Soybean Producers Power Great Lakes Vessel

What you may have just run through your combine this fall, was also running through the fuel tanks of the Grayling, a 75-foot, Great Lakes research vessel, this past summer.

Soydiesel, produced through an esterification process of soybean oil, was used in a blend of 80 percent conventional diesel and 20 percent soydiesel to power the Grayling's four, 855-cubic inch, Cummins diesel engines. Fuel consumption for the vessel averages 28 gallons per hour, according to the vessel's captain, Clifford Wilson.

The Grayling, operated by the National Biological Survey, conducts fish population studies across Lake Huron, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Two 2,000-gallon fuel tanks were filled with 4,000 gallons of soydiesel in June and then custom blended on board with regular diesel from two 3,000-gallon tanks as the fuel was used.

Performance and fuel consumption did not suffer, according to Wilson, and oil usage actually decreased. More importantly, however, Wilson said researchers and vessel crew members were pleasantly surprised with the elimination of the diesel fuel odor, which was replaced with a much more pleasant smell similar to that of roasted beans.

The Grayling, a 75-foot research vessel powered by Soydiesel, was the subject of a recent news conference while in port at Saugatuck.

"Crew members and researchers immediately noticed the difference - you can't smell petroleum fuel on the vessel anymore," Wilson said. "All you smell is the soydiesel and the exhaust which smells more like fumes from a restaurant than typical exhaust."

Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee Executive Director Keith Reinholt attributes the odor reduction to a reduction of hydrocarbon particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds that come from the exhaust stack. The fact that soydiesel also splash blends very well with conventional diesel made the Grayling an ideal vessel to experiment with.

"When you blend soydiesel with a petroleum product, it splash blends very well and won't separate," Reinholt said. "The fact that they compost so well may also be an advantage."

Disaster Relief Assistance Approved - Rules Changed

The U.S. House and Senate have passed legislation authorizing funding for disaster relief assistance for farmers suffering losses due to wet and warm weather conditions, which is appropriate the funds.

One significant change in the program, according to Jim Byrum, executive director for the state ASCS, is the reduction of benefits for producers who did not plant or harvest a crop. He says the change will eliminate the abuses of similar programs in the past.

"Producers who make every effort to plant and harvest obviously have more expenses, and suffer more loss, than a farmer who doesn't do either," said Byrum. "Under the old rules, there was virtually an incentive for farmers to leave crop in the field since they received the same disaster benefits regardless."

Eligibility Requirements:
- Must have suffered losses of 35 percent or more if the crop was insured.
- Must have suffered losses of 40 percent or more if the crop was not insured.

Reimbursement Rate:
Reimbursed for the portion of crop loss greater than 35 percent or 40 percent (whichever is appropriate) at a rate of 85 percent of the established price for the crop.

Producers need to contact their local ASCS office to find out the qualifications and what information and documentation will be required, according to MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy.

"Farmers should complete the documentation as soon as possible, so that they're prepared when the disaster program is ready to be administered," Almy said.

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Harvest in Full Swing

The harvest season has been picking up speed, weather permitting. Delays due to rain have been somewhat advantageous, since a late frost has allowed many crops to reach full maturity.

As of this week, Michigan Ag Statistics was calling corn harvest for silage 75 percent complete, while corn harvest for grain stood at 15 percent complete. Soybean harvest was getting started with 15 percent of the acreage harvested. Dry bean harvest was 75 percent complete, while potato harvest stood at 80 percent complete. Sugar beet harvest activity had also just gotten underway in the Thumb and Saginaw Valley areas.

Wheat planting was running slightly behind, with just 55 percent planted compared to a five-year average of 65 percent.

Apple and concord grape harvest was also in full swing, with some hail damage reported in southwestern Michigan.
The Index of Prices Received by farmers in Michigan for all products as of Sept. 15 was 132, was one point less than August. Steers/heifers prices increased 1 percent, which added to their value for slaughter cow and calves decreased 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Hogs prices were down 10 percent from August and 22 percent below last September. Milk prices were up 1 percent to $13.30 per cwt.

Nationally, the September All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 134 percent of the 1997 base, down three points from August. The index was up 17 percent over September 1993. The index was 12 percent above the August 1994 index for the most part, their research protocols in place. However, in the words of Dr. Karen Chou, located in Anthony Hall, storage areas at the MSU mink research facility were also destroyed.

The recent capture of Rodney Coronado, wanted on federal charges for vandalism and damage to MSU's Mink Research Center in February 1992, brought a bittersweet sigh of relief to many people at Michigan State University.

Coronado was arrested on an Indian reservation in Arizona by U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms officials, on a five-count indictment, including destruction, ex- tortion and possession of stolen property.

Those charges stem from an incident that destroyed over 30 years of research and records, when Coronado allegedly had streaked into the offices of Dr. Richard Aulerich and Dr. Karen Chou, located in Anthony Hall, and torched the contents. Equipment and storage areas at the MSU mink research facility were also destroyed.

More than $200,000 worth of damage resulted in the first-ever incidence of animal rights activism activities at MSU. Coronado is suspected of being a member of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Ironically, Aulerich and Chou's research focused on nutrition and the decline of the natural mink population.

According to MSU's Animal Science chairperson, Maynard Hogberg, Aulerich and Chou have done a good job of recovering, but for the most part, their research protocols in place. However, previous failures in getting inclusion in the index was down one point from April 1994 but four points higher than July 1993. The July index was most influenced by a drop in prices since April for feeder cattle and calves, feed grains, feeder pigs and hogs.

USDA Reorganization and Crop Insurance Approved

The House passed by voice vote a resolution that incorporates an agreement between House and Senate leaders on both crop insurance and USDA reorganization. House approval is expected soon. The reform measure reduces the number of agencies from 43 to 29 and will close 1,200 of the department's 3,700 field offices.

Under USDA reorganization, House members mandated a new undersecretary post for food safety and the authorization for seven other undersecretaries and three assistant secretaries. The bill also mandates an office of risk assessment and cost benefit, and authorizes a consolidated farm service agency (CSFA). Farmers Home Administration committee members were also eliminated.

The bill retains the Conservation Reserve Program under the guidance of the new CSFA and gives states the authority to request a vote on any CSFA county committee that is scheduled for elimination under streamlining recommendations.

The agreement included catastrophic crop loss coverage based on a formula that will be calculated at 50 percent of yield multiplied by 60 percent of market price for crop years 1995 to 1998. Beginning in 1999, coverage will be based on a formula of 50 percent of yield times 55 percent of price.

To participate in Farmers Home Administration loan programs and price support programs, farmers must purchase minimum crop insurance for $50 per crop/county up to $200 per county with a total cap of $60 per farm, regardless of how many counties are involved.

GM's L-9 Form, employers will be able to accept Form L-15 as proof of employment eligibility until March 20, 1995. The delay was the decision of the INS to give itself time to process applications for the new replacement cards. Applications for the new cards may be obtained from the INS by calling 1-800-755-0777.

Gao Calls Food Safety System Flawed

The General Accounting Office -- the investigative arm of Congress -- criticized the nation's food safety system, saying it is weak, ineffective and rarely punishes persons or companies who violate food safety laws. A who violates food safety laws. A recent report by the U.S. General Accounting Office found that the food safety system, which is overseen by the Agriculture Department, the Commerce Department, the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, is too fragmented, lacks enforcement muscle, and needs to be completely overhauled.

The report said despite 21,439 reported food safety violations between 1989 and 1992, only one case was prosecuted to the point of imprisonment. The General Accounting Office said the system is flawed because the government instead relies too heavily on warning letters to violators that carry no teeth. The reports were critical of U.S. agriculture's reliance on crop protection chemicals and animal drugs.

ADM Chief Andreas -- "Farm Policy Hurts Exports"

Achier Daniels Midland Chairman Dwayne Andreas said paying U.S. farmers not to produce is a "world disaster" that hurts farm exports. "Every time we take an acre out, another country steps in and replaces it," Andreas told members of the National Agri-Marketing Association during an issues meeting in Chicago.

Andreas said U.S. agricultural exports of $40 billion could double if the government allowed farmers to produce as much as they could and paid them a fair price for their products. He said the assumption that lower production means higher prices is wrong.

Older Consumers Prefer Turkey

Older Americans are eating more turkey, but a lack of interest from younger generations has contributed to flat turkey consumption in the last few years. These are the findings of a study done by the NPD Group for the National Turkey Federation (NTF). The study found females over age 65 and males over 55 are the only age groups that consistently increased the amount of turkey they bought during the last four years.

"Children are not as fond of turkey, and they're tomorrow's consumer," said Teresa Farnety, vice president of marketing and consumer information for NTF. "We need to get them involved. Although turkey sales have doubled since 1985, many consumers still think of turkey only at Thanksgiving and Christmas."

According to the survey, nearly one-quarter of all turkey consumed in the U.S. is bought during the holiday season. The report also reflected on how turkey consumption patterns have changed in recent years. In 1994, the study found that 51 percent of all turkey bought was used in sandwiches. The National Eating Trends Service compiled the study by monitoring 2,000 households.

Byron FFA Hosting Farm Toy Show and Sale

The Byron FFA Alumni Chapter and Byron FFA Chapter will be hosting a Farm Toy Show and Sale on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Byron High School cafeteria. More than 15 exhibitors are expected, with over 900 square feet of exhibit space.

There will be a $1 admission fee for adults, while children under 12 are admitted free of charge. A concessions stand will also be open. Two proceeds from the event will be used to support local FFA member activities. Call Dave Wyrick at (810) 266-4620 for more information.

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Amidst continued controversy and investigation of USDA Secretary Mike Espy's actions, the post of Secretary of Agriculture is at stake. The agency is supposed to regulate, the secretary announced his resignation effective Dec. 31. Espy admitted he had been "careless with some of the details" of his personal business, but said he broke no laws and committed to four major reforms in the ESA: apology for letting President Clinton and with some of the details of his personal announcement his resignation effective Dec. 31. Poultry giant Tyson Foods played a big role in Espy's apparent undoing. Espy has been in Espy's女朋友, Patricia Dempsey, has also resulted in accusations of government ethics rules violations.

Attention has now shifted to finding a replacement for the USDA post by Jan. 1, 1995. Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger was rumored to be at the top of the "Wash-ington short list," according to a Knight Ridder News report. Since he is already fa-miliar with USDA's current agenda, Rominger is from fiscally conservative background, also has strong ties to conserva-tionists.

Other names in the rumor mill include Indiana Congresswoman Jill Long, a current member of the House Ag Committee; for-mer North Dakota governor and farmer, George Sinner, who almost got the job; and Oklahoma Congressman Mike Synar, who recently lost his primary race for re-election, says Knight Ridder News.

Regardless of the final decision, MFB President Jack Laurie believes it's critical that the next USDA secretary understand the role that so-called minor crops like fruits and vegetables play in the total scheme of agriculture. "We think the next agriculture secretary should be someone who has a broad under-standing of total agriculture, including both crop and livestock production," Laurie said.

Laurie said administrative capabilities will also be important qualities in a new secre-tary. "With the recent reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it's impor-tant that a strong leader be in place to guide the reorganization through its formative stages of development," he said. A strong belief in the importance of world trade to the U.S. "must also be critical," he said. "I'm confident that whoever the president selects will have that commitment to the value of world trade to our agricultural industry," he said. "President Clinton has worked dili-gently to bring both the NAFTA and the GATT world trade agreement to reality, and I would expect he would select someone who would share that line of thinking."

Governors Backing Ethanol in Legal Battle

Michigan Gov. John Engler caught national interest and support recently when he an-nounced that the Governors' Ethanol Coalition, which represents 13 corn growing states, will join the legal fight against oil interests who have filed suit against the Environmental Protection Agency and its rule to include ethanol in a clean air program. Farm Bureau also has filed an intent to file a friend-of-the-court brief in the case brought by the American Petroleum Institute.

"Both the EPA and the U.S. Justice Department have indicated to me and the Governors' Ethanol Coalition that they share my confidence that the outcome of the court case will be positive," said MDA Director Gene Cayer. "Unfortunately, that the case could not be decided before the rule was scheduled to take effect."

Health Care - Time for a "Decent Burial"

Health care reform legislation is dead — may God have mercy on its soul — for the year and departing Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell is almost resigned to that fact. Mitchell, blamed House and Senate Republicans for the reform bill's demise and is ready to re-focus his attention on other pressing issues, including passage of the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade Uruguay Round agreement.

House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) told President Clinton yesterday that if health care bill was brought up at this late date, the all-important GATT bill would almost certainly be killed. Other congressional members have agreed with his statement and said Congress should try again next year to pass a reform measure.

"The country owes you and the first lady a debt for your leadership," said House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-Mich.) in a letter to Clinton. "But it is time to give health care reform a decent burial and provide for its rebirth." Dingell blamed "greedy special interests" for defeating the reform effort.

Insurance Tax Deduction on the Line — Again

The demise of health care reform in Congress may spell doom for the 25 percent income tax deduction for health insurance premiums paid by farmers and other self-employed people. The deduction expired Dec. 31, 1993.

Farm Bureau has championed a 100 percent tax deduction for the self-employed. During consideration of health care legislation this year, all the major proposals (including the administration's) have contained language either deleting or exempting self-employed people for self-employed people. Legislation is being introduced to restore the 25 percent deduction for the 1994 tax year, according to Al Almy, MFB director of public affairs. "Whether or not Congress will enact it in 100 working days that it will be in session this year remains to be seen," he said. "We're pointing out that the expiration of this provision would cause considerable hardship and would result in more people being uninsured."

GATT Bill Finalized — Passage Expected

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee announced yesterday that they had agreed on terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Uruguay Round implementing bill and that the legislation would pass both houses before the planned mid-October congressional adjournment.

Farmers Call for Changes in Endangered Species Rules

Reforming the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is one of the prime goals of Farm Bureau and a coalition in Washington, D.C. Congress is beginning to hear the horror stories of people running into conflicts with the ESA, according to Al Almy, director of public affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau. "The move is on to a common-sense, real-ity-based reauthorization of the ESA," he said.

Farm Bureau is a member of the National Endan-gered Species Act Reform Coalition, and committed to four major reforms in the ESA including:

- □ Determining which species should be protected must be based on sound scien-cence and subject to peer review.
- □ The act must be implemented in the open with maximum opportunity for public comment.
- □ The socioeconomic impact of pro-posed ESA decisions must be fully considered and the options with the least adverse socio-economic impacts must be selected.
- □ Private property rights, including water rights, must be respected and compensation be provided where the use and value of property has been diminished substantially.
- □ "If somebody is going to lose the value of their land for society's goals, then the pub-lic should bear the cost of that goal," said Almy. "Only then will we be able to get a true measure of the cost of the ESA."

Reauthorization of the ESA has been put on hold until the next Congress. Farm Bureau is supporting a recently introduced bill that would prohibit any further listing of endan-gered species or habitat creation until the legislation is passed. Reauthorization of the ESA is one of the prime goals of Farm Bureau and a coalition in Washington, D.C.

NAFTA's Impact on U.S. Agriculture After Six Months?

Information is now available on U.S. trade with Mexico after the first six months of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Overall, U.S. exports have risen by 17 percent, to $42.5 billion, in the first six months of this year. On an annual basis, this will mean exports should reach $41.4 billion, a half billion dollars more than last year. Imports of Mexican agricultural products have also increased, by 3.9 percent. On an annual basis, 1994 imports from Mexico should be around $2.9 billion, which results in a projected U.S. trade surplus of $1.2 billion in farm products.

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30-Day Outlook - Average to Above Average Temps. and Precip. Expected

Michigan Weather Summary

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3D-Day Outlook - Average to Above Average Temps. and Precip. Expected

Michigan Dry Bean Stocks Down

Commercial elevators in Michigan held 590,000 bushels (ctw) of dry beans in storage as of Aug. 31, 1994, according to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. This stock level is 500,000 ctw. less than last year. The quantity on hand included 830,000 ctw. of navy beans and 120,000 ctw. of all other classes. This compares to 1,370,000 ctw. of navy beans and 80,000 ctw. of all other classes on hand a year ago.

Stocks on hand Dec. 31, 1993 included 3,550,000 ctw. of navy beans and 950,000 ctw. of all other classes. Carryover stocks account for all beans in commercial off-farm storage and include a total portion of non-Michigan grown products and 1994 crop beans. An estimate of the quantity of dry beans held on farms is not included in this report.

Dry bean stocks are not included in the USDA Agricultural Statistics System of grain stocks reports. Dry bean stock data included in this report were tabulated from administrative reports supplied by elevator operators filed monthly with the MDA. Dry bean stock reports are issued twice a year and reflect quantities held in commercial storage on Aug. 31 and Dec. 31. Stocks on hand as of Dec. 31, 1994 will be released at 3 p.m. on Jan. 26, 1995.

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Michigan Farm News

October 15, 1994

For most agricultural crops, September weather was near ideal, with mean temperatures in most areas from 1-4 degrees above normal and precipitation generally remaining well below normal levels. The warm temperatures brought numerous summer crops to near maturity by month's end.

On a historical note, if you consider the present growing season's weather as being anything but normal, you have a keen sense of climatological judgement. Preliminary data indicates that the June-August traditionally hot period was the wettest on record since 1985 for the state as a whole (this would come as no surprise to those in the central Lower Peninsula, where rainfall was heaviest).

In addition, August mean temperature for the state was the coolest on record, a factor which undoubtedly led to slow rates of crop growth and development.

The outlook for the coming weeks is a difficult call, with medium-range computer guidance calling for a highly variable, transitional jet stream pattern. The new 30-day National Weather Service outlook for October calls for temperatures and precipitation to average near to above normal. The 90-day outlook (October-December) continues to call for slightly cooler and wetter than normal conditions. Because of the difficulties noted above, confidence in these outlooks is considered lower than average.

Michigan 1994 Small Grain Production a Mixed Bag

Near normal planting and growing conditions were widespread throughout most of the small grain growing regions in 1994, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service.

 Favorable growing conditions in 1994 allowed small grain yields to improve from last year for wheat and oats. Barley and rye yields, however, were down marginally from 1993 levels.

Michigan's winter wheat production was estimated at 30.7 million bushels, up 39 percent from last year. The crop was harvested from 580,000 acres with a yield of 53 bushels per acre.

Oat production, at 6.3 million bushels, was down 12 percent from 1993. Yields averaged 57 bushels per acre for the 110,000 acres harvested, compared to an average yield of 55 bushels per acre a year ago.

Barley yields dropped three bushels per acre from last year to 53 bushels. However, harvested acreage increased from 18,000 to 32,000 acres, causing production to rise 8 percent to 1.6 million bushels.

Rye production was estimated at 422,000 bushels, up 5 percent from 1993. Yield was estimated at 26 bushels per acre, two bushels less than last year. Acres harvested increased by 2,000 to 17,000 in 1994.

U.S. 1994 winter wheat production was estimated at 1.66 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 1993. The average yield was 45.2 bushels per acre, one bushel lower than the U.S. crop.

Production of oats in 1994 was estimated at 230 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain, 4.02 million acres, was up 6 percent from last year.

Barley was harvested from 6.6 million bushels in 1994, producing 375 million bushels of grain, down 6 percent from 1993.

Rye production increased 8 percent from a year ago to 11.1 million bushels. Harvested area was 406,000 acres while planted area, 1.60 million acres, was the smallest on record.

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Production of oats in 1994 was estimated at 230 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain, 4.02 million acres, was up 6 percent from last year.

Barley was harvested from 6.6 million bushels in 1994, producing 375 million bushels of grain, down 6 percent from 1993.

Rye production increased 8 percent from a year ago to 11.1 million bushels. Harvested area was 406,000 acres while planted area, 1.60 million acres, was the smallest on record.

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More Michigan Farmers Discovering the ACA Advantage

With the fall harvest season in full swing, many producers are seeing the fruits of their labor and the financial return of their planting and inputs. More and more Michigan farmers are finding that one of those inputs, ACA, is one that improves productivity with minimal costs.

ACA, which stands for Agricultural Crop Additive, was originally developed by AMCO Oil Company to enhance anhydrous ammonia. This technology was then purchased by United AgriProducts and underwent more testing and development so that it could be sold through all fertilizer and chemical dealers.

When used to its potential, ACA’s unique combination of zinc and ammonium acetate helps to develop an intensive root system in the plant. A better root system improves the plant’s uptake of water and nutrients which allows the plant to live longer and healthier, according to Growers Service ACA product technician, Bob VanArkel.

This vigor, says VanArkel, permits the plant to be more productive. “The addition of ACA to a fertility program increases root development, which can reduce stress in any given year and a healthier plant should result in higher yields,” he said.

According to Reinholt, although there are other marine uses of soydiesel on saltwater vessels, the Grayling is the only freshwater vessel in the entire country burning soydiesel. The product can be used on a variety of crops, including mint and even strawberries.

Jim Lonier of Shady Lodge Farms, located in Caledonia, claims that the corn and soybean test plots conducted with ACA. The product can be used on a variety of crops, including corn, soybeans, and wheat with sons Steve, Scott, and Todd. According to Jim, if he receives at least a two to five bushel advantage in his corn crop this fall, then he will continue to use ACA in his management plan. If costs a little over $3 an acre, so you’ve got to have a little over a bushel of either wheat, two bushels of corn, or one-half a bushel of soybeans to make it pay for itself,” said Jim.

Shady Lodge Farms, operated by (l-r) Jim Lonier and sons Todd, Steve, and Scott (not pictured), will soon get the results of several on-farm ACA test plots.

Even though many producers are thinking about harvesting crops, this is also the time of year to be planning next year’s wheat crop. VanArkel recommends that producers apply ACA to their wheat this fall during planting to get maximum yield.

For more information about ACA, contact your local dealer or call 1-800-292-2701.

Harvest Losses can be Checked Periodically Using a One-Foot Square Frame

In corn, an average grain loss of two kernels per square foot is approximately one bushel per acre. Aim for a maximum total loss of less than 2.5 bushels per acre or a maximum of five kernels per square foot. Square foot averages should always be calculated across the entire width of the corn head. Your time will be well spent taking a few minutes to make adjustments which minimize losses.

Soydiesel Powered Research Vessel Travels Great Lakes

Soydiesel, a fuel made from soybeans, could custom blend this fuel on board, made this project possible and allowed for testing of different blends such as 50/50 or 100 percent soydiesel, if they so desired.

According to Reinholt, although there are other marine uses of soydiesel on saltwater vessels, the Grayling is the only freshwater vessel in the entire country burning soydiesel. The soydiesel project was funded 50 percent from Michigan producer check-off dollars, and 50 percent from the National Soydiesel Board, which contributes about $355 million annually to this state’s economy.”

The following are frequently observed plant responses from soil and foliar applications of ACA on winter wheat:

- Vigorous early plant growth
- More winter hardy
- More floruous and extensive root system
- Increased tillering
- Larger diameter stems
- Winter- drier green leaves, fuller canopies
- Earlier pollination
- Heavier plant biomass
- Increased uptake of soil moisture
- Improved standability and ease of harvest
- Wagging, falling, or lodging
- Weight increase from test weight
- Test weight
- Increased uptake of moisture
- Increased tillering and foliage
- Improved winter hardness
- Higher yields and/or test weight

Yield Information Postemergence applications to Winter Wheat (1993)

- 30 total studies
- 7.6 bushel per acre increase
- 15.5% increase in yield
- Return on ACA investment of $17.54 (23 cents/acre)
- 23 per acre per acre broadcast (Winter Wheat at $3.00/bushel) 7.6 bushel increase/acre = $22.80
- ACA investment of $1.50 per acre = $17.54 ROI (Save)

Application Techniques/Procedures

Test results have shown that ACA can be applied to the soil or foliaged of winter wheat. ACA can be broadcast incorporated into the soil using a water or a fertilizer carrier as with or without a soil applied herbicide. The incorporation or movement of ACA into the soil profile can be by tillage, rainfall, irrigation, or irrigation. This will position the ACA near the developing root system of the plant.

Foliar applications should be made prior to dormancy break when top dressing wheat. It is not recommended that ACA be applied with any postemergence activity until further testing has been completed.

Methods of Application

ACA may easily be incorporated into the following fertilizer programs:

- Soil broadcast applied with liquid fertilizers
- Soil broadcast applied with dry blended fertilizers
- Soil broadcast applied with weed & feed herbicide fertilizer solution

- Acetate Applications

- Soil broadcast applied with liquid fertilizers
- Soil broadcast applied with dry blended fertilizers
- Weed & feed herbicide fertilizer solution

Contact your local CleanCrop Dealer or call 1-800-292-2701 for additional information on THE ACA ADVANTAGE.
Market Outlook

**Seasonal Commodity Price Trends**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Current Seasonal Price</th>
<th>Previous Seasonal Price</th>
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**SOYBEANS**

Did the USDA Crop Production Report, released several days ago, increase the soybean crop by as much as the trade expected? What was the market’s reaction? As with corn, we have to be thinking about when and what the low will be. Soybean markets are up on loanable supply. In fact, they have for several years — the price just hasn’t been low enough to matter. The June-August pig crop was up 6 percent. This is the largest June-August pig crop since 1979. Sows farrowing were up about 4 percent, and pigs under 1 year of age were up about 2 percent, at a record 8.22. Pigs under 60 pounds on Sept. 1 were up 5 percent. These numbers can be revised any time until Nov. 15.

**WHEAT**

For those of you who are and are bullish on wheat, it has paid off in a big way, and the Sept. 30 USDA reports didn’t hurt. The Stock Report showed that we have about 150 million bushels less wheat on hand at the end of the first quarter than the trade expected. USDA also lowered their estimate of the 1994 wheat crop 41 million bushels.

**EGGS**

Henry Larzelere

Egg prices at the end of September were about 9 cents a dozen below a year earlier.

**HOGS**

Yes, we do have hogs out there; and yes, as of Sept. 1, the inventory was still very much in an expansion mode. This is borne out by the latest USDA Hog Report. Hogs and Pigs Report released Sept. 29. But, as has been the case in the last several reports, it appears the expansion is by the large units while there is still fairly strong liquidation in the more traditional sector.

**TURKEYS**

Henry Larzelere

The average price for frozen hen turkeys in the 4-month major marketing period (September-December) of 1993 was about 69 cents a pound; consumer size tons were about 65 cents a pound. These prices were above year earlier levels even though the supplies were above the previous year’s level.

The 4-month seasonal price in 1994 will probably be 1 or 2 cents a pound above 1993. The hatch so far in 1994 has been slightly higher (less than 1 percent) above 1993. The rate of slaughtering has also been slightly above the same period in 1993. The expected higher prices reflect the usual demand strength each year with a slightly larger supply than the year before.

It will be interesting to see how these extremely low prices we have seen in September after the data for the report was collected, will affect expansion plans. These very large units have never seen prices this low, and while integration may shield them from some of the sting, the returns and the returns to their investors, may not be what they have grown accustomed to.

The question is, will others get out fast enough with these low prices to let the large units continue to expand at the very rapid rate we have seen the last several years?

The low corn prices should help the calf prices from falling completely out of bed, but they will be significantly lower than last year. If the reports were positive, we will probably see a slightly wider spread than the loan rate and you think the market is near the low, or if you are going to sell now anyhow.

If we do see some recovery as we move through the fall, we are only talking 2-3% and probably not breaking $70/cwt.

If you think we are still above the bottom, considering putting on some downside risk protection.

If you think we are still above the bottom, consider a hedge or a hedge-to-arrive. Through which crop will pay the highest advantage of the basis tightening.

The 1995 set-aside (ARP) requirement on corn has been tentatively set at 7.5 percent by USDA, up from zero in 1994. Grain sorghum, barley and oats was maintained at about 4 percent ARP. These numbers can be re-estimated any time until Nov. 15.

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John Jones, Telfarm Director
Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Financial records can serve many purposes, although most of us would agree they are a pain in the pencil to keep! While making it possible to file accurate income tax reports may be the first priority, financial records can do a lot more. They can tell you where you stand month by month. They can show you whether that change in production method was successful. They can track your profitability over time.

An individual's farm records can also help a whole industry. This is true when the records are anonymously made available to a public information base that analyzes and publishes averages plus points out trends. Telfarm, a farm analysis system sponsored by Michigan State University Extension, is an example of how individual farms helped the whole state's industry. When the Michigan legislature was wrestling with the impact of the school tax reform, Agricultural Economist Lynn Harvey came to the Telfarm data base for assistance in assessing the impact of the proposed tax reform legislation for a state legislative subcommittee.

Future Attributes
To survive in the future, a farm records program for business management (it's now fashionable to call it a Management Information System, or MIS), must adopt some basic attributes. The MIS program of the future will need most (or all of the following features. It should:

- Be flexible and individualized to accommodate diverse and unique situations, yet be compatible with an industry data base.
- Be available when the manager needs the information to make decisions.
- Be compatible with new technologies. Expect, for example, more innovative use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and automatic environmental monitoring and control technology.
- Incorporate more cost accounting information by enterprise or profit center to enhance management control.
- Coordinate financial records with production records for chemical and fertilizer application, genetic tracking, production or yield data, herd health, and manure management to mention a few.
- Assist large agribusinesses and contract producers in their horizontally or vertically integrated operations.
- Provide "expert" assistance at the farm directly with the decision maker or business manager.
- Provide quality income tax management assistance.

I do not see massive change coming overnight. Some very successful farm managers continue with needling only some minimal service and support for essentially the rest of their careers, but the trends for the long run seem fairly clear.

As new generations come along with new abilities and methods, the "progress" will inevitably require more of the human attributes. The speed of adoption will depend on the market's demands, government regulation or intervention and the decreasing cost of the technology relative to the benefits.

Maintaining a Healthy Profit Margin
A "healthy" profit margin per unit of production is a key to long run survival. A healthy profit margin varies significantly from business to business based on the production methods, size, debt structure and other factors. But if profit margins per unit narrow, they will lead to some inevitable consequences, such as:

- Increasing production volume to maintain the same level of net farm income.
- Increasing off-farm sources of income to compensate for the reduced on-farm net profit.
- Decreasing interest for farm continuation or new business start-ups.
- Increasing interest in alternative production methods or uses for the farm land and buildings.

All of these consequences are happening in much of Michigan agriculture. Farm business managers must look to the future and make their own strategic decisions on their business' future.

Maintaining a healthy profit margin requires regular monitoring and attention to details. While large volume farms have more to lose with negative profit margins per unit, it is also very important for small and medium size farms to maintain healthy profit margins since they cannot compensate against narrow margins with volume. Some areas to concentrate on:

- Produce premium products that may be differentiated and command higher prices.
- Control costs - cut, cut, cut at unnecessary expenses (easily said and hard to do) and make every dollar spent accountable to an equal or greater increase in income or benefit.
- Make long run investments based on a conservative payback plan and economic profit.
- Be frugal about the withdrawal of business profits to help build up working capital and boost the ability to withstand unexpected disruptions.
- Carry out accurate strategic planning so you are not caught off-guard with future changes. A crystal ball would be nice here.

Cost Accounting is a Must
Cost accounting is necessary to make farm managers aware of the status of their various profit centers. This critical feedback of performance information will enhance a manager's ability to respond to future investment opportunities and necessary changes to remain profitable.

Two programs recently initiated through MSU Extension are assisting farm managers with their cost accounting on dairy and swine farms. The Dairy Cost Accounting Team program is being developed by Sherrell Notz, ag economics Extension dairy farm management specialist. The Swine Enterprise Analysis Team program is in progress by Dale Roseboom, animal science Extension swine specialist, and Gerald Setchell, ag economics livestock extension farm management specialist.

These new programs would be a tremendous benefit to any dairy or swine farmer considering cost accounting as a needed activity to provide critical management information.

Two Closing Suggestions
On top of this, and more importantly, I have made more farm visits this year than any other to learn what was and wasn't working. There is no other place except on the farm where this information can be obtained.

From these experiences, I offer two suggestions for the near term. First, the newly developed AMAP Financial Management Workshop module looks like an excellent program to attend. Second, try the Telfarm program for "on-going" assistance with your business management record needs.

Telfarm is an excellent MIS program. It will help you measure progress towards a healthy profit margin, and can do your cost accounting. Contact your local Extension agent for enrollment details if you are interested.

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Against wind load damage to the structure with no wind velocity limit.
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Charts Provided by Knight-Ridder Financial
Collisions with other vehicles make up about half of the accidents involving farm equipment on public roads. Inexperienced workers who operate tractors in the field may lack the knowledge and judgment they need to deal safely with difficult traffic situations.

Here's what you can do to prevent roadway accidents while transporting farm equipment:

- Be sure you can see. Clean cab windows and keep your lights and wipers in good condition.
- Be sure you can be seen. Along with your flashing lights, clearly display an SMV emblem on your vehicle. Be sure the emblem is not mud-covered, faded, or improperly mounted. Post left-turn signs on the rear of chopper wagons and other large equipment.
- Keep wagon tires properly inflated, and make sure your hitch and load are secure. Nothing should stick out far enough to catch on tree branches or be struck by passing vehicles. Observe regulations concerning length, width, height, lights, reflectors, safety chains, and warning placards for big loads or hazardous materials.
- Move wide machinery during daylight hours when traffic is light. Before moving large or heavy loads on unfamiliar roads or driveways, check your route for hazards - underpasses, weak bridges, low power lines, or narrow passages. Use a second vehicle with flashing lights to accompany large equipment.
- Keep extra riders. Keep driveways and access lane sightlines clear. Cut away growth blocking your view.
- Let nearby traffic pass before you enter a roadway. It can take as long as 10 seconds to get fully onto or across a road from a dead stop, and a car moving at 55 mph would travel about 800 feet during that time.
- Avoid sudden swerves. When road and load conditions are difficult, keep your speed down. Reduce the speed difference between your vehicle and the traffic following you. But, if the road is rough or slippery, or your vehicle is hard to handle, slow down.
- Keep the load within your tractor's ability to slow and stop. Be sure your tractor's brake pedals are locked together to ensure even braking when you drive at transport speeds.
- Signal your turns. When turning right, don't swerve into the opposite lane. Before turning left, make sure no one is trying to pass. Extendable rear view mirrors will help you keep track of what's going on behind you.
- If something goes wrong with your vehicle, pull off the road as far as you can. If possible, set out reflectors and flares to warn other drivers.
- Be alert for motorists who may not be watching for you.

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 1-3, MFB Policy Development Committee, Lansing, MI.
- Nov. 28-Dec. 1, MFB Annual Meeting, Westin Hotel, Detroit, MI.
- Dec. 3, Michigan Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting, Valley Plaza, Midland, MI. Call MCA at (517) 335-7430.
- Jan. 8-12, American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- March 6-10, Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, East Lansing.
- March 14-17, Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI. Call John Kroll at (517) 336-1066.


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MFB has announced its position on three of the four proposals that will appear on the Nov. 8 ballot. MFB supports a "yes" vote on Proposal C — the referendum to amend Michigan's auto insurance laws and a "yes" vote on Proposal B, the proposal to limit criminal appeals.

The organization is urging a "no" vote on Proposal A which would convene a Michigan Constitutional Convention. Farm Bureau is neutral on Proposal P which would establish a Michigan State Parks endowment fund.

Below, you'll find the exact ballot language details about the position of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

**PROPOSAL A:**

A PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING A GENERAL REVISION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

 Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 1995 to draft a general revision of the state constitution for presentation to the state's voters for their approval or rejection?

- [ ] YES
- [X] NO

**MFB Position:**

An affirmative vote on Proposal A would mean a Constitutional Convention would be convened for the purpose of revising our state constitution. MFB recommends a NO vote on Proposal A. A major overhaul of the Michigan Constitution is not needed at this time.

In the last 30 years, if changes have been needed, the process of proposing and adopting constitutional amendments has been an effective way to deal with changes. Voters have amended the Constitution 17 times since it was adopted in 1963.

It has been estimated that the direct cost to the state of Michigan for holding a new Constitutional Convention in 1995-96 would be $24 million. This does not account for costs to various organizations for the purpose of overseeing the Constitutional Convention.

**Proposal B:**

A PROPOSAL TO LIMIT CRIMINAL APPEALS.

The proposed constitutional amendment would restrict a criminal defendant who pleads guilty or no contest to appeal. Currently, someone who pleads guilty or no contest without permission of the court, would have the ability to permit an appeal if injustice has occurred and the court would give up their right to an appeal. Should this proposal be adopted?

- [X] YES
- [ ] NO

**MFB Position:**

Currently the Michigan Constitution grants an "appeal as a matter of right" within Michigan courts for all accused.

An affirmative vote on Proposal B would not allow an appeal by an accused who pleads guilty or no contest without permission of the court. MFB recommends a YES vote on Proposal B.

It is estimated that frivolous appeals by convicted who originally plead guilty or no contest the state of Michigan $3 million per year. It is Farm Bureau's position that when an accused pleads guilty or no contest, he or she has admitted to the crime and has given up their right to an appeal.

There may be an occasional case where an injustice has occurred and the courts would have the ability to permit an appeal in those instances.

**PROPOSAL C:**

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 143 OF 1993 — AN AMENDMENT TO MICHIGAN'S AUTO INSURANCE LAWS.

Public Act 143 of 1993 would:

1. Reduce auto insurance rates by 16% (average) for six months for policy holders reducing personal injury (medical) insurance to $1 million. Extra coverage made available at added cost.
2. Permit Insurance Commissioner to waive company's obligation to reduce rates if statutory formula would be in excess of 1989-1992 state average.
3. Place limits on personal injury (medical) benefits.
4. Limit fee paid to health care providers.
5. Limit right to sue by setting higher standards for the recovery of damages for "pain and suffering" and prevent uninsured drivers and drivers over 50% at fault from collecting damages.
6. Allow rate reductions for accident-free driving with the same insurer. Should the law be approved?

- [X] YES
- [ ] NO

**MFB Position:**

In 1993, after considerable discussion and debate, the state Legislature passed and the governor signed into law a comprehensive set of automobile insurance reforms (P.A. 143 of 1993). Michigan Farm Bureau strongly supported these reforms. In 1994 the Michigan Trial Lawyers Assoc. was able to delay the enactment of the new law through a court order.

The Trial Lawyers successfully petitioned to have P.A. 143 of 1993 placed on the ballot as Proposal C. An affirmative vote on Proposal C would allow P.A. 143 of 1993 to become law, therefore, allowing the reforms to occur.

MFB recommends a YES vote on Proposal C. Farm Bureau's policies support the reforms under P.A. 143 of 1993 and recognize that the delay in enacting these reforms has cost Michigan consumers millions of dollars.

**PROPOSAL P:**

A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ENDOWMENT FUND AND ELIMINATE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE AMOUNT OF FUNDS IN THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND.

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

1. Establish a Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund to be funded by certain royalties, bonuses and rentals collected by the state from the drilling of oil and gas or mining of minerals on state-owned land.
2. Require that money in the Endowment Fund be used to operate, maintain and improve Michigan state parks.
3. Limit accumulated principal of the Endowment Fund to $800 million with annual adjustments for inflation.

**Continued next page...see Ballot Proposals**
After a 30-year leave of absence, 28 Birch Run High School Junior and Seniors are enrolled in a "pilot program" of animal science. Contrary to common belief, the agri-science curriculum caught enough interest so that the school could have easily filled an additional three sections, according to agri-science instructor Jan Pollard.

Pollard has been instrumental in getting the program re-established, thanks to interest and encouragement from students she knew as a biology and animal physiology teacher, and as a 4-H volunteer. Pollard and her husband Jim, who works for Grower Serv- ice, also operate a farm operation outside of Montrose in Genesee County.

The new program has dispelled a few other myths in its infancy - most notably, interest from kids with no ag background and the "dumbing down" of the curriculum which includes four days of class instruction and one day per week of practical experience, including farm vis- its to do animal health labs, livestock evalua- tion, and vaccination programs.

"The kids want more details - they want to understand why and how to do things," Pollard said. "What's amazing is that we've got city kids in this program that are dying for a career in agriculture. There's a good likelihood that a lot of these students are eventually going to end up at MSU in an ag major of some kind, because there is a de- mand out there for students with an agricul- tural background."

Support from the school administration and local community has been outstanding thus far. "But we're learning them, and I'm sure we'll have full handle on it by next year," she concluded.

---

**Birch Run Agri-Science Program Back in Action!**

Agri-Science Instructor Jan Pollard welcomed parents and school administrators to a kick-off meeting of sorts for the first agri-science class held at Birch Run in 30 years.

Pollard has been working closely with Dr. Randy Showman an assistant professor in Agriculture and Extension Education at Michigan State University, to develop a curriculum which includes four days of classroom instruction and one day per week of practical experience, including farm visits to do animal health labs, livestock evaluation, and vaccination programs.

"The kids want more details - they want to understand why and how to do things," Pollard said. "What's amazing is that we've got city kids in this program that are dying for a career in agriculture. There's a good likelihood that a lot of these students are eventually going to end up at MSU in an ag major of some kind, because there is a demand out there for students with an agricultural background."

Support from the school administration and local community has been outstanding thus far. "But we're learning them, and I'm sure we'll have full handle on it by next year," she concluded.

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**Minor Use Pesticide Legislation Progress**

The U.S. House has passed legislation which will make major improvements in the registration and re-registration process for minor use pesticides. The Senate needs to act on this meas- ure before adjournment. The bill offers incentives to registrants of minor use pesticides including:

- Time extensions for developing data to sup- port re-registration of products.
- A six-month deadline for EPA to complete new applications for minor-use registrations.
- Expedited review for registration of new, safer minor use pesticides.

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**Ballot Proposals for the Nov. 8, Election**

(continued from previous page)

4. Increase the maximum principal of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund from $200 million to $400 million.

5. Eliminate the diversion of dedicated revenue from the Michigan Natural Re- sources Trust Fund. Should this proposal be adopted?

- **YES**
- **NO**

**MFB Position:**

Over the past years, the quality of Michigan parks has slowly deteriorated due to the unavailability of funds. An affirmative vote on Proposal P would mean that the state would establish a Parks Endowment Fund financed by income from the sale of oil and gas, and the mining of minerals on state lands.

Money in this fund would be earmarked for operating, maintaining, and improving Michigan parks. Another part of the proposal would be to increase the cap on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund from $200 Million to $400 Million.

It would also prevent diversion of the Natu- ral Resources Trust Fund for any purpose other than to purchase private property in and around state parks, thus removing this land from the tax rolls and adding to the amount of state owned lands. MFB does not have a position on Proposal P.

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**Please letterfold and staple this form with the mailing address on the reverse side (outside)**
Editor's Note: Michigan Farm Bureau will kick off its 75th Anniversary celebration at the 1994 State Annual in Detroit, Nov. 28 - Dec. 1. Commencing with this issue of Michigan Farm News, you'll find news and notes about those early years. MFB staff member Donna Wilber has compiled a chronological accounting of the organization's birth and growth over those 75 years. By the way, Donna has also spent the last three years working on another project that you could soon be reading. Keep your eyes open!

****

70 Years Ago...

Tax reform was a big plank in the Michigan State Farm Bureau's program in 1924. An investigation in the spring of that year had revealed that in many Michigan counties, farm property was being assessed at a considerably higher rate than city real estate in the same county.

The State Farm Bureau thoroughly investigated conditions in five counties - Kalamazoo, Washtenaw, Monroe, Ingham and Calhoun - and sought equalization of the tax load. The Bureau presented its findings before the several boards of supervisors and asked for investigation and relief. Farm valuations were lowered and city valuations properly adjusted so that farmers in those five counties saved $67,000 annually in taxes on the new valuations.

One of the first legislative actions the delegate body of the new farm organization requested was that the Bureau work for a gasoline tax. The State Farm Bureau's program in 1924. An investigation in the spring of that year had revealed that in many Michigan counties, farm property was being assessed at a considerably higher rate than city real estate in the same county.

By the way, Donna has also spent the last three years working on another project that you could soon be reading. Keep your eyes open!

Looking Back

Bushes Better

In independent university trials throughout the Midwest, Crow's hybrids yielded 7.8 bushels more than the plot average. Often, new Crow's Gold hybrids like 667, 668, 510 and 401 tapped the plot. But more importantly, of the eight different hybrids entered in 64 trials, Crow's finished in the top half of the rankings 93% of the time. In fact, in Nebraska, Illinois, and Wisconsin trials, Crow's average yield was bushes better than the most popular brand.

What does it mean for you? You can put together a package of Crow's hybrids - a blend of maturities and unique genetic backgrounds - that will bring you consistently high yields and managed risk.

We've introduced 15 new hybrids in the last two years. If you haven't considered Crow's in awhile, now is the right time. University trials show Crow's is bushes better.

Crow's Hybrid Corn Company

Ingrow more corn with Crow's.

University trials show you grow more corn with Crow's.

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Caterpillar Introduces Row-Crop Model Challenger 45 Series Tractor

The new Challenger 35 and 45 tractors bring the advantages of Caterpillar's exclusive Mobil-Trac System, a well-matched powertrain, state-of-the-art hydraulics and electronics, plus matched operator convenience to row crop farmers.

Mobil-Trac System

The Mobil-Trac System brings to the field low compaction and high tractive advantages of track combined with the speed and mobility of rubber tires. Less slippage, due to the long and narrow footprint of the Mobil-Trac System, means more engine power is turned into usable power than allows the tractors to pull through tough spots with minimal downshifting.

The undercarriage on the Challenger 35 and 45 can be adjusted to fit various row spacings using spacers that extend under the axles. The tractor can be configured in 60, 68, 72, 76, 80, or 88 inch (1524, 1727, 1829, 1930, 2032, 2235 mm) gauge. Gauge can be changed on the field. Rubber belt widths range from 16 to 32 inches (406 to 813 mm) to fit a wide variety of row spacing and applications. The belts create low compaction and provide high levels of traction and flotation, as well as the versatility to work in rows.

Caterpillar CAT will now be distributing the Challenger 45 Series Tractor. One of the unique features of the midsize 200 PTO HP tractor is the tracks for row crop farming. Until now tracks have only been available with the big tillage tractors. Some of the more prominent advantages to the Challenger 45 Series Tractor are: low PSI (pounds per square inch), from four to nine depending on the track width, and less compaction. It also produces less rutting, less slippage, and provides more floatation. The Caterpillar Challenger 45 Series Tractor will be available from Michigan CAT starting December 1994.

Powertrain

The Challenger 45 is rated at 200 PTO horsepower and the Challenger 35 at 175 PTO horsepower. On firm soil, the tractors can generate 270 and 195 PTO horsepower, respectively, for an unmatched 85 percent PTO-to-drawer efficiency.

A Cat 3116 Air-to-Air Intercooled engine powers the tractors. The tractors produce rated power at 2100 RPM and produce up to 8.5 percent more horsepower at 1750 RPM. This allows the tractors to pull through tough spots with minimal downshifting.

The full powershift transmission properly matches engine speed to draft through a wide range of 16 forward and nine reverse gears. Maximum speed is 17.8 mph. The transmission control lever is conveniently located at the front of the console at the operators' right hand.

The Challenger 45 and 35 tractors have power turn ability due to the exclusive Caterpillar Differential Steering System. This system never loses power; it simply changes the way power is distributed, unlike a clutch and brake steering system. Spot turns are possible as one track slows while the other speeds. The tractors can turn within their own length and tighter than any tractors in the size class.

The standard 1,000 RPM PTO is constructed with large bearings to handle high torque equipment such as forage harvesters, large square or round balers, and pull-type combines. It features a 1.75 inch (45 mm) 20 spline shaft.

Stray voltage can be a problem even on a well-run farm. If you suspect a problem, call our stray voltage specialists at 1-800-252-VOLT. We are here to help.
November Discussion Topic - "The Size and Scope of Michigan Farms"

Michigan Farm Numbers (thousands)

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One of the major structural changes in U.S. farming since 1940 has been the growth in owner-operators. Nearly 90 percent of all operators now own part or all of the land they farm, whereas only 65 percent were owners 50 years ago. This reflects both an increase in part-owner and a decrease in tenant (non-owner) farmers, according to the Bureau of Census.

But landlords are still an important influence in agriculture. Nearly 1.3 million landowners do not farm themselves, and nearly 170,000 owner-operator farms part of their land and rent part of it to other farmers. A landlord may rent land to several farm operators, and the total 1.3 million landlords have some 1.8 million separate rental arrangements. In total, landlords own over one-third of all agricultural land.

Nearly nine out of ten landlords lease land to only one farmer; nearly 70 percent in-lease owner-operators. Including 40 percent as sole owners; and about 15 percent of landlords live more than 150 miles from their land.

Another recent changes in agriculture is the rise of the large corporate farms which are employing over 100,000 people. The rise of the large corporate farms is due to the fact that they can use more technology and less human labor.

The rise of the large corporate farms is due to the fact that they can use more technology and less human labor.

Discussion Questions:

1. What, if anything, should be done to reverse the trend toward fewer, larger farms?
2. Are contract farming operations largely a positive or negative influence on Michigan agriculture?
3. Should large, contract feeding operations be treated differently under Right-to-Farm?
4. What do you think the future holds for Michigan family farmers?
5. Has the trend toward owner-operator (90 percent today compared to 65 percent 50 years ago) been positive or negative for Michigan agriculture?

"What's in the Package at MSU?" — A Degree in Packaging!

by Kristen Zagata

Have you ever stopped to ask what life would be like without packages? The clothes you wear, food you eat, and products you use are all protected by packages. Packaging is the third largest employer in the United States, employing over 2 million people.

The School of Packaging in Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources offers the first major in the world's packaging professionals.

Packaging can be defined as the development and production of packages by professionals. Some of the functions of packaging are containment, protection, preservation, communications, and identification. In the future, packaging will play an even larger role in the economy.

"What do students majoring in packaging do?" They design and develop new packages and machinery. Graduates also test and research packaging, and analyze existing packages to improve production and marketability. Distribution is also an essential entity for materials, machinery, and packages.

"A better way of packaging items gives the company the edge in the market," said Packaging Student Advisor Pat Burkhardt.

Burkhardt noted that the packaging major is course-specific, but general categories of study are available in design, testing, analyzing, cost factors, market and distribution. Students majoring in packaging complete a course of study that includes math, chemistry, physics, six courses in packaging, and over 100 hours of lab experience. Computer usage is also important, aiding in student design. Business and statistics courses are also required. A solid high school background for students entering the packaging major is chemistry, English, math, and physics.

Seventy percent of packaging students complete professional internships, which provide a link between a student's academic life and professional careers. These positions range from four to eight months, relating to packaging design, development, testing, production or distribution.

"These internships are well paid positions, often resulting in employment after graduation," said Burkhardt.

There are three organizations directly related to the packaging major, including the Student Chapter of the Institute of Packaging Professionals, Pitkarp Gomma, and Women in Packaging. These groups have many activities that enhance student knowledge of the packaging industry, including learning of innovations within the industry. Students involved in these groups participate in various activities, and make friends with others in their major.

Since packaging practices differ around the world, students have the opportunity to participate in overseas programs to see where they first hand the way companies develop packaging products in England, Sweden, and Japan.

The career opportunities in packaging are endless! Students from MSU with a bachelors degree in packaging are sought by employers both nationally and internationally. The average annual starting salary for MSU packaging graduates is over $31,000. Some of the companies looking for these graduates are Pillsbury, Kraft, General Foods, Upjohn, and Heineken.

For students who enjoy solving problems, working independently or as a team, and are eager and excited about change, a major in packaging at MSU may be a good choice. For more information, contact the School of Packaging, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1225, or call (517) 355-9500.
Michigan Farm News

October 15, 1994

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Farm Machinery

Classified Ad Codes

1. Farm Machinery
2. Livestock Equipment
3. Farm Commodities
4. Seeds
5. Livestock
6. Poultry
7. Dogs and Puppies
8. Ponies/Horses
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Stanton, MI 48888

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2. Livestock Equipment
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4. Seeds
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9. Livestock
10. General

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Classified Ad Code Requested: __________

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$8 for up to 24 words

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To Place Your Ad Today!
Protect Your Investment, Make Sure Your Grain Bins Are Clean

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

"Thoroughly cleaning in and around the bin and cleaning all handling equipment are strongly recommended," says Douglas Landis, MSU Extension entomologist. Step-by-step recommendations are outlined in Extension bulletin E-934, "Protecting Stored Grains from Insects."

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

A special effort should be made to clean and spray this area," Landis says. He also recommends that an insecticide spray be directed 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 there later.

Once the grain has been properly dried and cleaned and put into the grain bin, you can 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."

He cautions farmers to be sure to read all insecticide labels to make sure the product to be used is specifically registered for use in stored grain.

"Insecticides and fumigants are effective only in properly dried and cleaned grain," Landis cautions.

Sprays or dusts of some insecticides 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.

These caterpillars are often abundant in poorly ventilated grain where moisture has condensed at the surface. Remove the dam- aged grain, as it can be mixed into the new 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.

Growers must be certified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture in the fumigation standard to buy and use fumigants.

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 content—throughout the storage season.

While you're busy farming, Farm Bureau is on the job in Lansing and Washington, D.C. protecting your interests. Our experienced and highly respected team of lobbyists are there working for you.

With the thousands of bills introduced on the state and federal level, Farm Bureau lobbyists work full-time aggressively supporting legislation that benefits farm families while seeking to defeat measures detrimental to agriculture.

In the halls of Congress and in the Michigan Legislature, Farm Bureau is respected as the voice of agriculture. It's a grassroots organization with responsible legislative clout, powered by its members and guided by its farmer-developed policies.

With over seven decades of experience in the legislative and regulatory arenas, you can count on Farm Bureau to get results!

Farm Bureau member benefits include:
- Educational and leadership opportunities
- Health care insurance
- Travel program
- Discounts on prescription drugs
- Visa card
- Farm, auto and life insurance

What concerns you concerning us?

For your nearest Farm Bureau office call 1-800-292-2680 extension 3237

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The Michigan Vegetable Chemical Use Survey Slated for Mid-October

The Michigan Ag Statistics Service is gearing up for its third survey of vegetable growers' use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers. The survey will cover chemical use on 14 vegetable crops.

Nationally, the survey will cover 30 crops in 14 states that account for 80 to 85 percent of U.S. vegetable production. The purpose of the program is to maintain an agricultural chemical use database so that policies can be based on timely, detailed and reliable information.

"The information benefits producers, processors and consumers alike," explained State Statistician Don Fedewa. "All segments of the vegetable industry, along with policy makers and government agencies, rely heavily on the survey results when responding to public concerns about chemical use and its possible effects on food safety. It's essential the information be gathered, analyzed, and released by an impartial organization."

Vegetable growers have a lot at stake in this survey, since these growers also rely on numerous minor-use pesticides. Many producers of specialty crops have no alternative to these pesticides.

Fedewa says that if use of a particular pesticide can't be documented, the manufacturer might discontinue production. More importantly, however, successful registration and re-registration depend heavily on accurate, up-to-date information on actual use of the various pesticides.

Interviewers will visit growers in person to conduct the survey beginning the second week of October. A typical interview takes about an hour. Producers are encouraged to have records documenting their agricultural chemical use on hand to help the interview go quickly and smoothly. All information on individual grower operations will be treated with absolute confidentiality, and used only in summaries of state and national totals.