Proposal-A Farmland Definition Issue Resolved

Michigan Farm Bureau Encouraging "Yes" Vote March 15 on Proposal-A

Michigan farmers can breathe a little easier when they cast their vote in support of Proposal-A, thanks to a last minute agreement reached between Gov. John Engler, Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) and legislative leaders to clarify the definition of agricultural property.

Under the agreement, the definition of farmland will follow the guidelines of P.A.116, the Farmland Preservation and Open Space Act, with the farmland qualifying for the same six mill rate as homesteads.

This is an exciting day for farmers all across Michigan," said MFB President Jack Laurie. "Farm Bureau and Michigan's agricultural industry have supported property tax reform for years. We finally find ourselves at a point where we can go out and aggressive campaign in favor of Proposal-A. This is the kind of reform that allows Michigan agriculture to be competitive with the rest of the country."

At a Lansing news conference, Gov. Engler, Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus and House Speaker Paul Hillegonds announced that they will seek the legislation necessary to ensure that virtually all farmland in Michigan will be taxed at the same rate as homesteads, with the passage of Proposal-A. This would be an even better choice for Michigan farmers and their families with the new definition of farmland, Gov. Engler said that even if the agreement isn't enacted.

Gov. Engler explains the farmland definition agreement during a news conference.

"Michigan voters need to realize that the ballot plan, your income taxes will be the same as taxes paid on homes. If you don't vote, or you vote 'no' on Proposal-A, you are, in effect, voting for the Back-up Plan, which means your income tax will go up to 6 percent and your property taxes will be levied at 12 mills or 24 mills in most cases," Nelson explained.

"Proposal-A also provides for a cap of $4,000 in state taxes per year," said Nelson. "With Proposal-A, farmers will pay significantly less total taxes, with the typical farm family saving $4,000 in state taxes per year," said Nelson. "Proposal-A also provides for a cap of $4,000 in state taxes per year."
"Proposal-A – A Foundation for Future Prosperity"

In this issue of the Michigan Farm News, you'll find detailed information on why approval of Proposal-A makes extremely good sense for Michigan farmers and everyone else in the state whose interests are impacted by the state's economy. The Michigan Farm Bureau’s President, Jack Laurie, has provided the following statement:

"Proposal-A makes sense for Michigan farmers. Proposal-A is a far better way to provide needed relief to our farmers. Proposal-A also makes sense for everyone else in the state with an interest in economic growth. Urge your friends and neighbors to vote "yes" on March 15."

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

MSU Extension Beef Specialist Awarded One of MSU’s Highest Honors for Career Achievement

Harlan D. Ritchie, Michigan State University professor of animal science, was one of 10 given Distinguished Faculty Awards during the annual MSU Awards Convocation, Feb. 15.

These awards are among the highest that the university makes in recognition of career achievement.

Ritchie was cited as one of the world’s top authorities on beef cattle improvement. As such, he has traveled to numerous countries – from Europe to Australia – as a production management consultant.

He was raised on a grain and livestock operation near Albert City, Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1957 with a bachelor’s degree and completed his doctorate at MSU in 1964. He started his MSU career as an assistant instructor in 1957 and became a full professor in 1971.

During his career, he has conducted hundreds of Extension education programs for Master mussel producers and served as an advisor to nine national livestock organizations.

He is the Department of Animal Science Extension project leader and is responsible for research and education programs at the Lake City Experiment Station.

Ritchie is the author or co-author of more than 90 scientific or technical articles, and he has produced more than 100 Extension bulletins and papers and hundreds of articles for state and national organizations.

He has received numerous awards, including the MSU Extension Specialist Award, the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Iowa State University and the American Society of Animal Science Extension Specialist Award.

4,000 students in nine courses during his MSU career.

He has been praised for his ability to translate technical research information so that it is readily useful to a cattle producer, a part-time farmer or a commercial cattle producer.

In Brief...

Turnout Low in Soybean Referendum - Passes in Michigan by 2 to 1 Margin

It appears that a light turnout of voters decided whether the checkoff on sales of soybeans will be continued to support the research and market promotion program. According to Michigan ASCS reports, only 2,707 Michigan farmers cast votes in the referendum, with 1,685 casting yes votes and 830 voting no, for continuing the producer checkoff program.

Nationwide, preliminary figures indicate that about 8,500 farmers voted, representing about 20 percent of the total eligible soybean growers who could have participated in the Feb. 9 referendum. Local ASCS offices had until Feb. 24 to count the ballots and then report results to their state offices by March 1. The states were to notify the USDA of their totals between March 3-4.

An unofficial vote tally from other state ASCS offices indicated that 54 percent of the over 86,000 soybean farmers who voted in the National Soybean Check-off referendum favored continuation of the current check-off program, according to a United Soybean Board news release.

Earlier Release of USDA Reports Requested

Chicago Board of Trade President Thomas Donovan has asked Agriculture Secretary Mike Easley to release government reports earlier in the day to cancel out what he says is a trading advantage to foreign exchanges.

Donovan said Easley accepts the argument that a 7:30 a.m. release time on reporting dates would benefit futures markets by giving U.S. traders first chance to trade on USDA figures U.S. traders argue that release times after markets close allow traders on foreign exchanges to see the updated information earlier than traders on American exchanges.

Economic Advisers See Little Danger of Inflation

The President’s Council of Economic Advisers says the country’s jobless rate is higher that is normally considered healthy and that Jobless rates have been rising for years. They attribute the job losses to a prolonged period of weak economic growth, which reduces demand for workers and helps depress inflation.

Donovan's economic advisers say there isn't much evidence to support contention by some analysts that the "natural" unemployment rate has been rising in recent years. They attribute the larger than normal pool of unemployed workers and job losses to a prolonged period of weak economic growth, which reduces demand for workers and helps depress inflation.

Farm Debt Up Slightly in 1993

Total farm debt rose to $141.4 billion in 1993, 1.5 percent higher than in the previous year but still far below the 1984 peak, when recession raked the farm economy. Financial institutions serving agriculture gained stability in 1993 and can look forward to continued improvement in 1994, according to a report by the USDA’s Economic Research Service.

The report said adequate credit is available for most users in agriculture, but beginning farmers are usually considered a higher risk and may have more difficulty obtaining credit.

The decline in income experienced by some farmers in 1993, due to adverse weather and lower prices, helps lower the overall property tax burden on our farmland. The statutory backup plan, on the other hand, provides substantially less relief by putting a 12-mill tax on the land contiguous/adjacent to farm homes and 24-mills on the rest of the farmland.

For years, high property taxes have been a drag on Michigan economic growth. Proposal-A will reduce the state income tax by 4.9 percent to 4.4 percent and increases the sales tax from 4 percent to 6 percent. The statutory plan leaves the sales tax at its present level but increases the state income tax from 4.6 percent to 6 percent. Admittedly, there is a tax increase of one kind or another under both alternatives. But a study from the Mackinac Center for Public Policy found that an income tax increase causes greater harm to a state’s economy than a sales tax increase.

The Mackinac Center found that between 1990-93, the top 10 income-tax-increasing states experienced a loss of 182,000 jobs, a 2.3 percentage point increase in unemployment and a $6.3 billion real decline in personal income per family. In contrast, the top 10 sales-tax-increasing states from 1990-93 experienced a net gain of 408,000 jobs, only a modest 0.4 percentage rise in unemployment and a $1.5 billion real increase in personal income per family. In 1992, according to the Mackinac Center, 90 of the eight states that had most recently enacted income tax hikes experienced a "significant slowdown" in the rate of growth of personal income.

Proposal-A makes sense for Michigan farmers. Proposal-A also makes sense for everyone else in the state with an interest in economic growth. Urge your friends and neighbors to vote "yes" on March 15.

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

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Proposition A: Farmland Definition

**Fertilizer Act Amendments**

**Workers’ Disability Compensation - Exclusive Remedy**

**USDA Reorganization Plan Getting Attention**

**Michigan Farm Bureau (517) 323-7000**
Weather News to Provide Grain Market Opportunity

The best pricing opportunities for corn and soybean farmers will occur this spring during planting season and through the summer as a result of any unfavorable breaks in the weather. According to a marketing specialist with the University of Illinois.

Darred Good of the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service says the tight supply of 1993 crops means that the market will react early and often to weather problems, real or potential. He advises farmers to gear their marketing strategies to take advantage of those opportunities.

Good says not all the corn acreage retired in 1993 because of the acreage retirement requirement and flood problems will be planted to corn and soybeans this year, but he looks for plantings of about 140 million acres, compared to the 132.7 million planted last year.

The breakdown between corn and soybeans will be decided by weather and price advantage. He said current prices favor corn over soybeans, but a wet spring would turn farmers in favor of the shorter growing season required for soybeans.

Another variable is how much of the land prevented from being planted by flooding last year will have to turn the market over this year. He presently looks for about 33 million acres of corn and about 55 million acres of soybeans, and not much change in soybeans, compared to last year.

Normal yields and percentages of harvestable acres have resulted in a lower carryover, which should allow the market to carry 1.85 billion bushels of corn and 3.9 billion bushels of soybeans through the transitional season.

It should be noted, however, that long range forecast skill in this transitional season is less than average and that forecasting confidence in this particular outlook is considered low.

30-Day Forecast – Average Temperatures with Below Average Precipitation

An ample supply of cold air remains available in far northern sections of the continent. The northwest to southwest jet stream flow pattern that has transported cold air across the Great Lakes region will likely persist for a significant portion of March. However, indications are that it will not be as persistent or as strong as it was during January and February.

This should result in temperatures remaining near normal over most of the state during the next 30 days. With a weak or no-existent heating fuel, precipitation for the same period is expected to be below normal.

In the longer term, the latest National Weather Service 90-day outlook for March through May is for near to below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

Michigan Farm Radio Network and Michigan Farm Bureau Salute These Organizations for Supporting the FFA.

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THE NEW DODGE
A DIVISION OF THE CHRYSLER CORPORATION
Market Outlook...

Starting in May, the USDA will experiment with releasing selected crop reports in the morning before the markets open instead of in the afternoon after the markets close. Crop production reports and world supply/demand reports will be released at 8:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, rather than 3:00 p.m. The idea is to end the advantage that the foreign exchanges now enjoy and to allow the information to be traded first on the U.S. exchanges. With the modern techniques of analysis, I do not see this change as a problem.

CORN
Since the first of the year, the market has done an about face on who they want storing the corn. This is shown in two ways. One, the basis being offered is not very strong and two, the spreads between futures contracts have widened out.

If you were already in a basis contract for say July corn, this is an example of how a basis contract works. If you are still storing corn, then consider a hedge-to-arrive contract. Using a put with stored corn is another possibility.

Recently, the corn market has kind of been in the doldrums. Exports, while near expectations, are slow and feed use is a big question mark. On March 31, all may change dramatically as two important USDA reports will be released.

One of those reports is the Planting Intentions Report. One of the biggest questions is how many of the water-saturated, corn-growing states are going to plant corn this year. The other report is the second quarterly Stocks Report. The USDA has projected 1993-94 corn feed use at 500 million bushels, 9.5 percent below 1992-93. First quarter stocks indicated continued strong feed use. Also, corn on feed numbers continue to rise above those of a year ago, and weights are up, despite the high corn prices.

On the other side, hog slaughter is below year ago levels, but weights are about the same. If this report indicates corn feed use hasn't increased, it may be an important factor in the corn rally which we should take advantage of.

The USDA finally announced most of the information about the 1994 Corn Program. As we know, the set-aside requirements will be zero, the loan rate will be raised to $1.89, and the projected deficiency payment was pegged at 40 cents.

The advance deficiency payment will be 50 percent of the projected deficiency payment. My calculations say sign-up, the downside price risk is large and with zero-set-aside the costs are minimal.

SOYBEANS
The market story on the storage of soybeans is different, however. Based upon reported acreage, the basis is fairly strong and the market is not providing enough carry between futures contracts to even allow on-farm storage costs.

This means if you are pessimistic, sell, and if you are optimistic, use a basis contract. And if you are optimistic, but cannot accept much downside risk, consider selling and buying a call or a minimum price contract. These two are essentially the same.

The same two reports I discussed being important for corn will also be important for soybeans. There is a big question as to what the Delta soybean acres will be planted this year.

Along with these reports, the South American situation is playing a big role in the market. Their crop appears very good and harvest has started.

How their new supplies affect our exports is critical. Market upswings from this point on will depend on U.S. weather conditions. We are watching for new crop pricing opportunities.

DAIRY OUTLOOK
Larry G. Hammm, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Dairy product markets are counter-seasonally strong. That is a phase that market forecasters use to explain why earlier marketing predictions have not panned out.

Dairy markets are much stronger than anticipated for March. On the last trading day of February, both butter and cheese markets strengthened. Butter prices that had been trading below the support price rose to support levels.

However, the news in the cheese markets is even more upbeat. Cheddar block prices inched up for the third consecutive week. Barrel cheese jumped $0.125 cents per pound and is now $0.975 above the support price. All of this market strength holds well for farm pay prices.

The February Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) milk price on feed was $1.24 (3.5 percent test) level for January. Indications are that the February M-W may, in fact, increase slightly. Currently, the M-W is running around $1.60 per cwt., higher than last year.

Of equal importance to producers, is that the July milk price in the Pacific states is under 80 cents per pound. It is usually falling. Drops of $0.30 to $0.50 per pound in the cheese markets is not uncommon from December through April. The fact that the market is currently being driven by the lack of quantity and quality of feed for the northern tier dairy sector. Feed quality is an issue in Michigan, but Michigan producers are not facing the same problems. Wisconsin and Minnesota are having real problems with Wisconsin suffering their worst drought in 50 years and Minnesota suffering their worst drought since 1851.

As new feeds come on this summer, the milk supply will respond. Also, the current prices will spur milk production expansion. Prices may flatten somewhat. However, the decline will likely be tempered for 1994. So far, 1994 is looking like a good year for dairy producers.

EGGS
Henry Larzelere, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Egg prices near the end of February were almost 5 cents a dozen above a year ago. The net for egg producers was about the same as last year because feed ingredient costs increased 10 cents per dozen eggs above February 1993.

Last year, wholesale prices in New York for Grade A large eggs in cartons averaged in the low 70s for most of March. This year it is likely that prices will be in the mid to upper 70s.

With the egg-type chick hatch in 1993 above the previous year in almost every month, the number of layers on February 1, 1994 was 2 percent above a year earlier. Total egg production in January 1994 was up 1 percent compared to January 1993, but table egg production was up 1 percent.

Along the April and May quarter, egg prices are likely to be in the low 60s partly because Lenten demand strength will have passed. However, some strength in the egg product prices seems to be present.

Some moderating of egg production seems likely by the last quarter of 1994 with the egg-type chick hatch finally turning lower. The January hatch was 15 percent above the January 1993. Layer-type eggs in incubators on February 1 were down 14 percent from a year earlier.

CATTLE

On Feb. 18, the USDA released the latest 7-State Cattle-On-Feed Report. We know the report is bullish, but the report is bullish, consider taking advantage of it.

According to the report, there were down 51 percent. But placements in the smaller lots was down 4 percent.

Cattle marketed in January were up 6 percent, but you need to remember last year's problems marketing cattle in the high Plains. Three percent fewer cattle were marketed in January than two years ago. This means we are approaching being current, but not there yet. The high weights of market cattle also show we have a little more room.

Placements in January in the seven states were down 5 percent. But placements in the 1,000+ head feedlots were up 4 percent. This means that placements in the smaller lots was down 51 percent.

Placements have now been down several months in a row; this should help cattle price over their own history. Feeder cattle placements are depressed by the second half this past year. After prices work their way up into the $75-77 range for April-May decline to stay in the $73-75 range the second half of the year.

It should tell us if we are continuing in a liquidation mode and how big it will be. The live hog futures are giving us some pretty good forward pricing opportunities now. If the report is bullish, consider taking advantage of it.

Wheat Agreement Eludes U.S.-Canada Negotiators

There is no agreement yet on what amount of Canadian wheat should be allowed into the United States, according to the latest statement. The figure is 1.7 million metric tons. The Clinton administration has not yet made a decision on a new major trade agreement.

Canadian officials have been holding out for a cap of 2.5 million tons, while the U.S. has asked Canada to limit sales of wheat over here to 1 million tons. One U.S. trade official expressed the wheat dispute. U.S. wheat growers have been pressuring Canada to limit its export of wheat to this country or suffer other retaliation because of unfair pricing practices.
Michigan's Public Education: School Reform and Funding Changes

THE POLICY DEBATE

Michigan's educational system has been based on the concepts of reliance on the property tax, a strong sense of local control and acknowledgement of an important role for the state government.

During the past 30 years, intense policy debate has focused on concerns about the amount of property tax paid by Michigan citizens, the growing disparity in per pupil spending between districts and distrust of state government.

Since 1964, 14 proposed constitutional amendments to reform school finance or property taxation, or both, were placed before voters; only the Headliner Amendment (November 1978) was approved.

Operating under a self-imposed deadline of Dec. 31, 1993 — to allow school districts adequate time to plan for the next school year — the Legislature had a relatively short time to investigate the state's system of school finance after the passage of Senate Bill 1.

Many policymakers also perceived that this was an appropriate time to address school quality issues. The basic framework for the policy debate during the past few months centered on these points:

- What revenue sources could be used annually to replace more than $6 billion in property tax revenues? The challenge was to find revenue sources that would be stable, be viewed as equitable and yield sufficient revenue to fund schools.

- How could the disparity in per pupil spending between school districts be lessened? The goals were to avoid penalizing high spending districts while trying to bring low spending districts up to a higher per pupil spending level but within available funding resources in the state.

What could be done to significantly improve the quality of public education in Michigan? For some, the answer was to increase competition through establishing "schools of choice" and "charter schools," for others, it was targeting funds to meet special needs.

Michigan Farm Bureau Encourages a "YES" Vote on Proposal-A

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Richard H. Austin, Secretary of State

Why Not More Cargill On Your Farm?

Cargill Hybrids Deliver Top Yields in 1993 Michigan State Yield Trials.
my property send the stay in place and according to Nelson, it will still provide financial relief for those bad crop years. "If I have a crop failure and my farm income/household income is down, P.A. 116 is still there to provide a safety net in those bad years," Nelson said. "Additionally the tax lien due on expiring P.A. 116 contracts will be substantially less."

Nelson explains, that under Proposal-A the school operating portion of property taxes would come down to 6 mills, a considerable reduction from the current average of 34 mills. In rural areas, Nelson estimates approximately 80 percent of the property tax bill is going to school operating, meaning farmers will see a significant reduction in their property taxes under Proposal-A. According to Nelson, Proposal-A would put a cap on individual assessment increases to no more than 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. As long as farmland meets the qualifications of P.A. 116, Proposal-A would treat farmland equitably with homesites.

Furthermore, one of the primary benefits of P.A. 116, farmland preservation, will not be diminished under Proposal-A. "Without P.A. 116, if we had lower property taxes, we would still not be doing anything to preserve farmland," said Almy. "The continuation of P.A. 116 will continue to provide positive benefits in preserving farmland."

Your Michigan NORTHRUP KING Seed Dealers

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<th>City</th>
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<td>Alicia</td>
<td>Con Agra Berger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>517-770-4130</td>
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<td>Alma</td>
<td>McClintic Farms</td>
<td>517-463-1140</td>
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<td>616-868-6030</td>
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<td>Ann Arbor</td>
<td>Striefer Bros.</td>
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<td>M.A.C.</td>
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<td>Harold Grabemeyer</td>
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<td>Dowagiac</td>
<td>Joe Van Tuyler</td>
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<td>Freeland</td>
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<td>Homer</td>
<td>Tri-County Agra Services</td>
<td>517-542-3196</td>
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<td>Lake Odessa</td>
<td>Mark Erickson</td>
<td>616-374-8538</td>
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<td>Mason</td>
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<td>517-628-2036</td>
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<td>Merrill</td>
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<td>Eugene Brisiat</td>
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<td>Monroe</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Farmers Elevator</td>
<td>313-727-3205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockford</td>
<td>Ron Porter</td>
<td>616-874-8196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>Seamon Farms</td>
<td>517-777-2054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City</td>
<td>David LaBar</td>
<td>517-741-3204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestaburg</td>
<td>Con Agra Berger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>517-268-5300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeeland</td>
<td>Zeeland Farm Services</td>
<td>616-772-9042</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grant Encourages Producers to Implement Sustainable Practices

by: Deb Laurell

If you're interested in implementing more sustainable farming practices, but you haven't had the resources, consider applying for a grant from the North Central Region USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

The SARE grant is designed to allow producers to address concerns related to sustainable agriculture production and marketing. According to Steven Waller, coordinator for the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, farmers in the 12-state region can apply for grants of up to $5,000 to test and demonstrate sustainable agriculture practices.

Waller explained this is the third year the SARE program has offered the producer-initiated grants with a total of $100,000 available. Thus far, 56 grants have been awarded to projects ranging from rotational grazing, biological weed and pest control, low-input crop production, nutrient management, composting of manure and producing and marketing sweet sorghum syrup.

"This program is successful because it provides producers the opportunity and support to try sustainable practices on-farm under real-world conditions," said Waller. "Other producers can learn about both the successes and pitfalls of these projects before trying the new practices."

The one-year grants help producers identify barriers to adopting sustainable agriculture practices and test possible solutions. While many of the grants have been to study on-farm problems, others have been used to sponsor educational programs and field days for producers.

Michigan producers involved in the program have designed activities ranging from composting manure vs. manure pits and rotational forage and grazing trials.

George Shetler of Kalkaska, Mich., received a grant to begin comparison trials this spring on composting manure vs. manure pit. Comparison tests will be conducted in three areas:

1) Economical factors and actual costs;
2) Nutrient values of composted manure will be compared with stacked or fresh manure; and
3) System analysis of the effects on the soil from the two systems.

Dale Kellenberger of Munith, Mich., also received a grant in 1994. His grant projects include the construction of eight paddocks, each with a different species or species mix, allowing for evaluation and comparison. In addition, Kellenberger has attended grazing conferences to obtain knowledge and assist with implementing these sustainable agricultural practices.

Kellenberger explained the grant program is a good way for farmers to obtain funding to implement new practices. "I haven't met too many farmers that couldn't use some more money to implement things," said Kellenberger. According to Kellenberger, one of the purposes of the grant is to utilize educational resources such as the local MSU Extension and Soil Conservation Service. "One of the purposes of the grant is to bring in as many resources as possible to educate us all," Kellenberger explained.

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Good beans are the product of good management, not magic. One of the best tools you can use to produce an outstanding crop is EPTAM® herbicide. It provides an unbeatable foundation for a good weed control program by eliminating more than 40 troublesome weeds. Plus EPTAM makes a great tankmix partner for an even broader spectrum of protection.

And, for a cleaner and faster harvest, depend on GRAMOXONE® EXTRA herbicide to burn down any late-germinating weeds and dry down your beans.

This year, don't trust your beans to fairy tale claims, depend on products that are proven to perform—EPTAM and GRAMOXONE EXTRA.

The Start of Something Big.
WHY Proposal-A?
A. The Legislature has given Michigan voters two choices on how best to reform Michigan's school finance system. Voters on March 15 can decide to vote YES to support Proposal-A, a constitutional amendment. Or if they vote NO, the Back-Up Plan, approved by the Legislature, goes into effect — but only if Proposal-A fails.

Q. How is Proposal-A Different than the Back-Up Plan?
A. Proposal-A would set school operating millages for most homeowners at 6 mills. The Back-Up Plan would set school operating millages for most homeowners at 12 mills. Proposal-A would limit assessment increases at 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. The Back-Up Plan has no assessment caps.

☐ Both proposals would set school operating millages for businesses and second homes in most districts at 24 mills.
☐ Proposal-A would cut the state's income tax from 4.6 percent to 4.4 percent. The Back-Up Plan would raise the state's income tax from 4.6 percent to 6 percent.
☐ Proposal-A doesn't increase in the state's Single Sales Tax (SST). The Back-Up Plan would increase the state's SST rate from 2.35 to 2.75 percent.
☐ Proposal-A increases state cigarette taxes by 50 cents per pack. The Back-Up Plan increases cigarette taxes by 15 cents per pack.
☐ Proposal-A increases the sales tax from 4 percent to 6 percent. The Back-Up Plan does not increase the sales tax.

Q. When will Tax Law Changes Take Effect?
A. Taxpayers will see the property tax relief with their summer 1994 tax bill, with the decrease retroactive to Jan. 1, 1994.

* Under Proposal-A, the income tax decrease and the sales tax increase would take effect May 1, 1994.
* Under the Back-Up Plan, the income tax, real estate transfer tax and Single Business Tax hikes would take effect May 1, 1994.

Q. How will Proposal-A Affect Homeowners' Property Taxes?
A. Property tax reductions will be substantial for the vast majority of homeowners. Currently, the statewide average millage for school operating purposes is 34 mills. Under Proposal-A, the millage would drop to 6 mills in 520 of the state's 857 school districts — an average decrease of 83 percent. In all but two of the remaining 37 districts, the millage rate will be reduced to 6 mills but millages will still drop by 20 to 77 percent.

Under the Back-Up Plan, most school millages will drop to 12 mills for homeowners, a decrease of 65 percent. In 34 districts, the millage for homeowners will be more than 12 mills.

Q. What Caps are There on Homeowners' Property Taxes?
A. Proposal-A puts a cap on future assessment increases of 5 percent, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Once a home is sold, it would be reassessed.

There is no assessment cap under the Back-Up Plan. This could lead to a return of educational inequities that led to school finance reforms in the first place.

Q. Does Proposal-A Affect the Homestead Property Tax Credit?
A. Not at all. The Homestead Credit remains in place.

Q. Which is Better for School Equity, Proposal-A or the Back-Up Plan?
A. Proposal-A. By holding down assessments, it will help reduce the recurrence of vast inequities among rich and poor districts — a major goal of school reform.

Under the Back-Up Plan, fast-growing districts that see large assessment increases will soon be spending more than neighboring districts. Proposal-A also guarantees funding will not go lower than 1993-94 levels—a guarantee missing from the Back-Up Plan.

Q. Can Voters Decide to Raise Taxes on Themselves for Additional School Spending?
A. If voters want to raise taxes on themselves, they may do so under both proposals to a limited extent. Under Proposal-A, a school district can seek up to 3 mills more for up to three years. Voters would have the final say.

Starting in 1997, however, local districts could not raise taxes unless voters in their entire Intermediate School District (ISD) went to the polls and voted to raise their property taxes by up to 3 mills more—no more— with the revenues distributed evenly for all students within the ISD.

Under the Back-Up Plan, local schools, or an ISD could seek for voter approval of a combined amount of between 2 and 6 mills.

Q. How will Proposal-A Affect Property Taxes?
A. The statewide average school operating property tax currently is 34 mills. Under both Proposal-A and the Back-Up Plan, property taxes for businesses will be set at 24 mills.

Q. How will Proposal-A Affect Business Tax Abatements?
A. Proposal-A will not affect the business property tax abatements. But under the Back-Up Plan, businesses that receive abatements in 1994, or after, will no longer receive a cut in school taxes.

Q. How will Proposal-A Affect Michigan's Overall Tax Climate?
A. Under Proposal-A, Michigan's proper-

Q. Why Didn't the Legislature Just Pass this Instead Of Having a Vote Of The People?
A. Two reasons. First, any sales tax increase required a vote of the people. Second, this will be a constitutional amendment, giving it the permanence people want. If people vote "no" on Proposal-A, or fail to vote, the Back-Up Plan with its higher income and business taxes will go into effect.

Q. Will Proposal-A Help Farmers?
A. Under Proposal-A, agricultural property would be taxed at the 6 mill rate for most homesteads under the Back-Up Plan would be twice as high as Proposal-A.

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Q. How will Proposal-A Affect the Economy?
A. Michigan's economy must be stimulated to create jobs, attract new business and industry and retain existing business and industry. Michigan's high property taxes, too high by international standards, are working against that goal. Lower property taxes will encourage business and industry growth and new jobs.

The tax cut this year will add $1 billion to the state's economy, allowing us to continue leading the nation's economic recovery.

Under the Statutory Back-Up Plan, however, our high income and business taxes will make it more difficult for businesses to create jobs and invest for the people of our state. These taxes will hit small businesses, many of which will see relatively few actual dollars from property tax relief, but will pay substantially more in business taxes and in taxes on owner incomes.

Q. Doesn't the Sales Tax Hurt Poor Families More Than Middle Class Families?
A. Michigan's sales tax will continue to exempt sales of food and medicines. In addition, the sales tax increase will not be applied to residential electric, natural gas or heating fuels. The Back-Up Plan's increase in our flat rate income tax will put virtually the same burden on the poor as the same class. The poor will be hurt, however, by the Back-Up Plan's increase in the Single Business Tax, which will impact the ability of business to increase compensation and create jobs, particularly unskilled jobs.

Q. Will Renters Benefit from Proposal-A?
A. Both Proposal-A and the Back-Up Plan increase the Homestead Credit for renters from 17 percent of rent to 20 percent of rent.

Property taxes are an important cost of doing business for all landlords. Reductions in property taxes reduce the landlord's fixed costs, helping to relieve upward pressure on rents.

Perhaps most importantly, Proposal-A will make it easier for first-time homeowners to save and purchase their new home. They will receive a small income tax cut, which can be saved for a down payment.

The Back-Up Plan, however, will tax every dollar a young family makes, cutting into down payment savings. The 12 mill school operating tax rate for most homes under the Back-Up Plan would be twice as high as Proposal-A.

Q. Why didn't the Legislature Just Pass this Instead Of Having a Vote Of The People?
A. Two reasons. First, any sales tax increase required a vote of the people. Second, this will be a constitutional amendment, giving it the permanence people want. If people vote "no" on Proposal-A, or fail to vote, the Back-Up Plan with its higher income and business taxes will go into effect.

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Proposal-A What's the Impact on Your Farm?

The Final Analysis

For agricultural producers, the choice is quite clear—Proposal-A is the preferred alternative. The reduced millage rate of 6 mills in Proposal-A, compared to 12 or 24 mills in the Back-up Plan will reduce the large property tax burden on farmers who tend to own large amounts of property. The property tax relief under Proposal-A will more than offset the increase in sales tax and the potential decrease in federal income taxes.

As long as farmland meets the qualifications of Public Act 116, Proposal-A would treat farmland equitably with homesteads. The Back-up Plan does not treat farmland equitably and will create a monumental land ownership and income tracking process. The assessment cap in Proposal-A will prevent a rapid increase in homestead and farmland assessment. The Back-up Plan has no such cap.

Michigan Farm Bureau vigorously supports the approval of Proposal-A and actively encourages all members to vote "Yes" in the March 15 special election.

Benefits for Agriculture

In almost all cases, farmers will pay significantly less total tax under Proposal-A, due to the six mill property tax levy, compared to the 12 or 24 mills levied under the Back-up Plan. If Proposal-A is approved, farmers would pay higher sales taxes for taxable purchases as would other consumers. Agricultural inputs would still be exempt.

Another advantage to Proposal-A is the cap limiting assessment increases to 5 percent or the rate of inflation whichever is less. This would prevent the rapid increase in homestead and agricultural assessment rates that was experienced in the 1970s and 1980s.

In addition, Proposal-A will not affect Public Act 116 property tax relief nor will it affect the Homestead Property Tax Credit. However, with lower property taxes, any credits received in these two programs could be higher. Property taxes are deductible from federal income tax. Since Proposal-A will reduce property taxes, farmers and other landowners will have a smaller deduction on their federal tax return if they itemize.

Benefits for Education

Both Proposal-A and the Back-up Plan will provide K-12 schools with about $103.2 billion in funding for 1994-95, compared to $10.1 billion this year.

If Proposal-A is approved, local schools may ask for voter approval to assess up to 3 enhancement mills for 1994-96. After 1996, the mills must be levied on an Intermediate School District (ISD) — wide basis.

If Proposal-A fails, an enhancement of 2-8 mills may be levied depending on a formula in the Back-up Plan.

Other education improvements include the creation of public school academies (charter schools); the development of a core curriculum; the establishment of performance standards consistent with the core curriculum; the establishment of state-endorsed high school diplomas; and an increase in the hours of instruction from 900 hours in 1994-95 to 1080 hours in 1999-2000; and the creation of a professional development system.

Example Comparison of Savings!

A. Value of Homestead, Farmland & Buildings $300,000
B. State Equalized Value (Line A x .30) $150,000
C. School Operating Millage Rate (State Avg.) .034
D. School Operating Property Tax (line B x line C) $5,100 $ 900
E. Taxable Income $30,000 $30,000
F. Income Tax Rate .046 .044
G. Michigan Income Tax (line E x line F) $1,380 $1,320
H. Taxable Purchases $10,000 $10,000
I. Sales Tax Rate .04 .06
J. Total Sales Tax (line H x line I) $400 $600
K. Total Tax (sum of lines D, G, & J) $6,880 $2,820

Assumptions:
A. Value of Homestead, Farmland & Buildings $300,000
B. State Equalized Value $150,000
C. School Operating Millage Rate .006
D. School Operating Property Tax (line H x line I) $10,000
E. Taxable Purchases $10,000
F. State Average School Operating Millage .034

Compute Your Own Savings!

A. Value of Homestead, Farmland & Buildings $300,000
B. State Equalized Value (Line A x .30) $150,000
C. Local School Operating Millage Rate .034
D. School Operating Property Tax (line B x line C) $5,100 $ 900
E. Taxable Income $30,000 $30,000
F. Income Tax Rate .046 .044
G. Michigan Income Tax (line E x line F) $1,380 $1,320
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Your Figures:
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I. Sales Tax Rate .04
J. Total Sales Tax (line H x line I) $400
K. Total Tax (sum of lines D, G, & J) $6,880

FARMLAND COMPARISONS: AT WHAT MILLAGE WILL FARMLAND BE TAXED?

PROPOSAL A BACKUP PLAN

| Farmland is contiguous/adjacent to your homestead | 6 mills | 12 mills |
| Farmland is not contiguous/adjacent to your homestead | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Your farmland is rented or leased | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Your gross farm income is NOT greater than your other household income | 6 mills | 12 or 24 mills |
| Farmland is in a trust and you occupy the home | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Life lease on farmland | 6 mills | 12 or 24 mills |
| Land contract on farmland | 6 mills | 12 or 24 mills |
| Joint ownership of farmland | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Farmland in CRP (lease/rent to government) | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Farmland is sharecropped (leased/rented) | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Operator/owner lives off the farm | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Partnership of farmland | 6 mills | 12 or 24 mills |
| Employee house on the farmland would be taxed | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Seasonal housing on the farmland would be taxed | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Family occupied 2nd farmhouse on the farm would be taxed | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Part of farmland leased/rented | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Family owned corporate farmland | 6 mills | 24 mills |
| Part of farmland leased/rented (portion not leased/rented) | 12 mills | 24 mills |

FARMLAND COMPARISONS: AT WHAT MILLAGE WILL FARMLAND BE TAXED?

COMPARISONS OF THE PROPOSAL A BALLOT QUESTION & BACKUP PLAN

PROPOSAL A BACKUP PLAN

| State Income Tax | Cuts tax from 4.6% to 4.4% |
| Sales Tax | Increase from 4% to 6% (Residential utility usage is exempt) |
| School Operating Millage | Set for most homeowners and farmland at 6 mills |
| Non-homestead Property | 24 mills |
| Cap Assessment | 6% or rate of inflation (whichever is less) |
| Single Business Tax | No change |
| State Cigarette Tax | Increase by 50 cents/pack |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax | (2%) 1% off in 1995 - 33/35% in 1995 and for 6 years |
| Personal State Income Tax Exemption | $2,100 |
| Interstate Telephone Sales Tax | 6% (1-800 f's exempt) |
| Per Pupil Spending Guarantees | Will not go below 1994-95 revenues |
If you’re hoping for a string of luck, we have the perfect place to start.

 Rip the string from a bag of our new Crow’s Gold hybrids and luck is on your side. Because in that bag is all the genetic luck that can be packed into a seed. Modern germplasm. A vigorous single cross. High germination. Seed purity from closely monitored production fields.

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Natural resistance in extremely healthy plant types. All packed into hybrids that are tested in research trials from Nebraska to Ohio to make sure that they’ll work on your kind of soils and your kind of weather.

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For more information, call one of these Crow’s Dealers or 1-800-331-7201.

Michigan Farm News
March 15, 1994

Organizations Endorsing Proposal-A
- American Cancer Society
- Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce
- Arthritis Foundation - Michigan Chapter
- Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce
- Central Macomb County Chamber of Commerce
- Civic Searchlight, Inc.
- Delta County Area Chamber of Commerce
- Detroit Free Press
- Detroit News
- Detroit Renaissance
- Detroit School Board
- Farmington Observer
- Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce
- Holland Chamber of Commerce
- Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce
- Lansing Chamber of Commerce
- Macomb Daily
- Michigan Association of Home Builders
- Michigan Association of Public Health Physicians
- Michigan Association of Realtors
- Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association
- Michigan Center for Rural Health
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
- Michigan Council for Maternal Health and Child Health
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Michigan Grocers Association
- Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA)
- Michigan Merchants Council
- Mortgage Bankers Association of Michigan
- Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce
- National Association of Women Business Owners - Michigan Chapter
- National Federation of Independent Business - Michigan (NFIB)
- Oakland County Chamber of Commerce
- Police Officers' Association of Michigan
- Reedford Observer
- Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM)
- Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce
- Traverse City Chamber of Commerce
- Traverse City Record-Eagle
- Warren Chamber of Commerce

Questions and Answers continued from page 10

3 of the last 5 years. "Agricultural use" in administratively defined as a minimum 51 percent of the land in active cultivation or fenced pasture;

A farm of 5 to 40 acres must be devoted primarily to agricultural use and produced a gross annual income of $2,000 or more in 3 of the last 5 years. A farm designated as a specialty farm must have produced total agricultural income of $2,000 or more in 3 of the last 5 years.

The Back-up Plan will set homestead school property tax rates at 12 mills, double the rate of Proposal-A. All non-contiguous farmland will be taxed at 24 mills, and if farm gross receipts are less than household income, all but five acres of farmland will be taxed at 24 mills. Leased or rented land will be at 24 mills.

What is the Impact of Proposal-A on the State Budget?

A. Both Proposal-A and the Back-up Plan will require state budget reductions from current spending levels. Proposal-A will require the state to spend about $591 million less; the Back-up Plan will require the state to spend about $350 million less. The impact, however, will likely be small since state revenues have been running ahead of expected levels for the last two years.

What is the Impact of Proposal-A on Local Government?

A. If the ballot proposal passes, the cap on State Equalized Value (SEV) increases of 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, will help hold down local government tax increases. However, because the cap does not affect new construction and because property will be reassessed upon its sale, local government will generally continue to see revenue increases somewhat higher than the rate of inflation. The Back-up Plan contains no SEV caps, doing nothing to hold down local government spending.
Careers in Agriculture
Agriscience Education Profile: Ronald Behrenwald, 1992 Graduate

"I became a teacher because I wanted to have an impact on young people...to really make a difference in their lives." In those few words, Ronald Behrenwald, agriscience teacher at Mason High School (Mason, Mich.), eloquently summed up the reasons behind his career choice. Behrenwald, an MSU graduate and Lakeview, Mich., native, enjoys the challenges of teaching agriscience and running a successful FFA program. The diversity of agriculture makes it very exciting to teach," he said. "Every day is different. I'm teaching practical, hands-on skills along with the needed t.e.x.m. material.

Behrenwald was raised on a farm, and has always been interested in agriculture. In high school, he was also deeply affected by his experiences with the FFA. "I don't know of any youth organization that has provided the leadership experience that FFA can," he said. "Here in Mason, I have 20 student members, a new and very energetic FFA advisor and strong support for FFA from the community."

Although he pursued a master's degree in either school administration or general science, Behrenwald, who taught one year in Vicksburg, Mich., before coming to Mason, was placed with depth and the breadth of his undergraduate program. Although I am very happy teaching agriscience, it is comforting to know that my undergraduate training has also prepared me for other career paths, should I want a change in the future," Behrenwald noted.

Ron Behrenwald (second from right) works with his students on one of the many projects he develops as an agriscience teacher at Mason High School in Mason, Mich. The 1992 MSU Agriscience graduate enjoys the diversity of agriculture, making each school day different.

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March 15, 1994
Michigan Farm News

13

COLLEGE MAJORS

Agriscience Education or the Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications, and a successful career in agricultural public relations. "All our students have a strong foundation in basic and applied science," Showmer said. "They also take more in-depth course work in at least two agriculture or natural resource-related disciplines, like Animal Science or Forestry.

Like their counterparts in the agriscience major, the ANR Comm. students have enjoyed solid job placement rates over the past decade. The program has placed approximately 75 percent of its graduates in jobs directly related to agricultural or natural resources journalism, advertising, public relations or marketing communications. ANR Communications majors take equal numbers of courses from the College of Agriculture and Nat. Resources and the College of Communication Arts. This enables the students to learn from faculty experts across several disciplines and to share classes with students majoring in such diverse areas as communications, advertising, resource development and journalism.

"Our students must be able to convey difficult technical information to a variety of consumer and industry audiences," said Kirk Heins, ANR Comm. associate professor and advisor. "They must have solid writing, speaking and listening skills, and they must be able to intelligently express agricultural and natural resources-related information and issues.

For more information about either the Agriscience Education or the Agriculture and Natural Resources Communication major, contact the Dept. of Agricultural and Extension Education, 410 Agriculture Hall, M.S.U., E. Lansing, MI 48824, or fill out and mail the coupon below.

Agriscience Education
Profile: Renee Howard, 1986 Graduate

A lifelong love of animals has led Renee Howard from 4-H participation to a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications, and a successful career in agricultural public relations.

Through the FFA alumni association and strong support for FFA from the community. "I became a teacher because I wanted to have an impact on young people...to really make a difference in their lives." In those few words, Ronald Behrenwald, agriscience teacher at Mason High School (Mason, Mich.), eloquently summed up the reasons behind his career choice. Behrenwald, an MSU graduate and Lakeview, Mich., native, enjoys the challenges of teaching agriscience and running a successful FFA program. The diversity of agriculture makes it very exciting to teach," he said. "Every day is different. I'm teaching practical, hands-on skills along with the needed t.e.x.m. material.

"The FFA alumni association and strong support for FFA from the community. "I'm teaching practical, hands-on skills along with the needed t.e.x.m. material."


**Discussion Topic for April - Coastal Zone Management**

In 1990, Congress passed amendments to the Coast Zone Management Act. At this time, it appears that the entire state of Michigan, except for a portion of the coastline of the southwest Upper Peninsula, will be covered by the amendments.

Section 6217 of the Act requires states to establish coastal nonpoint pollution programs which must be approved by both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Beginning in fiscal year 1996, states are required to submit an approved coastal nonpoint program face reductions in federal funds.

The main purpose of section 6217 is to strengthen the links between federal and state coastal zone management and water quality programs to help boost state and local efforts to manage land use activities that degrade coastal waters and habitats.

This is to be accomplished primarily through management measures in conformity with guidance published by the EPA and through additional state-developed management measures as necessary to achieve and maintain applicable water quality standards.

The agricultural program will need to control nutrients, sediment, animal wastes, trash, and other activities that degrade coastal waters and habitats. The EPA’s published guidance document states that:

- All farmers within the coastal boundary will need to have a resources management plan in place that satisfies criteria contained in the SCS Field Office Technical Guide. These measures apply to all activities that cause erosion on agricultural land.

- Control measures will be required for all new animal facilities regardless of location and for all existing facilities with specified numbers of animals.

- Controls will be required to minimize teaching of nutrients from the root zone. Farmers will be required to implement and periodically update nutrient management plans for their farm.

- Controls will be required to reduce contamination of water and groundwater from pesticides. Those controls will include Integrated Pest Management strategies, organic farming techniques, record-keeping, calibration of spray equipment and anti-backflow devices.

**Controls will be required for all activities on pasture and other grazing lands to reduce the physical, biological, and direct loading of animal waste and sediment caused by livestock.**

- Controls will be applied to all activities on irrigated lands including agricultural crop and pasture land, orchard land, special use cropland and nursery cropland.

If implemented, the high cost of these mandatorily measures will significantly increase the cost of doing business in Michigan. In fact, it’s estimated that about one-third of the marginal farmers in the state will not survive the economic burden of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Michigan Farm Bureau believes that voluntary, incentive driven programs should be developed to encourage farmers to adopt management measures authorized under the Act.

Those measures could include voluntary use of the Farmstead Assrtment System, educational/demonstration projects, cost share programs to implement structures and practices, tax incentive programs and applicable service contracts.

Although farmers support the concept of protecting surface and groundwater from contamination, it’s clear that heavy-handed bureaucratic measures like the Coastal Zone Management Act are not the best tool for protecting our precious water resources.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Were your group members aware of the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act and the potential impacts on Michigan agriculture prior to this discussion topic? Yes__ No __

2. What agencies and/or organizations would be the most effective and helpful to farmers in implementing the proposed management practices? __

3. What should be the source of funding for the management programs on individual farms required by the Coastal Zone Management Act? __

4. What steps should be used to enforce the provisions of the act? __

If a farmer is unable or unwilling to comply, should he be penalized? __
Consider the Woodlot as Part of Your Cropping Program

Most farmers see farm woodlots as little more than unproductive land. But a properly managed farm woodlot can contribute substantially to the farm business, says Mel Koelling, Michigan State University Extension Service forestry specialist.

The fixed costs of operating a farm are attributed equally to tillable ground and the woodlot, Koelling points out. "So doing nothing with the woodlot costs the owner money," he says. "But if the woodlot is managed as well as the other cropland, the return per acre can be quite impressive."

Michigan has 18 million acres of timberland, nearly 60 percent privately owned. 

"Most of that 60 percent is on the highest valued farmland that we have in the state, and those woodlots are highly productive," Koelling says. "Yet the management given to those woodlots is often minimal."

Depending on the kinds of trees grown, farmers can expect to harvest between 200 and 300 board feet per year, which translates into about $45 per acre gross annual income.

"If walnut or veneer log material is growing in a managed woodlot, it is not uncommon to expect a gross annual income of $60 to $70 per acre," Koelling says. "I suspect that when we compare those figures with profitability of most crops, the per acre return on the woodland will probably be quite favorable."

As with any row crop, a good yield requires good management.

"A management plan should be developed that will channel the potential of that wo0ldlot into desirable species so that the market will compensate the owner for the investment," Koelling says.

He recommends developing such a plan with a reputable forest consultant, who will help the owner set goals and yield according to the potential of the woodlot.

A forest consultant will assist in preparing a management plan according to the owner's objectives, prescribe what should be done in the woodlot — in essence, help the owner put it in order — and, if forest products sales are involved, assist in finding the market that will pay the highest return on investment, Koelling says.

He says that he appreciates the perspective that a competent professional forestland consultant will provide.

"Their approach is to ask the woodlot owner about his/her objectives and then help to achieve them," Koelling says. "Of course, they will charge a fee for their services, but I would say without exception that the benefit one will receive greatly exceeds the cost incurred in obtaining that professional advice."

Woodlot management may meet multiple objectives, he notes.

"Management means directing the potential of the woodlot toward products of value that are consistent with the owner's objectives," Koelling says. "The objective may be economic gain, improved wildlife habitat, aesthetics, recreation or some combination of those purposes."

Koelling cautions that there is a risk looking for a quick economic fix from the woodlot.

"Good woodlot management takes time and a certain degree of commitment and continuity to reach an objective," he says. "But doing it well will greatly increase the economic and non-economic contributions from the woodlot."

More information about private woodlot management can be obtained from any county MSU Extension office or from Koelling at MSU by calling (517) 355-0094.

Calendar of Events
March 16-17 - Michigan Grazing Conference, Mt. Pleasant, contact Ben Bartlett, (906) 228-4830.
March 19 - 6th Annual MCAA Bull Test Sale, Breckenridge, noon.
March 23 - Michigan DHIA Annual Meeting, Hannah Center Ballroom, East Lansing, Business Session starts at 10 a.m., call (517) 355-5033.
March 26 - 13th Annual Michigan Limousin Association Sale, Hillsdale Co. Fairgrounds, Show 9:30 a.m., Sale 1 p.m.
April 8-10 - Michigan Beef Expo, Ingham County Fairgrounds, Mt. Hope, (517) 669-8580 for more information.
April 16 - Southwest Michigan Polled Hereford Association Sale, Allegan, noon.
April 23 - 2nd Annual Beef Expo, Escanaba, 1 p.m.

Send or FAX information (include name and phone number) three weeks in advance to: Michigan Farm News
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