Anthracnose Causing Scramble for Bean Seed and Solutions

The wet summer of 1994 will be affecting Michigan dry bean producers long after the books have closed for this year, thanks to a seed-borne fungus known as anthracnose. Although not a new problem to dry bean producers, abnormally wet and warm conditions throughout June and July created an ideal environment for rapid proliferation of the fungus throughout Michigan, according to Dale Kuenzli, executive director for the Michigan Bean Commission.

"The fungus inoculum is lying out there in fields all over Michigan at the moment," explained Kuenzli. "We're encouraging growers to make some immediate and radical departures from normal operating procedures to address this problem, including adapting a strict three-year rotation schedule before planting dry beans back into a particular field. The other recommendation that we're making is for farmers to use the moldboard plow to bury the residue.

In its earliest stages, anthracnose will infect the vein of the leaf on the underside of the bean leaf, followed by diamond-shaped black-colored lesions on the skin of the leaf. The most tell-tale symptoms, however, is the round, sunken and salmon-colored lesions that form on the pod. In a worst-case scenario, anthracnose will kill the plant; often causing producers to incorrectly diagnose the problem as just a wet or low spot in the field.

If any of these symptoms sound familiar to you, MSU Plant Pathologist Pat Hart suggests field rotation, moldboard plowing and another resistant bean variety to make a priority in your 1995 management plans. Hart is currently researching chemical control options that could be applied as a seed treatment at planting.

MLE/Thorn Apple Valley Sign Ten Year Marketing Agreement

In a move that MSNBC President Tom Reed called "checkmate" for the large corporate hog operations in the southeastern U.S., Michigan Livestock Exchange (MLE) and Thorn Apple Valley, Inc., closed the deal on a 10-year exclusive marketing contract between the two organizations during a news conference at Thorn Apple Valley's headquarters in Southfield.

Under the agreement, MLE will be the sole supplier of market hogs to Thorn Apple's Frederick Division processing plant in Detroit. The agreement is expected to require MLE to deliver 4.4 million hogs to Thorn Apple in 1995. With current market conditions, MSNBC President Tom Reed expects that goal to be a bit of a challenge.

"In order to provide 4.4 million hogs in 1995 for Thorn Apple Valley, MLE will have to increase its purchase of hogs to nearly 6 million, which is almost double what we're doing right now," explained Reed. "Combine that demand with the lower prices, a changing structure and genetics, and we're looking at losing over a million hogs in the next 12 months. So we've got to be a tremendous catalyst to promote growth."

To help meet production demands, Thorn Apple Valley has also agreed to commit dollars into Michigan's wholly owned subsidiary, Michigan Livestock Credit Corporation, according to company CEO Joel Dorfman.

"We've made a commitment to MLE to provide funding so that we can enhance their loan portfolio and encourage more swine production in this state," Dorfman said. "It's important for us to have a single source responsible for the procurement of hogs which will make MLE and Thorn Apple Valley both more efficient."

In addition to the Frederick processing plant, Thorn Apple also has other processing plants in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Chel- sea, and Walker. The company also has a processing plant in North Carolina and another large plant in Utah. The company is nearing completion of a processing plant in northern Oklahoma. The company had sales of nearly $800 million in 1993 of packaged pork, poultry and limited cattle products.

In addition to expecting 4.4 million hogs, Thorn Apple also has some quality expectations, says Dorfman. "We're looking for

Continued on page 6 see Anthracnose Causing...

This is what anthracnose infected seed pods look like. Flesh colored spores appear in the center of the lesions.

Continued on page 6 see Anthracnose Causing...

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The new proposal would use a risk-based system known as “Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point” or HACCP. This system extends from farm through processing and relies on a food safety plan developed by the food industry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has decided to delay tighter inspection rules for meat, poultry, eggs, and pulses until it comes up with a broader proposal to overhaul inspections for all meats. The new, comprehensive food safety proposal is promised by mid-December.

The report said falling cattle, corn and soybean prices offset increases in wheat, milk, chickens and turkeys until it comes up with a broader proposal to overhaul inspections for all meats. The new, comprehensive food safety proposal is promised by mid-December.

The American Meat Institute’s (AMI) logic? According to Jens Knutson of the AMI, a 10 percent increase in hog slaughtering had created a large supply which would be difficult to dispose of. The letter provided by the American Farm Bureau Federation gives additional information about the low price of pork.

In a letter to retailer and meat packer organizations, Sens. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), Bob Kerry (D-Neb.), and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) said the low price of pork is “inexcusable.” They said pork prices are down 28 percent while packer and retailer shares have increased 10 percentage points. The letter stated that the low price of pork is “inexcusable” and “inexcusable.”

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Finally, it’s important to emphasize that nothing in the GATT agreement will impair U.S. sovereignty or permit any other nation or the new World Trade Organization to change our laws. For more information on this concern and the other details of GATT, see the GATT “Question and Answer” on page three of this issue of Michigan Farm News.

This year’s record corn and soybean harvests, together with continued large production of many other agricultural commodities, underscores the importance of maintaining and expanding markets for U.S. agriculture. Make sure your congressman understands how important it is to Michigan farmers that the GATT opening-nation legislation is approved.

In Brief...
Ag Trade Surplus Up in August
The U.S. agricultural trade surplus rose to $1.3 billion in August, an increase of $65 million over July. Agricultural exports for the month rose 12 percent to $3.9 billion, up 19 percent over the same period in 1993. Imports fell 2 percent to $2.6 billion, down 18 percent over the same period in 1993, largely due in part to stimulated coffee prices.

For the fiscal year through August, the U.S. ag export surplus is down nearly $1 billion over the same time last year, but overall exports are up 1 percent at nearly $40 billion. Vegetable exports are up 14 percent in the fiscal year through August, while cattle exports are down 10 percent to $2.3 billion, wheat exports are down 16 percent on the year-to-date figure at 27.9 million tons, corn exports also are down 21 percent at 30.1 million tons, and soybeans are down 22 percent at 15.2 million tons.

End-Use Certificate Proposed to Settle Wheat Dispute
USDA has proposed regulations that would govern an end-use certificate program to track the distribution of wheat and barley imported into Canada from the United States. The regulations would force importers and subsequent buyers to store the imported grain separately from U.S.-produced grain until it is delivered to the end user. NFTA rules require the certificates for wheat and barley from any country that requires them for imports from the United States. Currently, Canada is the only such country.

Japanese Sue to Keep Apples Away
A group of Japanese farmers have sued in an effort to maintain a ban on importing American apples into Japan. The suit, filed against the agriculture minister, claims the ministry did not take appropriate steps to check the safety of United States apples before lifting the import ban. In August, the Japanese government allowed U.S. farmers concerned about disease, such as fire blight, coming into Japan. Apple imports.

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The first U.S. apples are expected to arrive in December, and farmers say they will demand compensation from the government if the fruit is allowed into the country. The United States had hoped the higher price of Japanese apples, which now bring 40 cents per pound, 2.9 cents more per pound and packers get 7.2 cents more per pound. The letter stated that the low price of pork is “inexcusable” and “inexcusable.”

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What Goes Around Comes Around
Japanese apples, ready for export to U.S. markets, are under quarantine, while U.S. apples are allowed into Japan for the first time since the mid-1980's. The suit, filed against the agriculture ministry, claims the ministry did not take appropriate steps to check the safety of United States apples before lifting the import ban. In August, the Japanese government allowed U.S. farmers concerned about disease, such as fire blight, coming into Japan. Apple imports.

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More Michigan Milk Produced in September
Dairy herds in Michigan produced 452 million pounds of milk during September, 8 percent more than a year ago, according to the latest Michigan Agriculture Statistics Service. Milk per cow averaged 1,370 pounds, 40 pounds more than last year. Michigan’s dairy herd was pegged at 355,000 head, down 4,000 head from September 1993. The preliminary value of milk sold averaged $13.10 per hundredweight (cwt.) in September, $2.00 more than last year. Mid-month September slaughter cow prices averaged $41.00 per cwt., $7.30 less than the previous year.

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What is GATT and What Will it do for You?

The U.S. House and Senate are scheduled to return to Washington, D.C., in late November, specifically to vote under the so-called "fast track" rules to implement GATT. Fast track simply means that the legislators cannot amend the implementing language - they must either vote for or against the package in its entirety.

Q. What exactly is the GATT Uruguay Round?
A. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was created after World War II to establish rules and disciplines in world commerce to reduce unfair impediments to trade. Protectionism in the 1930s was viewed as one of the causes of the war, and a new multilateral trade agreement was considered essential to avoiding such a recurrence.

Under the GATT, there are periodic "rounds" of multilateral negotiations to reduce trade barriers. The Uruguay Round, started in 1986, is the eighth such round.

Q. What exactly will the Uruguay Round accomplish?
A. The agreement will reduce worldwide tariffs and other trade barriers; it will establish new rules to protect intellectual property; it will enhance trade in services; it will require all countries to commit to the same rules the United States follows by 1995; and it will greatly improve the dispute settlement process for trade complaints.

In agriculture, specifically, the agreement will reduce unfair subsidies, open new markets to U.S. farm exports, prevent the use of unjustified health and sanitary regulations as illegal trade barriers, and facilitate the ability for the United States to challenge unfair foreign trade practices.

Q. What will be the economic benefits?
A. For the U.S. economy as a whole, the agreement is expected to add $1.4 million new jobs by the tenth year it is in effect and increase gross national product by $100 billion to $200 billion over the same period.

For agriculture, the agreement will create substantial new foreign markets, thus expanding U.S. agriculture by $50 billion over the next five years. These new exports will raise farm income and, in doing so, will generate an additional $10 billion to $30 billion in economic activity in agriculture-related businesses and industries.

Q. Will the GATT agreement impair U.S. sovereignty?
A. No. There is nothing in the agreement that will permit any other country to force changes in U.S. laws. Only the U.S. Congress can make or change U.S. laws.

Q. Isn't it true that U.S. will lose its veto power under the new World Trade Organization (WTO) and that even small countries will have a vote equal to ours?
A. Actually, all countries have had an equal say under the current GATT system for the past 46 years. All countries, no matter how small, have had the power to veto or block any effort to challenge their unfair trade practices. This has been a major weakness of the current system and a serious problem for the U.S. over the years.

For example, when the U.S. tried to challenge the European Community's (EC) EC on tariffs on dairy products, the challenge was blocked unilaterally by the EC. Under the new rules, the U.S. would not have been prevented from seeking redress for this blatantly illegal trade barrier.

The fact that the new rules will not allow a single country to block such challenges will benefit U.S. interests because we file many more complaints than are filed against us. In any case, it is important to remember that even if a U.S. law is challenged in the WTO, there is no requirement that the U.S. give up that law.

Q. Isn't it true that other countries could find us or apply sanctions against us if we did not give up the law?
A. No. "Sanctions" can be imposed on the United States or on U.S. taxpayers. This contention is simply not true. The only "sanctions" allowed under the new WTO are the same as have existed for 45 years under the GATT.

Such sanctions can only take the form of higher "retaliatory" tariffs on U.S. exports, and these tariffs are very limited; they cannot exceed the estimated trade effect of the "unfair" U.S. barrier. It is also worth noting that retaliatory tariffs would be paid by the foreign country's importers, not by U.S. exporters.

Q. What will happen to U.S. import protections currently available under Section 22?
A. In general, the Section 22 quotas currently applied to imported products, cotton, peanuts and sugar-containing products, will be replaced with tariffs that are substantially equivalent to the protective benefits of the quotas. Most of these tariffs will then be reduced by the minimum 15 percent required under the agreement, phased in over six years. Import restrictions under the Meat Import Law will be similarly replaced with tariffs.

The GATT Bill and Its Impact on the U.S. Dairy Industry

by Ken Olson, APBF Dairy Specialist

Dairy producers and industry supporters are concerned about the potential impact of the protective parity and export policy programs of the U.S. dairy industry. The GATT agreement will eliminate the Section 22 waiver that has limited dairy imports in recent years, and replace it with a "Tariff Rate Quota."

Initial access equal to a minimum of 3 percent of domestic consumption will be required. The level increases to 5 percent by the end of the implementation period in 2001.

This means that there are almost certain to be additional imports of dairy products that compete with domestic production. The agreement will also open other foreign markets to U.S. dairy exports and limit the use of export subsidies by the European Union and all other dairy subsidizing countries.

During discussions prior to the introduction of the enabling legislation, the dairy industry and many supporters suggested the inclusion of several provisions designed to address industry concerns.

The proponents recognized that the GATT agreement will not only allow added imports to the United States, but that it will also have the same effect in other nations. Their suggestions were designed to assist U.S. dairy producers in their efforts to capture a share of the expanded export opportunities.

The language within the bill has been introduced includes little address concerns raised by the industry. Additional written commitments from President Clinton and his advisors provide at least some level of support to the industry.

The enabling legislation includes the following provisions:

- The Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) is scheduled to expire in 1995. Without this, it is expected to become more expensive in the United States, but that it will also have the same effect in other nations. Their suggestions were designed to assist U.S. dairy producers in their efforts to capture a share of the expanded export opportunities.

- The U.S. dairy industry is likely to suffer in the short-term. If they are used, they can help the U.S. industry begin to take advantage of the new market opportunities that will be available. It is likely that the industry will seek additional tools to work with, but these commitments represent a start that can be built upon.

- The GATT authorization has been used once, stated earlier, for the past 45 years. It has seldom been used against the United States and, when it has, the U.S. has rarely felt compelled to veto the action. More often, the exporting countries will agree to block dispute settlement decisions, have been used by smaller countries to side-step U.S. challenges to their unfair trade practices. This will no longer be possible under the WTO.

- If a country is required to change its laws, even if they are successfully challenged, how can the United States force other countries to eliminate their unfair trade practices, not as an attack on our sovereignty.

Q. Isn't it true that the new Sanitary and Phytosanitary Code will require the U.S. to lower its standards on agricultural imports?
A. No. The agreement clearly and explicitly allows countries to establish safety standards at levels necessary to protect human, plant or animal health. We are not required to weaken our regulations to harmonize them with "lower international standards," as some have suggested. There is nothing in the agreement that would require the U.S. to import products that do not meet current U.S. safety standards.

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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.
The 1994 growing season (defined as April through October) averaged warmer and drier than normal in the northern sections of the state and warmer with near normal temperatures in central and southern sections.

The biggest weather stories of the season included torrential mid-season rainfall and flooding in the central lower peninsula, a series of damaging hail storms in west central lower Michigan, and a warm, dry September-October period which brought the corn and winter crops to maturity prior to the first killing freeze and favored fall harvest activities.

The official National Weather Service outlook for November is for somewhat warmer and wetter than normal weather. By late November, normal high temperatures range from the low 30s north to the low 40s south and normal lows from the low 20s north to mid to upper 20s south. Normal precipitation during the month ranges from 0.75 inches per week in the southwestern lower peninsula to near 0.50 inches in extreme northeastern lower Michigan.

Prospects for the November through January period are for a reversal, with cooler than normal temperatures and near normal precipitation expected.

Anthracnose Causing Scramble for Bean Seed and Solutions

Continued from page 1

..seed should be reasonably good. The more and conditions of the western states makes the like-

...likelihood of attracting seed-borne anthracnose highly unlikely.

Krenzli echoes Varner's concerns about seed selection for Michigan's estimated 440,000 acres of dry beans next year, saying that farmers should seek seed from fields that have, at a minimum, been field inspected, and had post harvest activity inspected. "We produce some dam good certified seed here in Michigan - we don't want to forget that - but we've had a high percentage of our certified seed bean fields re-jected this year," Krenzli said.

Adapting a good neighbor philosophy will be crucial in controlling anthracnose as other management issues. In cases where a healthy field of beans, planted with seed from a western source borders a field planted with his-run seed, producers can still suffer yield losses of these to five bags per acre just from water run-off from the adjoining field that's contaminated. Likewise, inadequate tillage in an infected field can provide a host environment for anthracnose in old crop residue until a neighboring field is planted and growing.

Water, deer, equipment, wind and people can all help transport the disease from one field to the other in those situations, says Krenzli. "We all have an obligation as growers throughout this state to try to eradicate this prob-lem, to manage our activities so that we reduce the risk of having anthracnose in 1995," Krenzli said.

"It's possible that if we don't have ideal conditions for spreading of anthracnose that we could get away with poor management practices. But that's like saying if you get struck by light-ning, you might not get hit hard enough to kill you," Krenzli concluded.
IMPORTANT NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION AND FAIRNESS HEARING

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

Russell Price, et al vs. Ciba-Geigy Corporation
NO. 94-047-CB-S

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By Order of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, a class action has been filed on behalf of persons who handled such pesticidal preparations and any persons who were the spouses, parents, children or other relatives of Settlement Class Members who would have been members of the class had they survived from an exposure to Galecron® or any Galecron®-containing product, either currently marketed or at any time prior to the filing of the complaint or class action.
**CORN**

Have we hit the bottom? What did the USDA Crop Production Report, released Nov. 9, say? It went through the corn production number near trade expectations, the answer is probably yes. If the report estimated that corn production will be 9.06 billion bushels, that is slightly larger than expectations, then we may still be hunting for the bottom, but we ought to hit it soon. The other concern is, how long will we stay down here? A partial answer is the bigger the crop, the longer the stay.

**WHEAT**

The question on wheat is the opposite - has it really peaked? The answer is maybe, maybe not. At this point, the market seems to feel that it knows the supply/demand situation pretty well. But there are still a number of things that could make the market rally again.

The crop in Australia is still not known, and the Chana and Zambia situations are certainly not resolved. On the downside for prices, a lot of wheat has gone in this year and appears to be in pretty good condition, other than in Texas.

**EGGS**

Henry Larzelere
Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Egg prices in October varied from 3-10 cents a dozen less than last year. Feed ingredients were nearly 3 cents below year ago levels. The last two months of the year are likely to average in the low to mid-70s for New York wholesale prices for Grade-A, large eggs in cartons. January 1995 prices will likely be below December 1994 levels.

Total egg production in September was up 4 percent from a year ago while table egg production was up 3 percent. The number of hens and pullets on farms was up 3 percent from year ago levels on Oct. 1.

**DAIRY**

Dr. Larry G. Hamn
Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

After holding through the fall, milk prices are starting their seasonal decline. The question remains, however, on how severe the seasonal decline will be.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price has risen three consecutive months. The October price is still likely to show a slight decline. The National Cheese Exchange (NCE) in Green Bay had been quiet. Cheese prices had been unchanged for five straight weeks. However, on Oct. 24, the 40-pound block cheddar cheese price declined by 1/2 cent lower than the Oct. 1 price. Other cheese, however, had been unchanged, with cheese contracts being $0.075 lower than the NCE price. The M-W price is taking a little longer to decline than expected in December. After then, however, the market is vulnerable.

Market demand for dairy products has held up because of the strong economic recovery and Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) sales. However, a strong milk production momentum is building. September milk production was up 3 percent. Herd expansions continue unabated in the West and Southwest. The Midwest feed supply and cost situation has turned around and dairy cows with number have stabilized. Combine ample and inexpensive feed with the use of BST and per cow productivity will be extremely strong.

All signs point to a large milk supply in the coming winter and spring. The September M-W is $12.04 per cwt, although this winter may drop of more than $1 per cwt. In 1992, Farm pay prices will likely struggle to maintain levels above $12 per cwt.

The upcoming price declines are part of the seasonal cycle and could demand a deeper decline if after holiday orders are filled. However, if the supply increase momentum holds and increases, the price picture for next spring is not good. The supply picture will overwhelm a predicted positive demand growth for dairy products.

**SOYBEANS**

With soybeans, we go back to the question, has the market bottomed? The answer is, it probably has.

However, the question remains, will it return to the bottom of early October? Again, the near-term answer probably cuts in the soybean 70 USDA Crop Production Report. Compare the soybean production number with expectations. If it is larger, we may try to find a bottom if not, the bottom is probably in.

Exports and future exports of soybeans continue to run well ahead of last year. This will continue at least until next month is known about the South American soybean crop potential. Brazil had been dry this fall, but they have had some beneficial rains as they move toward planting.

The soybean basis continues to be weak. This is the widest it has been versus today's level with just a little fall-off in these huge runs and a little pickup in demand. A lower price is offered to the consumer.

As of early November, the packer and retailer margins were excellent, but the market was still waiting for some of that to be passed along to the consumer. This could lead to a $4-5 dollar increase with margins still being positive.

**CATTLE**

Looking at the Oct. 1 USDA monthly 7-state and quarterly 13-state Cattle-On-Feed Reports, released Oct. 21, you would think that the huge run of cattle at heavy weights would have begun to slow down, but as of Nov. 1, they had not. However, it has to slow soon given the placements over the last several months. And I suspect we will see some evidence by the time this issue reaches you.

The 7-state report showed 5 percent fewer feeder cattle were marketed in September compared to the 4-5 percent the last few months. And I suspect we will see a slow down in the near-term, consider getting back in the market and buying a calf if you are in a hedge position.

The 13-state report showed 1 percent fewer cattle had been placed in the July-October period, 2 percent more had been marketed, and the total on feed as of Oct. 1 was down 5 percent.

My analysis would indicate that prices should work their way up to $70 soon and we may see some low $70s as we work our way through the winter. However, it will continue to see heavy competition from pork and poultry.

Given the size of the calf crop, the very low feeder cattle prices, the low feedlot returns, you can always get $65s through the rest of the year.

**MLE/Thorn Apple Valley Sign Ten Year Marketing Agreement**

(continued from page 1)

animals that weigh about 240 pounds, with excellent confirmation and minimal amounts of fat, particularly internal fats in the meat itself," he said.

According to Dorfman, genetic improvement over the last 10 years has reduced the amount of fat from 15 percent the last 10 years to as little as seven pounds, improving the yields of actual saleable product. Although he has not contained soybean meal performance incentives, Dorfman expects the ability to provide the feed by itself will still allow for compensating producers for higher quality animals.

Dorfman stopped short of calling the agreement a vertical integration, since Thorn Apple is not assuming any of the production risk. However, Reed expects the agreement will allow for a future of various contracts feeding, which could be critical for future years.

"If a producer says he wants a window contract before investing in new facilities, we will be able to negotiate that through this agreement," Reed explained. "We can go back through the system and say, "Look, we've got a producer who's going to produce 50,000 hogs, but he and his bank would like some protection. We'll be able to build him a window contract that protects him.""

Although Dorfman doesn't expect the agreement to necessarily increase the price of Michigan hogs, he does say the agreement will assure Michigan producers have a competitive outlet for their hogs. Reed agreed, adding that the agreement gives the smaller producer a chance at a future in hog production in Michigan.

"This agreement is a major event for us and our livestock producers," said Reed. "Take a look at what's happening in other states, particularly the Carolinas. If you're one of the so-called big four, you might as well not mess with hogs because it's a closed shop. We don't know if that's going to happen in Michigan, but I can tell you if it does, our people are taken care of."
Michigan Farm News

November 15, 1994

7 Tax Management Tips for Farmers

M.P. Kibby
Michigan State University

End-of-Year Tax Planning Tips

A basic management guideline is to avoid wide fluctuations in taxable income, as a relatively uniform income from year-to-year results in the lowest income tax and longest Homestead and P.A. 116 credits over time. However, even in a low income year, plan to utilize personal exemptions and the standard deduction.

The Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 made several tax changes that first impact us in 1994. Some of these are:

- The $60,600 wage base cap for the 12.4 percent self-employment insurance for Social Security does not apply to the additional 2.9 percent of health insurance.
- The 25 percent of health insurance deduction for the self-employed was extended only to Dec. 31, 1993. Therefore, unless some revised health insurance bill or other tax legislation passes retroactive to the deduction, there will not be such a deduction for 1994.
- The deductible portion of business meals was reduced from 85 percent to 50 percent.
- Written substantiation is required in your records for charitable contributions of $250 or more.
- An earned income credit applies where there is a dependent child in your home and income is less than $23,755. The credit is expanded in 1994 to include persons who do not have dependent children and income is less than $9,000.
- The amount of Social Security benefits that may be taxed has increased by the addition of an exemption for couples filing jointly. The Social Security and federal tax exemption income is $34,000 for a single taxpayer or $44,000 for married taxpayers.

Depending on your tax situation, you may wish to reduce or increase net income for 1994. Following are some of the best income events:

- Buy or delay purchase of supplies such as fertilizer, seeds, farm supplies, small tools, repairs, etc. (tax shelters can only deduct items when used). Note: these expenses cannot exceed 50 percent of your total Schedule F expenses for the year for which economic performance has occurred. In most cases, it will be hard to reach that level of expenditure.
- Pay in 1994 or delay payment to 1995 on real estate taxes, and other annual bills. (Insurance premiums, real estate rental for 1995 and interest cannot be paid for in advance to obtain an earlier tax deduction, but 1994 expenses of insurance rentals and interest can be deferred if income is low this year.)
- Watch the timing of sales of livestock and crops ready for market near year end. Possibly they can be held for the sale next year at a little cost or sold earlier to even out taxable income.
- Some expenses are deductible as current year business expenses even though not made every year. These include minor repairs on improvements and machinery, painting of buildings, purchase of small tools and supplies, and, within limitations, cost of approved soil and water conservation expenses. Get these jobs done and paid for before year-end if you wish to reduce net income.

Capital Purchases

- Where capital purchases have been made, or can be made, study the depreciation alternatives carefully. The direct expense deduction of up to $17,500 on personal property can be taken on current year capital purchases. In use, however, cannot reduce your taxable income from farming plus other earned income below zero.
- Taxable income includes net farm profit plus gains on the sale of business assets such as breeding livestock. Where pre-productive expenses are not a consideration, there are four choices for depreciation; MACRS which is 7-year 150 percent declining balance on machinery, MACRS straight line; Alternative Depreciation System (ADS) which is 10-year straight line on machinery, and the 150 percent declining balance using the ADS guidelines.

For the first year, the mid-year convention is used, (1/2 year's depreciation) unless 40 percent or more of your capital purchases are made during the last three months of the year. In that case, the mid-quarter convention is used (87.5 percent of a year's depreciation for purchases made during the first three months, 62.5 percent, 37.5 percent, 12.5 percent, respectively).

Fruit producers are still subject to the pre-production capitalization rules and therefore, can only use the ADS unless they elected to capitalize the cost of fruit trees.

Family Wages

- Pay your children wages for work actually performed for the farm, as the child is under 19 or regularly enrolled in school, they can earn any amount and the parent can still claim an exemption for them if the parents pay over half the child's support.

The parents must use the $2,450 dependent exemption. The child must file a tax return only if they earn over $3,800, which is the standard deduction. A return, usually a 104A, must be filed by a child under 14 if investment income is greater than $500. Children under 14 will have unearned income (over $1,000) taxed at the parents' rate. The new form 1615 is used to calculate the tax.

- For Michigan income tax purposes, an individual who is 23 or regularly enrolled in school, they can file as an "head of household".

Some expenses are deductible as current year business expenses even though not made every year. These include minor repairs on improvements and machinery, painting of buildings, purchase of small tools and supplies, and, within limitations, cost of approved soil and water conservation expenses. Get these jobs done and paid for before year-end if you wish to reduce net income.

- Frequently unrecorded and forgotten expenses include:
  1. Educational expenses which maintain or improve your skills, such as magazine subscriptions, books, fees at Extension or other agricultural organization meetings.
  2. Travel expenses connected with your business, particularly if they include meals and lodging; entertainment expenses when hosting others where the "predominant purpose" is the furthering of your farm business operation.

End-of-Year Tax Planning Tips

Discover the "Distinct Advantage!"

- 50 Year Protection Against snow-load damage to the structure with no wind weight limit.
- 50 Year Protection Against decay or insect attack on preservative treated lumber. Against red rust on preservative treated lumber.
- 20 Year Protection Against red rust on painted steel panels including damage caused by atmospheric pollutants.
- 10 Year Protection Against wind load damage to our optional AlumaSteel® sliding doors with no wind velocity limit.
- 5 Year Protection Against wind load damage to the structure with no wind velocity limit.
- All warranties include materials and labor but not priming.

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Charts Provided by Knight-Ridder Financial
Policy Discussion Focus of MFB Annual Meeting Nov. 28 - Dec. 1

The annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau and two of its affiliates will take place Nov. 28 - Dec. 1 at the Westin Hotel in Detroit's Renaissance Center. This marks the second consecutive year that the four-day event is being held in the state's largest city.

The annual meeting is expected to attract over 1,000 farmers, including 454 voting delegates who will discuss, debate and vote on policy to guide the organization, during three days of policy resolution sessions.

Activities begin on Monday, Nov. 28, with delegate registration, followed by an educational session on private property rights. The 1994 County Awards Banquet and a fun night that evening round out the first day's activities.

Tuesday activities get underway bright and early with a 7 a.m. AgriPac breakfast, with state Rep. Mike Goschka, (R-Beaverton), slated to speak. Policy discussion also gets started on Tuesday.

The second annual "Showcase of Agriculture," a consumer-oriented collection of farm animals, interactive learning displays and samples of Michigan food products, runs from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The MFB Family of Companies Trade Show will also open on Tuesday, running from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MFB President Jack Laurie is also scheduled to deliver his annual address following the Tuesday luncheon, followed by the Membership Awards program that evening.

Wednesday's highlights include the annual meetings of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative Inc., and the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association; and Young Farmer Discussion Meets and award activities. The day will be closed in grand style with the Lakewood Area Choral Society providing an inspirational musical journey celebrating Michigan Farm Bureau's 75th anniversary.

The delegate session and annual meeting is scheduled to conclude at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday. For more annual meeting information, contact your county Farm Bureau office.

Nearly 480 MFB members will be meeting throughout the MFB annual to discuss and vote on Farm Bureau policy direction for the next 12 months on key ag issues, including the 1995 Farm Bill, deer baiting, health care, private property rights, and numerous other items forwarded to the MFB Policy Development Committee from all 69 county Farm Bureaus.

District Discussion Meet Winners to Compete for Over $2,000 in Prizes

The following Young Farmer Discussion Meet contestants were district contest winners which were held in August and September. Discussion Meet topics at the state level include:

1. What is agriculture's responsibility in the management and disposal of waste?
2. Why are so many farmers seeking off-farm employment?
3. What role do we, as citizens, have in restoring our country's values?
4. As agriculture's political influence diminishes, should Farm Bureau seek coalitions with other organizations?

The following contestants will be competing for $500 cash from Dodge Truck, $1,000 dollars worth of seed from Great Lakes Hybrid, Inc., and an all-expense-paid trip to St. Louis for national competition in January.

Young Farmer Discussion Meet Contestants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
<td>Nick Bills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry</td>
<td>Boyd Embly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry</td>
<td>Jim Good</td>
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<td>Bay</td>
<td>Dave Daye</td>
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<td>Branch</td>
<td>Andy AAdolly</td>
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<td>Cass</td>
<td>Mike Spiegel</td>
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<td>Cass</td>
<td>Matt Siegel</td>
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<td>Cheboy</td>
<td>Tim Wieland</td>
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<td>Clinton</td>
<td>Howard Smith II</td>
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<td>Grati</td>
<td>Dale Wimber</td>
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<td>Hawhidhaland</td>
<td>Brian Seiff</td>
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<td>Hillsbokie</td>
<td>Dan Wobells</td>
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<td>Huron</td>
<td>Pat McArthur</td>
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<td>Ingham</td>
<td>Lori Chaubinelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iosco</td>
<td>Tim Sistr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>Sarah Anderson</td>
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<td>Kent</td>
<td>Renee Negrer</td>
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<td>Leawor</td>
<td>Neal Eisenbaum</td>
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<td>Mac-Lace</td>
<td>Alan Macrae</td>
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<td>Marconah</td>
<td>Dave Kuchley</td>
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<td>Manatas</td>
<td>Katie Schooler</td>
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<td>Micona</td>
<td>Dennis Anderson</td>
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<td>Menominee</td>
<td>Dave Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missaukee</td>
<td>Bob Vosler/Win</td>
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<td>Dan Dickens</td>
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<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Ken Noebeth</td>
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<td>Paula Boker</td>
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<td>Oceoda</td>
<td>Dean Smallads</td>
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<td>Oonge</td>
<td>Karen Odell</td>
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<td>Osage</td>
<td>Jeff Gill</td>
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<td>Shiawase</td>
<td>Chris Dentler</td>
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<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Tim Craig-Waiter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washtenaw</td>
<td>Todd Healbecher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Brian McClintock</td>
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In these tough economic times all business owners are looking for ways to improve their bottom line. Now Farm Bureau can help with a new money saving group Health Plan from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

These new plans are guaranteed issue no matter what your health history, locally serviced by our 69 county offices and 400 agents statewide, and competitively priced to save farm owners and operators hundreds or even thousands of dollars off their health insurance bill. So, if you're a sole proprietor or if you have one or more employees, you should call Farm Bureau today for benefit and rate information.

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

Please Print

Name
Address
Phone
County
Type of Farm/Business

Current Health Insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Full Time Employees</th>
<th>2-4</th>
<th>5-9</th>
<th>10-24</th>
<th>25 and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Solo proprietor

(1 person group)
If you think a pyramid is something you can only find in Egypt, it’s time to take your taste buds on a tour. Another kind of pyramid called the Food Guide Pyramid is a guide that teaches you how to eat healthy foods every day. But a recent Kids’ Nutrition Survey discovered more than three out of four American kids (ages 5 to 9) have never heard of the Food Guide Pyramid. And only a few kids could name the five major food groups.

**Exploring The Food Guide Pyramid: From The Bottom Up**

Your tour begins at the bottom of the Pyramid with the Bread Groups. Breads, cereals, rice and pasta are in this group. These foods give you energy. You need at least 6 servings from this group every day. That may sound like a lot, but it’s easy to do! What counts as a serving? 1 slice of bread; 1 ounce of cereal; or 1/2 cup of cooked oatmeal, rice or noodles.

Now, move up to the Vegetable Group and the Fruit Group. You’ll find lots of vitamins and minerals in this part of the Pyramid. Every day, choose at least 3 servings from the Vegetable Group. One serving is about 1/2 cup of raw, cooked or canned vegetables like green beans and mashed potatoes, or 1 cup of salad. You should eat at least 2 servings from the Fruit Group every day. One serving of fruit is an apple, banana, orange, 1/2 cup of canned fruit, or 3/4 cup of real fruit juice like apple juice or orange juice.

Climbing a little higher on the pyramid, you’ll see the Milk Group. Eat or drink at least 2 servings of milk and foods made with milk every day for strong bones and teeth. A serving equals 1/2 cup of milk or yogurt; 1-1/2 ounces of natural cheese such as Cheddar or Swiss; or 2 ounces of processed cheese like American cheese slices.

Finally, on your right is the Meat Group. This group includes beef, pork, lamb, veal, chicken, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts which help you grow and stay healthy. Choose 2 to 3 servings from this group every day. A typical serving is 2 to 3 ounces of cooked lean meat - about the same size as a deck of cards. Also, 1/2 cup of cooked dry beans, 1 egg or 2 tablespoons of peanut butter count as an ounce from this group.

At the tip of the Pyramid you’ll find foods like fats, oils and sweets - candy bars, salad dressings, margarine. It’s okay to have these once in a while if you only have a little. But be sure you’ve eaten the right amount from all of the other food groups first.

Can’t remember all of the serving sizes? Just think of the shape of the Food Guide Pyramid. Its triangle shape shows HOW MUCH you should be eating. Eat larger amounts of foods from groups at the bottom of the Pyramid and eat smaller amounts from the groups at the top.

**continued on next page...**
Continued from front page...

Eating Adventures Are Easy - Let The Food Pyramid Be Your Guide

All of the food groups are important. Each food group provides some, but not all, of the nutrition you need. That's why it's important to choose from each group every day. The next time you're trying to decide what to eat, let the Food Guide Pyramid be your tour guide. Here's how it works for a lunch you might fix:

- **2 Slices Whole Wheat Bread**
- **2 oz. Lean Roast Beef**
- **1/2 cup Carrot Sticks**
- **1 oz. Lowfat Yogurt**
- **1 tsp. Mayonnaise**
- **2 Slices Whole Wheat Bread**

**FOOD GROUP**
- 2 - Bread Group
- 1 - Fruit Group
- 1 - Vegetable Group
- 1 - Milk Group
- 1 - Meat Group
- Fats, Sweets, Oils

**DAILY**
- 6 to 11
- 2 to 4
- 3 to 5
- 2 to 3
- Only a little

The National Kids' Nutrition Survey, conducted by Touchstone Research, Inc. and commissioned by the National Livestock and Meat Board, asked 400 kids (200 boys and 200 girls) between the ages of 5 and 9 about their nutrition attitudes and opinions. Source: National Livestock and Meat Board

### WEIGHING THE RISKS OF OVERWEIGHT

Body weight is still the easiest and most practical way to estimate your health risk. But don't place too much emphasis on weight charts alone. Instead, take a look at a number of factors that influence whether or not your weight is "healthy" for you.

There are health conditions that can be improved or managed through weight reduction. These include such conditions as high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoarthritis, high blood cholesterol and high triglycerides. A family history of chronic disease or health conditions related to weight is a signal that maintaining a healthy weight or weight reduction could reduce some health risks, despite a genetic susceptibility.

Being overweight generally means being "overfat." Obesity means an excess accumulation of body fat. Usually obesity and overweight are related. And at 25 pounds overweight (by most weight charts) the health risks of obesity begin to surface.

Excess fat deposited mainly in the waist and abdomen seem to pose a greater health risk (for diabetes and heart disease, for example) than fat in the thighs and hips. Measure your waist around your smallest point without sucking in your stomach. Your waist should be smaller than your hip measurement. Your waist should be smaller than your hip measurement.

**How much should you weigh?**

The National Research Council recently (1989) provided a listing of weight ranges considered to be healthy for adults. The ranges are based on age and height, but within the ranges the higher weights generally apply to men who have more muscle and bone. Lower weights generally apply to women.

**Height (without shoes)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight in Pounds (without clothes)</th>
<th>19-34 yrs.</th>
<th>35 and older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5'0&quot;</td>
<td>97-128</td>
<td>108-138</td>
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<tr>
<td>5'1&quot;</td>
<td>101-132</td>
<td>111-143</td>
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<tr>
<td>5'2&quot;</td>
<td>104-137</td>
<td>115-148</td>
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<td>107-141</td>
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<td>5'6&quot;</td>
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<td>5'11&quot;</td>
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<td>151-194</td>
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<td>6'1&quot;</td>
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<td>152-200</td>
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<td>6'5&quot;</td>
<td>160-211</td>
<td>177-228</td>
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<tr>
<td>6'6&quot;</td>
<td>164-216</td>
<td>182-234</td>
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To resuscitate someone, you must start CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) within one to four minutes. Could you? As a family member or bystander, you could be an important live-saving link in responding to a heart attack emergency. Unfortunately, only about one-third of adults are trained in CPR, mostly in younger age groups. And only 25 percent of people who have a family member with heart disease have received CPR training.

CPR training is especially important if you're older or likely to respond to a heart attack emergency within your family. Ask your local Red Cross, county emergency services or public safety office, or state American Heart Association for the CPR training sites near you.

Donors Must Speak Up!

One third of the 30,000 people in the U.S. waiting for a donated organ will die waiting. Unfortunately, many willing donors may never have the chance to help simply because they kept their intentions to themselves.

If you’re a potential donor, let your family know. Donor cards, often combined with a driver’s license, are a good way to signal your wishes. But don’t rely on that. It’s best to talk with family members about your decision and ask them to honor your request to donate organs in the event of your death.
Break Falls, Not Bones

Osteoporosis can be a "silent" disease. Many of its victims walk around with porous, too thin bones for years and never know it — until they fall and break a bone in the hip or other part of the body.

That's why it's as important for older men and women to avoid falling as it is to ensure they maintain the highest possible bone mass.

That's why physicians should review older patient medications and, if possible, switch or reduce the dosage of any that can cause confusion or impaired balance. In addition, older men and women should be educated about environmental hazards such as throw rugs, loose extension cords, poorly lit stairs, and high heel shoes.

The National Osteoporosis Foundation has several more recommendations for reducing the risk of a fall, mostly for indoors.

• Install non-skid mats in the bathtub.
• Don't get up from sitting or lying down too quickly because low blood pressure can lead to dizziness, which in turn can lead to falling.
• Keep the nighttime temperature in the home no lower than 65 degrees F; • Don't get up from sitting or lying down too quickly because low blood pressure can lead to dizziness, which in turn can lead to falling.
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Q: How can I make the most out of appointments with my doctors?
A: Good communication with your physician is essential, but it will take some effort. Listed below are tips from the American Academy of Family Physicians for a healthy partnership with your physician:

• Develop an ongoing partnership for health with your physician. Consult your physician promptly when problems arise and continue follow-up until they are resolved.
• Provide your physician with your complete health history. Be honest and specific about your symptoms. Write them down as they occur, including day and time.
• Make sure your physician knows all of the medications you are taking, particularly those prescribed by other physicians.
• Whenever your physician prescribes medication, take all of it in the prescribed dosages (unless instructed otherwise) even if you start to feel better before you finish the medication.
• Take a written list of questions and/or symptoms you want to discuss with your physician. This will help you remember all of your concerns.
• Ask questions when you do not understand a symptom, illness, or treatment. It is your right as a patient to make decisions based on knowledge.
• Ask your physician for materials that will help you better understand your health needs and any particular conditions you and your family may have.
• Follow your physician's advice on changes in your daily routine, such as diet or exercise. If a certain program isn't realistic for you, work with him/her to find one that is.
• On your physician's advice, commit to a regular schedule of checkups. Determine the best schedule for someone of your age, sex and medical history to have such tests as: complete blood count, blood chemistry profile, urinalysis, Pap smear, breast exam, etc.

Q: What are the symptoms of colon cancer and who is at risk?
A: In the United States, nearly one half of all cancers begin in the digestive tract, with most of these originating in the colon and rectum. Symptoms vary, depending on the location of the cancer. A cancerous tumor in the right colon may not exhibit pronounced symptoms, whereas a tumor in the left colon usually exhibits significant symptoms of obstruction such as pain, cramps, constipation and detectable bleeding. Such symptoms should be immediately investigated by sigmoidoscopy (looking at the interior of the colon through a special viewing device), examining the stool for blood, and perhaps X-ray studies.

Very often the only clue of a cancer in the right colon is anemia, caused by slow bleeding of the tumor and characterized by fatigue, listlessness and sometimes dark black flaky red stools. Any such symptoms should prompt a thorough search for a colon cancer.

While cancer is no respecter of age, and can attack anyone at any time, certain people are at a higher risk for developing colon cancer. Such risk factors include associated diseases like ulcerative colitis and granulomatous colitis, a past history of benign bowel tumors, female breast and genital cancers, and a family history of colon cancer. Individuals with these risk factors should begin screening tests for colon cancer at an earlier age than they might otherwise do. Everyone should have a first sigmoidoscopy at age fifty, and one every two to three years thereafter.

Early detection and treatment are the keys to improving the cure rate of colon cancer. Reducing our consumption of red meat and animal fat, increasing consumption of dietary fiber, reducing colorectal intake, eating more antioxidant containing fruits and vegetables, and getting regular checkups are the best preventative measures against cancer.

The following questions and answers come from Lansing's Sparrow Health System's physician referral and information service called "NurseLine." They are timely and commonly asked questions.
Cold medications can make you more comfortable while you wait for your body to fight off the virus infection. Here's some helpful information you can use to treat your cold symptoms:

**Antihistamines**—Antihistamines decrease cold symptoms like sneezing and runny nose by reducing the swelling of small blood vessels in nasal linings. Antihistamines may make you drowsy. Antihistamines may be contraindicated for people with specific health conditions such as high blood pressure.

**Decongestants**—Decongestants also reduce swelling of nasal blood vessels. Cough medicines—A productive cough helps clear irritated airways and brings up mucus or phlegm; a dry or non-productive cough doesn't. Use a cough medicine when your cough is dry or when your work or sleep is disturbed by coughing.

For a dry cough an expectorant encourages a more productive cough and helps clear airways by decreasing the thickness of phlegm and increasing sputum. Guaiifenesin, found in expectorant cough medicines, can be an effective expectorant. Breathe warm, moist air and drink plenty of fluids.

Quiet frequent cough with an antitussive such as dextromethorphan. Antitussive medications may also contain narcotics that act on the cough center in your brain. Cough drops are effective for most coughs.

**Analgesics**—Pain relievers like acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and aspirin act on the aches and pains associated with the common cold. These medicines can relieve head and body aches and pains.

**Antibiotics**—Antibiotics treat bacterial infections. Antibiotics are not present in sufficient amounts to treat colds, which are caused by viruses. Antibiotics would be needed to treat a bacterial co-infection, such as sinusitis or ear infections (which are present in 7% of adults) or bacterial pneumonia (in children). Sometimes antibiotics are prescribed, especially good prevention practice offering relief from head and nasal congestion, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, and coughing. In fact, every adult colds. Adenoviruses are another major category. Indeed, the sheer numbers of viruses that can infect infants, children, and adults with colds make it seem that the common denominator in the “common cold” is its inevitability.

Colds are easy to catch, but not as easy as you think. And there are some everyday prevention techniques you can use to protect yourself and your family.

Colds and symptom—cold virus transmission literally go hand in hand. Colds are usually spread by hand to hand contact with another person or on objects such as telephone receivers, doorknobs, etc. A cough or sneeze propels virus-containing water particles through the air, putting people nearby at risk of cold infection. Also, people with colds often contaminate their hands by touching their noses or mouths and then unknowingly pass along the virus when they come into contact with other people.

That makes frequent handwashing an especially good prevention practice during the cough and cold season. Whether or not you come down with a cold once infected depends on a variety of factors, including age, genetics, cigarette smoking in the environment, intensity and duration of exposure to the virus, and whether or not you have developed antibodies to that virus.

Scientists estimate that about 1,500 different viruses and variations of viruses can trigger colds. Rhinoviruses account for about 30 to 50% of adult colds. Adenoviruses are another major category. Indeed, the sheer numbers of viruses that can infect infants, children, and adults with colds make it seem that the common denominator in the “common cold” is its inevitability.

Colds are easy to catch, but not as easy as you think. And there are some everyday prevention techniques you can use to protect yourself and your family.

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**How to Tell a Cold From the Flu** — While influenza and the common cold share some traits, they differ in several others. This table will help you spot the distinguishing features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Common cold</th>
<th>Influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Uncommon; slight</td>
<td>Prominent; high (typically 102°F–104°F); sudden onset; lasts 3–4 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Prominent, often severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle aches</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Extreme; sudden onset; may last several weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue, weakness</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runny, stuffy nose</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sneezing</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Uncommon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>Sometimes; mild to moderate</td>
<td>Common; often severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Why smoke hurts everyone**

Grain, dust, manure, chemical vapors — farm air is filled with all sorts of substances that can make farmers and their family members sneeze, wheeze and cough. Most of them are farm-related work. But there's one lung hazard found on many farms that has nothing to do with farming — secondhand smoke.

By now, everyone knows how unhealthy smoking is for the smoker. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently concluded that secondhand smoke kills thousands of non-smoking adults each year. Secondhand smoke also makes it harder to breathe for hundreds of thousands of children.

**How to protect your family**

- Don't allow smoking in your home or farm buildings. Tell smokers to go outside and post Thank You for Not Smoking signs. Encourage your family to quit.
- Make sure your children's preschool and afterschool programs are smoke-free.
- Talk with your doctor about smoking cessation programs or contact the American Lung Association of Michigan 1-800-678-5864 for more help and information.

**How to prevent exposure**

- Don't allow smoking in your home or farm buildings. Tell smokers to go outside and post Thank You for Not Smoking signs. Encourage your family to quit.
- Make sure your children's preschool and afterschool programs are smoke-free.
- Talk with your doctor about smoking cessation programs or contact the American Lung Association of Michigan 1-800-678-5864 for more help and information.
Looking Back

50 Years Ago......

The 25th annual meeting of the Michigan State Farm Bureau was held at Michigan State College on Nov. 9-10, 1944. It was expected that the 29,000 members of Farm Bureau in its 47 county units and 140 farmer cooperative associations affiliated with Farm Bureau would send over 700 voting delegates to the event. Those delegates were advised of rooms available at six Lansing hotels: the Elderhostel, the Roosevelt, the Porter, the Wentworth, the Strand, and the Detroit, at rates ranging from $1.50 without bath to $2.50 with bath. When those hotels filled up, private residences in Lansing and East Lansing announced that overnight lodging was available to delegates for $1.50 per night for two persons.

The delegate body at that annual meeting made a number of important changes in the organization's bylaws. First, the word "state" was eliminated from the name, "Michigan State Farm Bureau" to end any misunderstanding that the organization had any connection to the state government. It became simply "Michigan Farm Bureau."

The make-up of the board of directors was changed to 11 district directors, three directors-at-large, the Junior Farm Bureau and the Associated Women of Farm Bureau. The reorganization of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange; Elevator Exchange; Milk Producers Association, Potato Growers Exchange, Mid-West Producers' Creameries and Michigan Cooperative Wool Marketing Association, on the Farm Bureau Board would be terminated in November 1945 and replaced by commodity committees.

Voting delegates also set the membership goal for 1945 at 40,000 and a long-term goal of 60,000 for 1950.

*****

The Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau was considered to be a very progressive unit in 1944. Both husband and wife had a vote at the county annual meeting, and the wife of a member of the county board of directors was an associate director and was entitled to vote at board meetings.

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At its 1944 annual meeting, the Tuscola County Farm Bureau pledged support to the men in the armed forces: "We, the members of Tuscola County Farm Bureau, pledge ourselves never to let down our fighting men. Werededtobeaveryprogressive unit in 1944. Both husband and wife had a vote at the county annual meeting, and the wife of a member of the county board of directors was an associate director and was entitled to vote at board meetings.

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The Michigan State Junior Farm Bureau and its Campus Junior Farm Bureau announced that they would go back on the air over WKAR, East Lansing, on Feb. 5, 1944. The 15-minute broadcast on eight successive Saturdays would get Junior Farm Bureau news out to members. The plan to send a bi-weekly newsletter to all members had to be abandoned because of the paper shortage.

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Over 1,000 farm folks attended the July 1944 Huron County Farm Bureau picnic in Caseville to hear Sen. Homer Ferguson. Members from Tuscola and Huron counties also came to hear the senator demand fair play for the farmer now and after the war. "We must not repeat the years after World War I when farm prices dropped 125 percent, but prices for what we had to buy went up," he said.
For over seven years, Great Lakes Hybrids, based in Ovid, Mich., has sponsored awards for state finalists in the Discussion Meet Contest, Young Farmer Achievement Award and the Outstanding Young Ag Leader, providing the state winner in each contest $1,000 worth of products. That tradition continues again this year, according to Regional Sales Manager Brad Smith.

"We're a Michigan-based company and we feel it's important to support the Michigan Farm Bureau organization, especially its young farmer programs," Smith said. "This is a great opportunity to support the producers locally here in Michigan and the state." Local commitment to quality, says Smith, is what created Great Lakes Hybrid in 1964, and why it has seen phenomenal growth. It now holds over 6 percent of the market share in the state. That philosophy includes the farmers who supply seed for the company.

"Since our growers also own the company, they bear the quality risk," Smith said. "They obviously have a vested interest in producing a product that the consumer will accept. We're also making strong gains in our genetic research and product development, which should provide big dividends for us and the producer."

Great Lakes Hybrids headquarters in Ovid is also the site of the company's 2.5 acre warehouse. All of the company's seed corn is processed through this facility as well.

The Ovid warehouse was expanded recently to 104,000 square feet (it covers 2-1/2 acres), one of the largest in the country. According to Smith, the warehouse is large enough that it could house all of the seed corn produced in Michigan, including that of their competitors.

Smith and Mitchell Bane, Great Lakes Vice President Of Sales And Marketing, estimate that Great Lakes seed use in Michigan is ultimately responsible for producing 18 million total bushels of corn, and 3 million bushels of soybeans annually.

Proprietary Research Yields Results at Great Lakes Hybrids

A major focus on proprietary research over the past six years is yielding excellent results for Great Lakes Hybrids—a national seed company based in Ovid, Michigan. For 1995, over 40 percent of Great Lakes U.S. seed corn production is in proprietary products, continuing the trend of increased private line development by Great Lakes.

"It is exciting to see the results we are getting," states Don Yates, Great Lakes corn product manager. "Our goal is to give farmers the best value for their seed investment. We feel we are doing that even better with many of our recent hybrid introductions."

Dr. Klaus Koehler, Great Lakes Hybrids director of research, says that although Great Lakes Hybrids has expanded from its Michigan base to cover the entire central Corn Belt, it has not forgotten where its roots are. Great Lakes' Ovid/St. Charles, Michigan, research station is the hub for research activities in Michigan.

Many of the corn breeding and testing activities are centered there, including line development, maintenance and improvement of breeding populations; preliminary and advanced screening trials; and organization of Great Lakes' extensive replicated research testing program. Additionally, Great Lakes offers services to several off-site, extensive product research at four sites in Michigan.

According to Yates, there are some definite reasons why Great Lakes Research is having success. "Our whole research effort is very goal oriented. Because of the size and diversity of our facilities, we do not have to do a considerable amount of screening. Our breeders and technicians do an excellent job of focusing on their objectives," Yates said.

Great Lakes corn breeder Harry Brokish agrees. "You must know what your goals are and you have to stick with your objectives." Great Lakes Breeder Ag, of Einbeck, Germany—one of the world's largest seed companies. Unlike many of the conglomerates that participate in the seed industry, KWS AG's only business activity is seed. KWS, like Great Lakes started as a farmer-owned cooperative, beginning research and production operations in the 1860s.

"Having a global outlook is important to be able to gather all the knowledge and materials needed to provide farmers in the central Belt with what they need in terms of genetics," says Brokish. "The KWS worldwide network of plant breeders, along with accessibility to their germplasm base, has been valuable to us.

Brokish says the key to breeding success is to have a super quality testing program so you can find the top performing material.

Anybody with a breeding program can develop a mass of inbreds, but you have to be able to identify the elite lines. That is why the methods of testing and screening are absolutely critical to a program's success," he said.

Great Lakes Research does all its research testing at very high populations to eliminate lines that can't hold up to the increased stresses. Experimental hybrids with less than desirable agronomics are identified more readily than in testing done at moderate populations. In all, their additional replicated testing is done in four row plots, unlike the customary two row plots many organizations use. The four row replications give more reliable data, reports Brokish.

October Michigan Farm Prices Mixed

The Index of Prices Received by farmers in Michigan for all products as of Oct. 15 was 122 percent of its 1977 base, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. The October index was up 1 percent from September but eight points less than last year's index. The price index for all Michigan crops was 117, a three point increase from last month. Prices fell substantially for corn and soybeans as each decreased 6 percent from September. This decline is due to a forecasted record U.S. production for these commodities. Wheat prices increased 5 percent from previous month due to tighter world supplies and hay prices rose 16 percent. Out prices were up slightly and dry beans prices increased 12 percent from last month.

The livestock and products index, at 131, was unchanged from September. Decreases in meat animal prices were offset by increases in milk and egg prices. Livestock prices slipped due to heavy slaughter numbers and weights. Hog prices decreased 8 percent while slaughter cows decreased 7 percent from previous month. Calf prices declined 4 percent and steers and heifers dropped 1 percent from last month. Milk and egg prices each increased 2 percent over September.

Nationally, the October All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 132 percent of the 1977 base, down two points from September 1994. Price declines from September for hogs, cattle, corn and soybeans were over three years of the 1977 base, down two points from September 1994. Price declines from September for hogs, cattle, corn and soybeans were

**October Michigan Farm Prices Mixed**

**Great Lakes GL-420 seed corn, with a 95-day maturity, and 2415 soybean seed are the two biggest sellers in Michigan and for the company overall. Their alfalfa seed product sales have been depressed heavily on the overwhelming success of "Weedfoot NPR" and its predecessor "Weebuck."**

"Weebuck NPR has an excellent reputation, both in Michigan and Wisconsin, for being able to survive winter kill, and its ability to stand heaving and thawing in the spring," Bane said. "The plant has a real fibrous branching root system which allows it to survive on heavier, wetter soils as well.

Competitive research and successful product introductions in the seed business, says Bane. The company has several projects underway that include products for meeting specific market demands, and would, theoretically, be grown under contract between the producer and the end-user, such as high-lutein soy.

The company is also working on a glyco-phosphate resistant corn variety, which Bane expects will be the next generation of herbicide to eventually replace Roundup. The company also has access to European corn borer technology, but Bane says uncertainty and legal lagging over who owns the rights to that technology will prevent speedy introduction of new seed corn products in that arena.

Higgins Named MFB Volunteer of the Month

Shiawassee County Farm Bureau member Gary Higgins, was named the October MFB Volunteer of the Month for his efforts in organizing an auction fund raiser for the 4-H Kethunan Center at the county Farm Bureau's recent annual meeting, raising over $850. A cash crop farmer from Corunna, Higgins has most recently served as county president in addition to serving several years as county board member, membership chairman and as a member of the county Promotion and Education Committee.

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The program is scheduled to begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.

Workshop which will be held in the Kent Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit.

Room of the Westin Hotel, located to the intelligent use of natural resources.

education and information group dedicated to the Great Northwest, a non-profit manager. Vincent helped to form a Partnership with their father operating Vincent Logging, where Bruce serves as business manager. Vincent and his three brothers are in a part-time role.

mental extremists - will control the debate.” says. “If we don’t, then a distant public - misguided and misinformed by environmentalists - will control the debate.”

Local people with a vested interest in solving the agricultural problem, according to the “Showcase of Agriculture” will be sharing their experience.

Bruce Vincent of Libby, Ore., will be sharing his experience with the local people who work in the Renaissance Center each day, will be able to see farm animals, videos of animal birthings, participate in computer simulations on groundwater education, and have a chance to be involved in a number of other interactive programs."

Chamberlain expects the program to be a tremendous learning opportunity not only for the school children and consumers, but also for farmers and commodity organization staff.

The commodity organizations slated to participate thus far include:

- Michigan Apple Producers - East
- Michigan Biotechnology Institute
- Michigan Pork Producers Assoc.
- Michigan Vegetable Council, Inc.
- Michigan Nursery and Landscape Assoc.
- Michigan Assoc. of Conservation Districts
- Ag & Natural Resources Afar: Amazing Food Chain
- Michigan Sheep Breeders Assoc.
- Kathy Carpenter (Hatching Chicks)
- United Dairy Industry of Michigan
- MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Michigan Beef Industry Commission

"The Thin Line Between Environmental Sensitivity and Insanity"

Want to learn what you can do locally to protect your private property rights? If so, you’ll want to attend the educational workshop scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28, during the MFB annual meeting in Detroit.

Natural resource activist Bruce Vincent of Libby, Ore., will be sharing his experience on protecting private property rights and encouraging individuals to take a more active role.

"Local people with a vested interest in solution-oriented discussion have got to attend to, and involve themselves, in the local debate surrounding environmental protection laws and private property rights," Vincent says. "If we don’t, then a distant public - misguided and misinformed by environmental extremists - will control the debate."

Vincent and his three brothers are in a partnership with their father operating Vincent Logging, where Bruce serves as business manager. Vincent helped to form Communities for a Great Northwest, a non-profit education and information group dedicated to the intelligent use of natural resources.

No registration is required to attend the workshop which will be held in the Kent Room of the Westin Hotel, located in the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit. The program is scheduled to begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.
BUMPER CROP.

GET $500 CASH BACK OR $1000 WORTH OF DEWALT TOOLS.

America's farm economy continues to show signs of significant improvement. For the third year in a row, Dodge Truck is proud to offer Farm Bureau members a special purchase incentive. Which means you can pick up an extra $500 cash back on the pickup voted a Readers' Choice in Farm Industry News. In addition to all 5.9L Magnum gas and Cummins diesel 1994 Ram regular cab pickups, we've also extended this cash back offer to select mid-size Dakota pickups. Along with all 1994 Ram Vans and Ram Wagons. And it's on top of any other national offer, too. Or, if you prefer, select up to $1,000 in heavy-duty DeWalt tools, instead. Either way, see your Farm Bureau for a certificate validating that you've been a member for at least thirty days. Then drop by your Dodge Dealer. And cash in.

*This cash back offer is valid for eligible members of participating Farm Bureaus, expires 12/31/94, and may not be used in combination with any other Chrysler Corporation certificate offer or certain other special offers. Ask for restrictions and details. Farm Bureau is a registered service mark of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

America's Truck Stop The New Dodge
Young Farmer Achievement Award and Outstanding Young Ag Leader Finalists

Young Farmer Achievement Awards

Tom Barends
Fremont, Newaygo County
Wife: Jacqueline

Agricultural Operation:
Owns and manages 50-cow dairy herd and raises 62 heifers, utilizing rotational grazing throughout the growing season.Feed is purchased and raises 50 cows.

Community Involvement:
Hosts "Open Barn" as a dairy promotional event inviting public to the farm to observe milking and feeding which coincides with Dairy Month each June. Leadership activities include board member, president and show committee chairman for Michigan Holstein Association. Jacqueline serves on the county board for Federated Genetics; board member for county DHIA. Tom and Jacqueline both serve numerous other leadership positions for 4-H and YF EA.

Farm Bureau Involvement:
Young Farmer Chairman for 1993-94. Tom and Jacqueline are national and state Young Farmer conference delegates. Members of Policy Development Committee.

Robert BeGole
Morrice, Shiawassee County

Agricultural Operation:
Over 300 acres and rents an additional 700 acres raising corn, soybeans, wheat, canola and hay.

Community Involvement:
Elected Shiawassee County Commissioner this year. Awarded Shiawassee County Farm of the Year in 1991. Active involvement in soy and corn associations. Promotional Farmers of America and National Federation of Independent Business. Blue ribbon winner for livestock, poultry and rabbit categories in 4-H county fair.

Farm Bureau Involvement:
Represents interests of farmers and agri-business as Shiawassee County Commissioner. Farm Bureau member.

Jeff Brittle
Manchester, Washtenaw County

Agricultural Operation:
Com, wheat, soybeans and oats are harvested on 750 acres. Uses Farm Credit's AgBase to manage and market commodities. Started crop rotation and operates 90 percent no-till.

Community Involvement:
FFA president and vice president; earned FFA Star Steward Seat. Associate member of Manchester Community Fair Board and a 4-H volunteer.

Farm Bureau Involvement:
Led Washtenaw County Young Farmers as chairman from 1991 to present. Also chairman of Candidate Evaluation and Membership Appreciation committees and County Annual Pig Roast. Served as delegate to MFB annual meeting from 1990 to present.

Lance Purkhiser
Dowagiac, Cass County

Agricultural Operation:
Annually feeds 5,000 hogs, purchasing 3,000 tons of feed annually on a 226-acre operation.

Community Involvement:
Participated in showmanship demonstrations for local 4-H Youth groups. Served on 4-H fair committee and as assistant softball coach for church. Won champion awards for swine, beef, steer, and showmanship from Penn 4-H club. Received MSU scholarship award.

Farm Bureau Involvement:
Cass County Young Farmer contest nominee; Discussion Meet participant. Served on Young Farmer, and Policy Development committees.

Outstanding Young Agricultural Leaders

Gayle Bennett
Prescott, Ogemaw County
Husband: Robert
Children: Addi, 7; Kyle, 3

Agricultural Operation:
Family partnership in dairy operation on 450 acres with brother and sister-in-law.

Community Involvement:
Organized blood drive for nephew needing bone marrow transplant. Added 200 names to National Registry during successful campaign.

Community Involvement:
Served as delegate to MFB annual meeting from 1990 to present.

Amy Martin
LeRoy, Osceola County
Husband: Craig
Children: Brandon, 5

Agricultural Operation:
Involved with a 150-cow dairy operation with parents, raising alfalfa, barley and oats. Operating 850 acres (80 owned), manages the milking herd, breeding, records and health.

Community Involvement:
Started and leads 4-H club for 12 youths. Leadership with 4-H Dairy and Beef. Hosted foreign exchange students from Denmark, Israel, Japan and Puerto Rico. Hugh O'Brien Youth Leader Award.

Michael McManus
Eaton Rapids, Eaton County
Wife: Debi
Children: Jason, 16; Phillip, 14

Agricultural Operation:
Family partnership of nearly 400 acres (210 tillable) on a cash crop farm. Rotation consists of corn, soybeans, wheat, clover and alfalfa. Responsible for chemical application and records. Some purchasing and selling of commodities.

Community Involvement:
Board member on Brookfield Masonic Lodge. Participant in the Leadership Eaton Program. Received the USDA award for outstanding service to Eaton County farmers during 1988 drought.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Mike Wenkel
Grayling, Cass County

Agricultural Operation:
Serves with the local Soil and Water Conservation District. Works with agricultural producers on manure management and adoption of other "best management practices." Part-time activities focus on hog and cash crop aspects. Provides for the care of livestock, manure application and planting/harvesting.

Community Involvement:
Edwards also produces two technologies and youth on the importance of resource conservation. Developed programs to emphasize the role of agriculture in water quality initiatives. Was awarded the "Conservation Education District of the Year." Current FFA Alumni executive vice president, newsletter chairman and annual meeting chairman.

Farm Bureau Involvement:
Currently co-chairman of Young Farmers. Developed educational programs focused on environmental issues affecting young farmers. Served on various committees and was Cass county executive vice president 1993-94, delegate to MFB annual meeting and Young Farmer co-chairman for 1992-94.
14  Michigan Farm News Classifieds

1 0 Farm Machinery
1972 FRIDAY half rollover shelter. Wood splitter with 16hp motor and 30° splitting capacity. Call 1-616-271-3543 weekdays or weekends after 6pm.

01 Farm Machinery
1984 FORD 156XL extended cab. Short box, 3-speed with overdrive and fiberglass cap. Many extra high miles, runs good. $2,750. Call 1-616-945-2200.

20 Farm Machinery
1926 REGULAR, engine free, good condition. $320. 20' rear steel wheels, $360. John Dear B. Runs good! $1,900. Call 1-517-367-7300.

21 Farm Machinery
1976 FREIGHTLINER, CO semi & V-8/450, 13-speed, 38,000+ miles, $4,000. Call 1-810-468-4604.

22 Farm Machinery
1980 TR7S New Holland combine. 6 row, on head, 16' grain head, hydrostatic drive, 3,000 hours. Runs good! Call 1-517-766-8028.

23 Farm Machinery
1,000 GALLON BULK milk tank. $1500 or best offer. Call 1-616-453-5931 or leave message.

24 Farm Machinery
1991 CASH-HI 7139 Magnum, MFWD, duals, 700 hours, 3 years left warranty, $62,000. 1-419-485-8358.

25 Farm Machinery
A TRACTOR FRAME REPLACEMENT BELTING. Complete line of Goodyear Replacement Belting for round baler, belt guard. Call for a big assortment and combine belts. Plus, farm duty electric motors. Edwards Industrial Sales 1-400-488-5069.

26 Farm Machinery

27 Farm Machinery
BOBCAT 615 SKID loader, 50° wide. Like new condition! Call 1-219-623-8257.

28 Farm Machinery
COMLINE RESTORED 1941 John Deere LA with steel fenders, 1000 hours. $3000. KawKawlin, MI. Call 1-616-785-5837.

29 Farm Machinery

30 Farm Machinery
JOHN DEERE 6-bottom 3600 seed unit, 13'5" long, $800. Call 1-800-603-4627.

31 Farm Machinery
WANTED TO BUY: JOHN DEERE LGP model #2054, $2800 or best offer. Call 1-517-614-7003.

32 Farm Machinery

33 Farm Machinery
UHLER BATTERY powered feed cart. $700, OBO. 25' belt conveyor with motor, 20' wide. Like new, $1500 for both, OBO. Call 1-810-621-4116.

34 Farm Machinery
SALERO MALL CENTER valleys and plots with other make with steel equipment. Call any time, toll free. 1-800-248-6459.

35 Farm Machinery
WANTED TO BUY: Older or new tractor, combine running or not, Sata age, price and condition. Send to Wayne Shinabery, 199 South Martin Road, Hudsonville, MI 49427. Call Wayne Shinabery, 1-616-875-6089.

36 Farm Machinery
WANTED TO BUY: Late model farm equipment, Case IH, Ford tractors, combines and other farm machinery. Call Wayne Shinabery 1-517-748-8501.

02 Livestock Equipment
W' WESTERN TRACTOR TRAILER. Steel box, $1200 or make offer. Have one million mile sale. Selling for a friend. Call 1-517-869-6999.

02 Livestock Equipment
MANURE SPREADERS: New and used. Balzer, B-185 parts, UPS daily. Also can dry grains and handling equipment. Ingham Distributing Co. 1-800-248-7670.

02 Livestock Equipment
NEW HOLLAND 718 hopper with hay box attachment. 6-row international 400 picker, seed laughter, $9995. Call 1-616-785-6705.

02 Livestock Equipment

02 Livestock Equipment
STATIONARY DECK steel dance deck trailer. Farm use only. Excellent condition. Call 1-517-711-8198 or 1-517-781-2503.

02 Livestock Equipment

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SALERO MALL CENTER valleys and plots with other make with steel equipment. Call any time, toll free. 1-800-248-6459.

02 Livestock Equipment
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WANTED TO BUY: Late model farm equipment, Case IH, Ford tractors, combines and other farm machinery. Call Wayne Shinabery 1-517-748-8501.

02 Livestock Equipment
W' WESTERN TRACTOR TRAILER. Steel box, $1200 or make offer. Have one million mile sale. Selling for a friend. Call 1-517-869-6999.
Livestock

MINIATURE DONKEYS: Graceful, intelligent, and easily trained. All our stock and breeding stock available.
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Ruttenberry Farms, Charlevoix, MI 1-906-622-6900.


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QUALITY ANGUS BREEDERS: Registered Angus females. Call to ascertain. Breeders are located throughout the state. Save the date! Michigan Angus Association Fall Sale, September 13-15, St. Johns, Michigan 1-800-968-6699.

QUALITY ANGUS HEREFORD: Registered heifers available. Call 1-616-396-5016.

Bovine Semen: Registered Jersey and Jersey service bulls for sale; all pedigrees available. Bred with high buttefat and protein content. Call 1-616-531-2518 or 1-616-636-1762.

QUALITY ANGUS HEREFORD: Registered yearling heifers needed by 10-1-94. First calf. 1-517-656-5579.

QUALITY ANGUS HEREFORD: Registered heifers. For information, call 1-517-775-7990.

Red Fox Farms
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REAL ESTATE

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ATTENTION SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS: Wooded 40 acre parcel on Dufek Lake, Lenawee County. Several great building sites! $110,000. (F-869).

COOPERVILLE, Michigan. Dairy farm, 80 acres, bed and breakfast with walkout basement (18 years old), 3 bds. 1.5 bths. Call today! 1-648-453-0871. No Sundays.

MICHIGAN MUSHROOM FARMS: Organic farming.认定52 acre, 48,000 square feet facility, fully equipped. Call 1-616-561-3009.

-biggest Missouri Mushroom Farms. Owners retiring 52 acres, 48,000 square feet facility, fully equipped, custom spraying. Call 1-616-611-3009.

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BORDER COLLIE puppies: Easy to train. Gentle, affectionate, and always a joy to have around. They will even herd your livestock facilities. Learn visually and orally. Measures levels of voltage, milli-second. Warns you both visually and audibly. Eliminates fire danger. Inside or outside. Right here in our home and our 80 acres of Michigan Jewels. Contact Cottrell, 517-872-9617.

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Auctions

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PROFESSIONAL HOOF trimming: Statewide! Over 14 years experience with large and small livestock. Professionals at your service. Monday-Sunday, 8am-6pm. Call 1-618-775-0488.

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General

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WANTED: 80 acre parcels or larger for farm areas; restructure, stray mineral owners gas/oil, etc. Call 1-800-866-2534. Serious inquiries please.

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1-800-292-2680
AFBF Gearing Up for St. Louis

Farm Bureau members from across the country will get the red-carpet treatment in St. Louis this coming January, when members and leaders convene for the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 76th annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 8, through Thursday, Jan. 12.

The Convention Center in downtown St. Louis will be the site of the majority of the convention activities. The 1995 annual meeting will kick off Sunday with the opening round of the Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet and Young Farmer and Rancher reception.

Monday and Tuesday afternoons will be the time for meeting participants to become more informed about topics of interest to producers. At a series of conferences both afternoons, participants will hear discussions on the 1995 farm bill, marketing, livestock/dairy and animal welfare issues, agriculture research for the 21st century, property rights and “ecosystem” management, global positioning systems and global information systems, the so-called “un-holy trinity,” and insurance issues.

Tuesday will feature speeches by ABC Correspondent John Stossel on the topic, “Pandering to Fear: The Media’s Crisis Mentality,” and author and economist Barry Asmus, who will talk about political and business issues.

New for the 1995 showcase will be a series of health-oriented booths and displays. The booths and their staffers will provide participants the opportunity to test body fat composition, serum cholesterol levels, blood carbon monoxide levels, preventive medicine and self care, cardiovascular fitness levels, home testing equipment and massage therapies.

Wednesday and Thursday will be reserved for the business session of voting delegates where AFBF national policy will be discussed and adopted.

MFB members interested in attending the AFBF annual can select from either a 6-day/5-night package, or a 3-day/2-night package, priced at $305 per person or $155 per person, respectively, based on double occupancy. Registration and final payment are due by Dec. 5. For further information regarding hotel and convention registration, contact Mary Jane Miller at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 2201. For air travel reservations, call MFB’s Meeting and Travel Department at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3067.

December Discussion Topic: "Introducing New Commodities in Michigan"

At some point in time, every farm crop now grown in Michigan (except for timber) started out as a "new" ag commodity. Some early farm entrepreneur had to take a chance that a particular grain, bean, fruit or livestock product would prosper in our state’s climate.

Over the years, Michigan agriculture’s unique combination of growing conditions and soils — along with our access to an outstanding land grant university and Extension system — helped the ag industry become the most diversified in the nation, after California. As farmers look for future opportunities for profitability, they hope to carry forward a tradition of developing marketing niches for new and unique products.

Michigan Farm Bureau in October helped co-sponsor a conference on the future of Michigan cranberry production. Declining cranberry production acreage in the eastern U.S. and a large increase in the demand for cranberries for food and beverage processing are among the reasons that state ag officials are optimistic about boosting cranberry output. Michigan has a suitable growing environment, abundant water resources, processing capability and good market potential. On the other hand, because cranberry production uses a great deal of water, it will be essential to have a regulatory climate that supports environmentally sound and productive use of our water resources.

Until fairly recently, the production of farm-raised fish and shellfish — aquaculture — was regarded as a very marginal and small industry. But the role of fish-farming, particularly trout, is growing in Michigan as consumers look for fish and other good products in the U.S. has continued to rise.

Aquaculture productivity is increasing, pulling down production costs and boosting sales. Restrictions on wild-caught harvestable, or at least threats of restriction, have often spurred the development of aquaculture. Examples of species for which tightening restrictions led to increased aquaculture production are redfish, hybrid striped bass and yellow perch.

High market values are needed to cover the risks inherent in cultivating a new aquaculture species. Among the production concerns are maintaining water quality, efficient disposal and wastewater treatment. Marketing challenges include price competition from other meat and poultry products.

Raising flightless birds that are not native to the U.S. is still considered an exotic agricultural enterprise in Michigan. But the raising of these animals for feathers, leather and meat is growing. Currently, there are 40,000-60,000 ostriches in the U.S., with about 4,000-5,000 established breeder birds. Most ostrich farms are located in Texas and California, but there is at least one farm in every state.

Recent trade articles have stressed the profitability of ostrich farming, along with claims of health and nutritional benefits of the meat. Breeding pairs have reportedly sold for $50,000 or more during the past year. Breeding pairs typically lay 50 to 60 eggs a year. Over half of them will hatch, resulting in about 30 birds per pair. Each bird can be valued at $7,500. However, these prices reflect breeding value and are much higher than the value of the meat and other products from the bird.

When the market for ostrich hides, meat and feathers moves from the specialty market to one of mass supplies purchased on a competitive basis, the market-clearing price will be substantially lower than current prices. This price, and the cost of raising birds, will determine whether producing birds for slaughter is a viable enterprise for individuals.

Michigan farms have a long and proud entrepreneurial history. The extent to which they can take advantage of new ag commodities depends on many factors, such as access to capital and available technical assistance. But perhaps the most important factor is the availability of a regulatory climate that does not unduly penalize economic risk-taking.

Discussion Questions:
1) When you consider that Michigan already has a highly diverse agricultural industry, why do you think there is so much interest in new alternative ag commodities?
2) What alternative ag commodities have potential for production in your area?
3) What are some obstacles that need to be removed before these commodities can be successfully produced?
4) What are the factors that would encourage you to pursue alternative agricultural commodity?
5) What role should Farm Bureau play in the process of new commodity development?