograms are done. "After that, it’s a simple matter to how many mammals were actually done, compared to how many recommendations were made," said Nan Kreher, coordinator of research at the UP campus. "We can verify by just receiving the lab report." Kreher said a recent pilot study showed that nearly 98% of women did NOT think distance was a barrier to getting a mammogram. Will this study reflect that? **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.

ANNUAL PER CAPITA PURCHASE
OF U.S. GOODS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Region</th>
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<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

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.

NAFTA: Response to Perot

continued page 10 see:"
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 combine during 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 making sure the snapping rolls aren't worn. Soyke says the combine head is the most 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. "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."

Moving past the head, feeder house chains are adjusted for proper tension, and feeder house speed is at the right speeds. "It's particularly important 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."

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, Perot: NAFTA makes no changes to our stringent U.S. standards. Estimated Annual Pesticide Use in the Great Lakes Watershed (in pounds) - from GAO Report

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<td>560</td>
<td>6:15 am</td>
<td>12:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WKCG</td>
<td>Scottville</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>5:45 am</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCSY</td>
<td>South Haven</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>7:15 am</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRTC</td>
<td>Tawas City</td>
<td>104.7</td>
<td>6:25 am</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLKM</td>
<td>Three Rivers</td>
<td>1510/95.9</td>
<td>6:15 am</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTCM</td>
<td>Traverse City</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>5:55 am</td>
<td>12:40 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Station sign-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.

"NAFTA: Response to Perot"

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

Facts:
* NAFTA does not exempt Mexican or Canadian vehicles or drivers from our environmental or safety standards.
* All U.S. regulations regarding trucks (size, weight, safety 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 those used in the United States.

Perot: There should be a trial period for the NAFTA, during which any country could withdraw from the agreement. Perot: NAFTA makes no changes to our stringent U.S. standards.

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."
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 cattlemen 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 live stock back onto nearly 900 acres each year," Knirk said. "Needless to say, it's critical that we have these green stops 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, 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 rye, 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 strips have shown no chemical stress, which is proof positive that chemicals, manure or soils aren't ending up in 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 are 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."

Looking Out For The Environment

Managing Crop Residues

Conservation tillages have long times to improve soil, conserve moisture and provide food and cover for wildlife. It's also an easy way to prevent soil erosion and protect soils. Surprise: water runoff is reduced by field runoff. About 60 percent of the environmental compliance plans signed by farmers include some form of conservation tillage.

The key to protecting runoff water is proximity to spoilage.

Understanding how far runoff water travels is crucial in determining the required length of strips. Soil tests on your fields will show the impact of tillage and high water runoff, reducing the amount of nutrients and residue on your fields will have on the amount of water needed to transport the nutrients. [Note: Add a reference to the Soil Conservation Service for more information on how to perform soil tests.]

The Night System For You

The proper tillage system for your farm and your tillage system will depend on your soil type, weather conditions and tillage practices. If you rotate your crops, you will need tillage practices that will help you improve your soil. [Note: Add a reference to the Soil Conservation Service for more information on how to rotate crops.]

In addition, the key to protecting water runoff is to have a balance of a variety of distribution systems. [Note: Add a reference to the Soil Conservation Service for more information on how to balance distribution systems.]

The Right System For You

DMI Introduces New Precision Row Marker

DMI Inc., announces the availability of a new new Row Marker which can improve the efficiency of your fertilizer placement by incorporating striping techniques. The new DMI Row Markers are designed to be mounted on DMI Nutri-Plac® 9250 mounted or 4250 pull-type applicators with no alterations.

Indexing is an environmentally sound practice of placing the seed in a precise relationship to banded dry fertilizer in pre-marked "strips" of soil. This results in optimum absorption of nutrients. The DMI Row Marking aids in the process by marking crop rows for precise tracking and optimizing the 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" spaced rows of row, single-fold rows 20' 3250; 12 row, double-fold rows 32.5' 3250 and 4250, and 8 row 38" spacing (double-fold fits 37.5' 3250). A special sequencing valve allows any combination of row markers between the left and right hand rows. Hydraulic flow control sets raising and lowering speed independently. Marker disc blade is 1/4" in diameter. For more information, contact Tobi Siegel at DMI, Inc., phone (309) 965-2233.
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 swath 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.
The following tips were provided by CASE-IH, 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 rpm 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 vanes 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.

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**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 jawhub to clutch holder face and pilot surfaces and reset to recommended spring height setting.
   b. Increase lubrication frequency to 50 hours.
13. Check stalk roll frames for cracks or other damage.
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 real drive chain (5/16" to 5/8" free movement).
3. Check operation of reed 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.
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.)
21. 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.)
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.
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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 NAFFA. Make sure you attend your county Farm Bureau's annual meeting to discuss and vote on major policy recommendations. The MFB Policy Development Committee is preparing 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.
Orner Community Building, Orner

BERGENE: Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.
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.

CASS: Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.
S.W. MI Univ., Matthews Lib., Dowagiac

CHARLEVOIX: Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
Writing 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

EASTON: Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
American Legion Hall, Charlotte

EMMET: Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
VFW Post, Harbor Springs

HAWATHALAND: Oct. 25, 7 p.m.
Terrace Bay Inn, Escanaba

JOSCO: Oct. 13, 7 p.m.
Masonic Temple, Tawas City

IRON RANGE: Oct. 22, 6:30 p.m.
CST, United Sportsman's Club, Merrimack

LAPEER: Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m.
County Center Building, Lapeer

LIVINGSTON: Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Woodshire Building, Fowlerville

MAC-MUCE: Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
Blairney Inn, Blairney Park

MACOM: Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
St. Mary Mystical Church, Armada

MCCOSTA: Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Mecosta Senior Center, Mecosta

MENOMINEE: Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
CST, Belgium Town Hall, Stevenson

MISSAKAUKE: Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Falmouth Elementary School, Falmouth

MONTCALM: Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Lourdes Parish Hall, Stanion

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

OCENA: 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

PRESCIE 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

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MMPA Selects Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators

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.

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 for 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 increases for used vehicles and feeds.