Michigan's 1994 tart cherry crop is estimated at 185 million pounds available for harvest, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS). That represents a 31 percent decrease from last year's crop of 270 million pounds, and is 4 percent below the 1989-93 average of 193 million pounds.

That projection is slightly higher than an earlier industry estimate of 179 million and should provide Michigan cherry producers a profit opportunity, according to Randy Harmon, general manager for the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association.

"Of course, the big unknown at this point is the impact of the severe winds and rain that we've experienced recently," Harmon said.

The MASS yield projection is based on conditions as of mid-to-late June, and assumes 33 pounds per tree. There are an estimated 3.5 billion channels to the cost of gasoline.

Ethanol demand by 500 million gallons per gallon to the cost of gasoline.

Farm Bureau calls for reopening of serious assessment mid-Michigan crop losses.

Heavy rains the last week of June and first week of July have prompted calls from Michigan Farm Bureau President Jack Laurie for a rapid and immediate assessment of crop damage and losses, particularly to dry beans, which have suffered losses from 30 percent to as high as 50 percent by some estimates.

"Farm Bureau is willing to work with county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and Michigan State University Extension Service staff to assess the situation," Laurie said. "If the problem is as bad as we fear it is, then it's important to make sure that our multi-peril crop insurance carriers are made aware of the potential losses."

According to Larry Sprague, dry bean merchandiser for Mueller Bean and Grain, the Saginaw Valley, including the Reese, Bay City, Breckenridge, and Ithaca areas are the worst hit. Total yield. But that's a moving target right now."

"July 4 is the critical date for dry bean replanting, which was impossible with the heavy rains either preventing side-dress applications, or leaching of nitrogen below the root zone. Heavy rains could also prove costly for cherry producers as their harvest season was just getting underway."

Michigan Farm News Classifieds — Page 14
In Brief

Nationwide BST Labels Proposed

Rep. Bernard Sanders (Vt.-1) introduced legislation that will require labeling milk and other dairy products on July 26, during the US. Supreme Court's year for top dairy growers in Wisconsin for top dairy growers in Wisconsin for top dairy

Susan Sanders said his bill will replace the "growth patchwork of state laws and individual laws" and would also require the development of a test to detect the naturally occurring hormone's presence in milk and require an assessment on farmers who choose to use the hormone supplement on their animals.

Kleckner said the bill would create a private dairy board to dispose of surplus dairy products through exports. The proposed legislation will provide for the election of processor members to the board and, after the board is in place, for a group of food retailers, eliminate bloc voting, directly reduce producer price, give the board more autonomy from USDA and reduce budget reconciliation assessments to three counts.

The bill also targets pay reductions on producers expanding production if Commodity Credit Corporation purchases no new seven billion pounds. It would allow older dairies and new producers a partial exemption from pay reductions.

Meat Prices - So High, Yet So Low

American Farm Bureau President Dean Kleckner is urging 30 of the nation's top food retailers to lower their retail beef prices to correspond with the prices cattle feeders are receiving at market. Kleckner said it is "especially critical" that the record price spread of 32 percent or more between the feedlot price and retail price "is reduced by some way." With market prices near the $60 per hundredweight range and break-even prices around $80 per hundredweight, many feed-cattle producers are losing up to $200 per head. "The beef price in the stores should reflect the abundant supplies available," Kleckner said. "I would like to see retailers agree to be sensitive to this situation." Kleckner said the bill would also allow farmers to "buy-up" to higher coverage levels and provide incentives to make such purchases.

A to Z Not A-OK!

A discharge petition is being circulated in the House by backers of legislation known as the A to Z spending cuts proposal, which would provide a special 10-day session to cut federal spending programs. Farm Bureau does not support the discharge petition effort. The organization has expressed support for the Common Cents Budget Reform Act, sponsored by Reps. Charles Stenholm (D-Texas), Tim Penny (D-Minn.) and John Kasich (R-Ohio).

Common Cents would eliminate baseline budgeting, spending cuts would go toward deficit reduction, and it would allow enhanced revenue authority to vote on expensive or low-priority projects. In order to pass, it would require a two-thirds vote, making it more difficult than passing a one-vote budget reduction. The bill would ban appropriation bills and prohibit unrelated riders on emergency spending bills.

Farm Program Cuts Won't Finance GATT

The recent announcement by the Office of Management and Budget Director Leon Panetta that there will be no new cuts in farm programs to help pay for implementing the GATT agreement ensures the administration is deeply committed to the American farmer and U.S. agriculture, according to Michigan Farm Bureau. The bill would also allow farmers to "buy-up" to higher coverage levels and provide incentives to make such purchases.

Farm Program Means Test on the Table

As part of a welfare reform bill, the Clinton Administration has proposed excluding farmers from farm program eligibility if their non-farm income exceeds $100,000 per year. The welfare proposal will cost nearly $9.3 billion more than the existing program, but the cost would be reduced by changes to programs with little or nothing done to reduce it. In a timely manner, the public, as the agriculture-land use issue, the administration's proposals involves a savings of approximately $500 billion over a five-year period in Federal land. Some farmers are excluded from program participation.
MFB's AgriPac friends of agriculture endorsement determined

MFB's AgriPac committee has made its 1994 primary election endorsements with the "Friends of Agriculture" designation, after reviewing recommendations from the House Concurrent Resolution 64 - Vote on passage of a substitute amendment to set a maximum deficit of $496 billion in deficit reduction over five years through various spending cuts, and achieves another $152 billion in spending cuts, which included the energy (BTU) tax, and favored a "Y" vote.

3. Enhanced Recession Authority (H.R. 1578) - Vote on passage of a bill to allow the president to rescind any part of an appropriation bill and require Congress to vote on the rescission within a specified time. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill April 29, 1993. Farm Bureau supported the amendment to increase and favored a "Y" vote.

4. 1993 Budget Reconciliation (H.R. 2364) - Vote on passage of the 1993 budget reconciliation bill that raises $275 billion in new taxes, mandates $68 billion in spending cuts, and achieves another $152 billion in deficit reduction through discretionary spending cuts and interest savings for a total of $496 billion in deficit reduction over five years. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill May 27, 1993. Farm Bureau opposed the bill because of the tax increases and favored a "N" vote.

5. GATT Fast-Track Extension (H.R. 1876) - Vote on passage of a bill to extend the administration's authority to negotiate an accord strengthening the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and require Congress to consider the accord under procedures that do not allow amendments. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill June 22, 1993. Farm Bureau supported the extension of fast-track authority to allow additional time to complete the GATT negotiations and favored a "Y" vote.

6. Agricultural Appropriations/Honey Program (H.R. 2493) - Vote on a motion to concur with an amendment passed by the Senate to prohibit FY 1994 spending on the honey program. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill Sept. 30, 1993. Farm Bureau opposed making farm program changes through the appropriations process and favored a "N" vote.

7. National Biological Survey/Permission (H.R. 3450) - Vote to approve the bill to elevate the EPA to cabinet-level position. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the amendment Oct. 6, 1993. Farm Bureau supported the amendment to assure persons with adequate training would be used to conduct the biological survey and favored a "Y" vote.

8. National Biological Survey/Permission (H.R. 1845) - Vote on amendment to require persons conducting the National Biological Survey to obtain written permission before going on private property and require reports describing the survey's activities on the property. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the amendment Oct. 6, 1993. Farm Bureau supported the amendment to require persons with adequate training be used to conduct the biological survey and favored a "Y" vote.


10. EPA Cabinet Rule - Vote on adoption of the rule providing for consideration of the bill to elevate the EPA to cabinet-level status. The U.S. House of Representatives rejected the rule Feb. 2, 1994. Farm Bureau opposed the rule because it would not allow a vote on amendments dealing with risk assessment, cost/benefit analysis or unfunded federal mandates and favored a "N" vote.

Other criteria used by the county committees and AgriPac for incumbents include the degree of special effort to introduce, support or oppose legislation in accordance with Farm Bureau policy, and communications with farmers constituents.

"Incredibly Versatile”

The JCB 504B Loadall Tool Carrier

All-around visibility • Four wheel drive
• Four equal sized tires • 18' telescopic boom • Rear-mounted 76 hp engine • Low overall height and narrow width
Plus, Standard JCB Quick hitch and pallet forks. Easily accepts a wide range of attachments.
Livestock Tips When the Weather Turns Hot and Humid

When temperatures rise above 90 degrees and humidity above 90 percent, livestock may suffer heat and humidity stress.

"At this point, the animal's physiology simply won't allow it to dissipate heat sufficiently," says Harlan Ritchie, Michigan State University beef specialist. "With some livestock, hot, humid weather can literally kill them."

Swine must expert excess heat through their respiratory system because the only sweat glands they have are in their legs. Dairy and beef cattle can perspire, but under hot, humid conditions, they are stressed quite easily, Ritchie says.

Ritchie warns against good," he says. "There are documented cases of livestock, especially cattle, going into shock and dying too, need access to plenty of cool water. Producers can reduce heat stress by spraying cool water over livestock. Ritchie warns against using cold water.

"There are documented cases of livestock, especially cattle, going into shock and dying too, need access to plenty of cool water. If livestock are housed in barns, the structures should be well ventilated, using fans, if necessary.

Temporary shade for livestock can be provided by surrounding lightweight tarps or snow fences from tall wood or steel posts. "However, don't make a major adjustment during periods of heat stress because they need energy to dissipate heat," Ritchie says. "That means lower production -- meat and milk -- when the temperature and humidity combination exceed 85 degrees."

Ritchie does not recommend altering the composition of the ration, but says he would not be opposed to adding a flavoring agent or sweetener, such as molasses, to the ration if it improves a depressed feed intake.

"Don't make a major adjustment in the animal's diet -- it could do more harm than good," he says.

Ritchie says that young stock will probably handle heat stress better than older animals. They, too, need access to plenty of cool water.

Livestock heat stress begins when the temperature rises above 80 degrees F and humidity rises above 80 percent. The danger zone develops when the temperature exceeds 85 degrees F and humidity exceeds 85 percent.

Under these conditions, livestock need access to lots of cool, cold water and shade.

The latest National Weather Service 30-day (for July) and 90-day (for July through September) outlooks for Michigan both call for near to above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

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Ritchie says that when the weather is hot and humid, livestock should be moved or handled during the cool hours of morning or evening when possible to avoid adding to the animal's stress.

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1. MIOSHA (S.B. 459) - Vote on passage of a bill requiring state safety and health rules to be identical to federal OSHA standards. The bill passed the Michigan Senate on Sept. 19, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

2. Soil Conservation Districts (S.B. 722) - Vote on passage of a bill which makes supplemental appropriations for soil conservation districts. The bill passed the Michigan Senate on Feb. 27, 1992. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

3. Wetlands (S.B. 522) - Vote on passage of a bill to prohibit local wetland ordinances more stringent than the state's protection and establish a statewide definition of wetlands. The bill passed the Michigan Senate on March 25, 1992. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


5. Automobile Insurance Reform (H.B. 4156) - Vote on passage of a bill to reform Michigan's automobile insurance laws by enacting measures to curb lawsuits, control medical costs, and reduce auto insurance premiums. The Michigan Senate passed the bill March 24, 1993. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

6. Repeal of State Inheritance Tax (H.B. 667) - Vote on passage of a bill to repeal the federal pick-up tax which exempts $600,000 of the value of an estate. The Michigan Senate passed the bill May 20, 1993. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

7. Michigan Groundwater & Freshwater Protection Act (S.B. 74) - Vote on passage of a bill to have the Michigan Department of Agriculture develop voluntary groundwater stewardship program to prevent contamination of groundwater by pesticides. The Michigan Senate passed the bill June 29, 1993. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


9. Personal Property Tax Exemption of Certain Farm Machinery (H.B. 4833) - Vote on passage of a bill to tax agricultural land that is classified for tax purposes as agricultural land or used primarily for agricultural purposes at the same 6-mill rate as homesteads. The Michigan Senate passed the bill May 10, 1994. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

10. Farmland Definition (H.B. 5329) - Vote on passage of a bill to tax agricultural land that is classified for tax purposes as agricultural land or used primarily for agricultural purposes at the same 6-mill rate as homesteads. The Michigan Senate passed the bill May 10, 1994. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

U.S.D.A. Conducting Inventory Survey

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is surveying farmers across the nation this month to determine crop production and stocks and livestock inventories. This year's survey is deemed particularly important by the department because it follows last summer's Midwest flooding and the drought in the Southeast, according to Fred Vogel, head of the Department of Agriculture's Estimates Division.

The USDA hopes to gain valuable information about acreage planted and potential production of major crops in 1994. A total of about 125,000 farmers and ranchers will be contacted and asked to provide the information needed for state, regional and national estimates of crops planted, grain in storage and cattle and hog inventories. Local interviewers will be used after training to obtain the information by phone or personal visits to farms and ranches.

Maximize your Winter Wheat productivity with ACA

Identifiable Performance Parameters on Winter Wheat

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

**Visual Response**
- vigorous early plant growth
- more winter hardy
- more frost resistant and extensive root system

**Observation Timing (Stage of Growth)**
- Fall - first to fourth leaves unfolded
- Winter - observation on plant stand
- Spring - at completion of tillering
- Spring - at flowering

**Profitability**
- higher yield and/or test weight

**Yield Information Postemergence applications to Winter Wheat (1995)**
- 33 studies: 7.6 bushel per acre increase - 10.5% increase in yield
- Return on ACA investment $17.64 (20 pounds) $33 per acre as broadcast (Winter Wheat at $3.00/bushel) $7.82/bushel increase in yield
- ACA investment of 53.5 pounds (120 pounds) $117.40/acre

**Application Techniques/Procedures**

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

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

**Methods of Application**
- ACA mixes evenly with and fits into the following fertilizer programs:
  - Soil applications
  - Soil broadcast applied with liquid fertilizers
  - Soil broadcast applied with dry blended fertilizers
  - Soil broadcast applied with weed and feed herbicide fertilizer solution

**Foliar Applications**
- Application can be made with liquid fertilizers as the carrier

**Other application methods**
- Contact your local CleanCrop Dealer or call 1-800-292-2701 for additional information on the ACA ADVANTAGE.
Market... 

SOYBEANS

The information in the two USDA reports were not friendly to the soybean price picture, although weather will still over-whelm all other information through August. The Quarterly Stocks Report showed about 25 million more bushels of soybeans on hand than previously thought. While this is not a large number, if projected ending stocks were increased that much in the July USDA Supply/De- mensial Report, it would be a 15 percent increase.

The USDA Planted Acreage Report showed producers planted 61.8 million acres in 1994. This was 1 million acres less than last year, 700,000 more than March intentions, and 900,000 more than the trade expected.

WHEAT

Wheat winter planted acres were estimated at 49.5 million acres, down 4 percent from last year and down 16 percent from June 1, 1993. This was less than trade expectations and the USDA had forecast in the previous reports estimated in December. However, spring planted wheat acreage was close to last year and estimated spring wheat harvested acreage is up 6 percent. The leaves total expected wheat harvested acreage down less than 1 percent.

June 1 wheat stocks, the number used as the 1993-94 marketing year ending stocks figure, was placed at 571 million bushels. This was 30 million less than trade expectations and the USDA had forecast in the previous reports estimated in December. However, spring planted wheat acreage was close to last year and estimated spring wheat harvested acreage is up 6 percent. The leaves total expected wheat harvested acreage down less than 1 percent.

June Supply/Demand Report. The two reports together were fairly neutral.

WHOLESALE PRICES

Wheat prices will continue to follow corn prices through the critical growing period and then shift to spring wheat conditions when we move through August.

Be ready to price at harvest if we are in the midst of a rally. If not, it may pay to store or at least keep some on paper to take advantage of a possible fall rally. Check your local basis to help pick the correct pricing level.

CATTLE

January-May beef production was up 2 percent compared to the same period in 1993, with increased slaughter making up 2-3 percent and increased weights making up the remainder. The June Cattle-on-Feed Report showed total cattle on feed down 1 percent, in line with previous reports, indicating near-term supplies as May placements were down 22 percent. Marketings were up 1 percent.

It’s interesting to note that the inventory of feedlots over 1,000 head was up 2 percent and they make up 89.5 percent of the total inventory. This means the little units were down big.

In the short-term, there is little positive that can be said. Beef supplies will be plentiful and the supplies of other meats (see Hogs and Broilers) will give no relief.

On the demand side, we see both broiler production and prices up. We still have a lot of work to do on beef demand. But the first thing we need is a reflection in the beef prices at the grocery store of the cattle prices at the feedlots.

The number of layers on June 1 was 2 percent above June 1, 1993. The number will gradually become nearly the same or slightly lower than last year.

During the first five months of 1994, the egg-type chick hatch was below the comparable months of 1993. This trend will likely continue for a while as the number of layer-type eggs in incubators on June 1 was 7 percent below a year earlier.

DAIRY MARKETS - Is the Bottom Near?

Larry Hamm, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

The dairy product markets have had a small summer rebound. This is good news for Michigan dairy producers because it probably signals that dairy farm pay prices will bottom out by late summer or early fall.

Dairy product prices, particularly cheddar cheese and butter, are at record prices because many processors can only profitably pay for milk at prices that allow them to recover the increased costs when selling to dairy product buyers.

Wholesale cheese prices collapsed between mid-April and the beginning of June. The Michigan-Wisconsin (M-W) price dropped $1.48 per cwt. in June. The M-W will probably drop another 50 cents in July.

The dramatic price drop had all market analysts wondering whether prices would continue to drop all the way to the USDA price levels. Fortunately, all four of the major dairy product markets have undergone a slight summer rebound.

After sitting on support levels for all of June, wholesale butter prices have increased by $.0125 per pound. Wholesale cheese prices for 40-pound blocks went up.

HOGS

PIGS, PIGS, and more pigs! That’s the picture you get from the June 1 USDA Planted Acreage Report released June 30. Total inventory, kept for feed, and kept for breeding, were all up 3 percent compared to 1993. This 2-3 percent more than the trade expected.

Farrowing intentions are also up, July-August and September-October intentions show a 5 percent increase. This would be production for next winter and spring. For every 1 percent increase in production, expect a 2-3 percent decrease in price.

Are these increases coming from the traditional hog states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Minnesota? No. North Carolina numbers are up around 30 percent, depending on the category, and Missouri’s are up around 20 percent.

Michigan inventory, market, and breeding numbers are up 3-4 percent, and farrowing intentions up 3 and 7 percent for the next two quarters.

I would be very surprised to ever see an annual average hog price over $50 per cwt. again after accounting for inflation. And I suspect we will need to be able to produce hogs for $40 per cwt. total cost, because that is what the competition can do.

The Michigan sweet cherry crop, hurt by poor pollination weather, is forecast at 25,000 tons, down from the 1993 harvest of 30,000 tons, but above the 1989-1993 average of 22,000 tons. The Michigan sweet cherry crop, hurt by poor pollination weather, is forecast at 25,000 tons, down from the 1993 harvest of 30,000 tons, but above the 1989-1993 average of 22,000 tons.
Cash Crop Farm Returns

Ralph E. Hepp
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University

The cash crop report number 576 is a summary of the financial and production records kept by crop farmers enrolled in the TELFARM record program through Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service. The report includes 27 grain farms producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and dry edible beans and 19 Saginaw Valley crop farms producing sugar beets, corn, soybeans, wheat and edible beans. The report is available from the county Extension office.

The report has three purposes:

- To provide statistical information about the financial results on crop farms during 1993.
- To provide information on the trends in resource use, income and costs during the last three years.
- To provide comparative analysis for administrative projections.

The 46 crop farms are located in southern Michigan and are selected for the report because they specialize in grains and other field crops, include inventory and crop production data, and represent various sizes of farm operations. The TELFARM participants are not necessarily representative of all Michigan farm operations, but are those that expect an efficient record keeping system and assistance in records and financial management from the Cooperative Extension Service. Typically, TELFARM operators operate larger farms than the average Michigan crop producer and obtain a larger portion of their income from agriculture.

Business analysis reports are also published for farms specializing in potatoes, dairy, fruit, and swine enterprises. The TELFARM record program through Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service. The report includes 27 grain farms with income from agriculture.

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Returns on Saginaw Valley cash grain farms were higher in 1993, with a higher value placed on the land and machinery per acre. The estimated hours of labor per acre was 4.2 in 1992.

The value of farm capital on Saginaw Valley crop farms decreased slightly, with the estimated number of hours of labor per acre at 5.5 in 1992. The sample of farms selected for the report shows cash grain farms with 506 tillable acres and 38 percent of the land rented. The farms with sugar beets in the rotation had 937 tillable acres and 55 percent of the land rented.

LEVEL OF PROFITABILITY

Table 3 presents analysis factors for crop farms by level of profits per acre. The 46 cash crop farms were divided into three groups by return on owned capital from less than 3 percent, 3 to 7 percent and greater than 7 percent. The major difference between the high profit farms compared to the average farms was the number of tillable acres, the yields and financial returns per acre. Yields per acre were higher on high profit farms which resulted in greater revenue during the year.

Low profit farms had fewer owned, tillable acres, less investment, and fewer hours of labor used in production. Total operating expenses per acre were lower for high profit farms, with interest depreciation, and repair expenses lower.

The return to owned capital was 13.2 percent on high profit farms and 3 percent on low profit farms. Net farm income per acre was $90 on high profit farms and $20 for the least profitable operations.

FARM SIZE:

The 42 crop farms were divided into three size groups by number of acres with small farms less than 400 tillable acres, medium farms between 400 and 800 tillable acres and large farms greater than 800 tillable acres (Table 4). The small farms averaged 315 tillable acres, medium farms averaged 565 acres and the large farms averaged 1,520 acres.

Capital investment per acre was about the same for the three size categories. Number of hours of labor per acre was about 5.5

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<tr>
<th>LEVEL OF PROFITABILITY</th>
<th>TABLE 3. Michigan Cash Crop Farms by Level of Profitability, 1993</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tileable Acres</td>
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<td>Tileable Acres</td>
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<th>LEVEL OF PROFITABILITY</th>
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<td>Net Farm Income</td>
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8 Deciding the Fate of Conservation Reserve Program

Sandra S. Batie and David B. Schweinhardt, Dept of Ag Econ., Michigan State University

The future of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be a pivotal issue in the 1995 farm bill debate. Established under the Food Security Act of 1985, the original objectives of the CRP were to provide a voluntary form of supply control and to reduce soil erosion.

If the money comes from another program, it would probably come from a reductions program. If the money comes from another program, it would probably come from either new sources – a highly unlikely possibility – or from another federal program. Extending these contracts or bringing additional land into the CRP, however, will require consideration about the impact of the expiration of these contracts on both commodity prices and the environment.

Extending these contracts or bringing additional land into the CRP, however, will require new taxpayer funding. This money could only come from either new sources – a highly unlikely possibility – or from another federal program.

Because changes in the CRP could impact crop and livestock prices, deficiency payments, farm income, and the environment, all Michigan farmers will be affected by the future of the CRP, regardless of whether they are currently enrolled in the CRP.

A Brief History of the CRP

In the early 1980s, land in agriculture production reached the highest level of the post-World War II period. It was clear that American farmers were producing more of the major commodities than could be cleared by domestic and export markets. At the same time, concerns arose about the environmental impact of production on highly erodible lands.

In such a context, it made little sense for USDA programs to provide deficiency payments to grow crops on these lands, particularly since farm program costs were spiraling upwards. From these reasons, a consensus was reached to establish the Conservation Reserve Program.

The CRP was initially targeted at highly erodible lands, and farmers were permitted to bid to enroll acreage in the CRP. Land was selected for the CRP if it met the erosion eligibility criteria and the farmer’s bid price was below a pre-determined bid price per acre. The CRP was revised in the 1990 farm bill to include land that protected water quality and wildlife habitat.

There are now 36.4 million acres enrolled in the CRP throughout the nation by over 535,000 land owners. Annual rental payments exceed $1.7 billion dollars. Michigan has 8,039 CRP contracts, accounting for 332,853 acres that will receive $286 million dollars in payments during the life of these contracts. Michigan’s CRP payments rank 25th among the 50 states. The largest share of CRP contracts will expire between 1996 and 1998, with contracts on 164,000 acres of land in Michigan expiring during these years (Figure 1). Contracts on 28 million acres of land will expire nationwide during the same period.

A NEW MONEY SAVING HEALTH PLAN

In these tough economic times all business owners are looking for ways to improve their bottom line. Now Farm Bureau can help you get new private 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.

Michigan Farm News

July 15, 1994
Summer brings out the kid in all of us, so you’re probably getting more outdoor exercise and that’s good! But here are some tips to help you enjoy summer sports and activities without increasing your risk of heart attack. Although your chance of having a heart attack during exercise is small, it’s good advice to get a doctor’s OK before starting a new or increased exercise program — especially if you’re older or out of shape. Then follow these tips:

- **Regular Exercise** — Risk of heart attack increases if intense workouts are infrequent. The key to a healthy exercise program is regular, moderate daily or weekly exercise.

- **Avoid start and stop activities** — Choose exercise activities, such as walking, swimming and cycling, that maintain a “continuous” level of exertion.

- **Exercise, don’t compete** — You may not be the winner if you increase your risk of heart attack through the physical and emotional intensity of competitive sports.

- **Avoid exercise after a large meal** — Wait two or three hours after meals before exercising. The digestive process directs away from your heart to fuel your digestive system.

- **Take the talk test** — Count out loud to check your breathing. You should be able to talk easily while exercising. If you are breathless or find talking difficult, you’re overexerting.

- **Do a weather check** — Common sense tells us that the speed, distance and intensity of exercise should be adjusted down when it’s hot and humid. Drink plenty of fluids.

- **Warm up and cool down** — Warm up stretches and exercises gradually increase your heart rate and help prevent muscle strain (and pain). Cool down exercises help your heart to return gradually to its normal rate and this reduces stress on your heart. Stretching reduces the risk of muscle strain.

- **Avoid running or jogging near heavy traffic areas** where auto emissions of carbon monoxide reduce the oxygen supply to your heart. Instead, choose parks, neighborhoods or other open areas for running and jogging.

- **Watch for Warning Signals** — Sensations of dizziness, nausea, weakness, chest pain or shortness of breath are signals that you should stop exercising and see your doctor.
Trimming Fat on the Restaurant Menu

Knowing how to trim fat from restaurant menus is an important health conscious skill we can all learn. That's especially so if you, like most Americans, eat one in five meals away from home.

Here's how:
Sharpen your menu-ese: Look for dishes that are broiled, poached, grilled, roasted, steamed or stir-fried. Stay away from "crispy" fried or deep fried dishes. Cheesey and creamed based dishes — described as scalloped or scallopéd, creamed, au gratin — are tempting but likely to boost fat grams.

Have it your way: Ask if the chef can prepare a dish with a low-fat method. For example, the chef can broil fish fillets instead of pan-frying or deep-frying them.

Be specific about extras: Order potatoes and vegetables without butter or sauces. Instead ask for herbs and spices to season these meal accompaniments. Another tip is to ask that sauces, gravies, salad dressings and other condiments be served "on the side." You can dip your fork tines into the side serving before tasting your salad or other dish. That way you'll get the flavor of the sauce or dressing without all of the calories and fats. Skip bacon bits, cheese and croutons on salads.

Determine your portion size: Keep fats to a minimum by limiting serving size to three ounces (cooked) of meat, fish or poultry. Ask for the serving size you wish. If that's not possible, limit the serving size by requesting that part of the entree be wrapped to take home.

Mind the munchies: If the server brings chips for your table, ask for something lower in fat such as bread (without butter) or pretzels.

Take a fresh look at desserts: Ask your server whether fresh fruit is available for dessert. Other "guiltless" desserts are angel food cake and icy fruit sorbets.

When the physical exam is normal, the tests are okay, but you still don't feel well...

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

If so, you may be suffering the effects of persistent anxiety. Persistent anxiety can be described as a condition that results from prolonged periods of anxiety.

"Anxiety" is a state of uneasiness, fear or worry, brought on by real or perceived threats to our safety or well-being. It's an entirely normal response; in fact, it acts as an important survival mechanism for humans and animals. The anxiety response alerts us to impending danger and prepares us, both physically and mentally, to react protectively.

The immediate physical responses set off by anxiety include increased heart and breathing rates, dilated blood vessels and tensed muscles. The emotional responses include uneasiness, apprehension and dread.

Today there are many situations that can lead to prolonged anxiety responses — the demands of a stressful career, financial woes, divorce and family problems, to name a few. And over time symptoms such as irritability, edginess, depression and varied physical complaints may result. While anxiety or tension associated with the stress of everyday life does not require treatment with anxiety reducing drugs, treatment may be necessary when symptoms become persistent and severe enough to compromise function or quality of life.

IT'S NOT ALL IN YOUR HEAD

People tend to think of anxiety as purely a "mental" or "emotional" problem. But anxiety can affect both the body and mind. Therefore, persistent anxiety can produce a variety of emotional and physical symptoms.

Common emotional symptoms include: irritability, tension, excessive worry, edginess, difficulty falling asleep, fatigue and difficulty concentrating. Depressive symptoms like feeling sad or "down" may also accompany persistent anxiety.

Common physical symptoms include: rapid heartbeat, shakiness, chest pain, burning stomach, stomach upset or pain, headaches, difficulty breathing, muscle aches and pains.

Many of these symptoms are similar to those of other diseases. In fact, they may lead you to believe you have a physical disease, not persistent anxiety. It is only when a physical examination and medical tests reveal no physical disease that your physician may suspect persistent anxiety to be the cause. Still, while it is reassuring to know that your disease is not primarily physical, persistent anxiety is a very "real" problem and can have a significant impact on your health and overall quality of life. What's more, it is a condition that can be treated.

TREATMENT IS AVAILABLE

The most important step toward obtaining relief is to consult with your physician. Depending on your medical history and symptoms, he or she may recommend a treatment regimen that includes relaxation techniques, dietary changes (especially reduction of caffeine intake — a common culprit in anxiety-related complaints), increased exercise, and/or a course of therapy with a medication designed to relieve persistent anxiety.

In addition, to help you find better ways of coping with the pressures and circumstances that may have initially caused or contributed to persistent anxiety, your physician may suggest that you join a support group, or seek individual counseling with a qualified therapist.
Dr. Oonald ttuJdtog is a dermatologtst ami assocjate cltnjcal professor at Mic'higUl
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The abGve questions and answers ere for gen-eraJmformatioA ptJirposes. It
you tl1lve s~$ms or bsaW:!
related Q:l!.estions,consult your phy5'uiall¥

Treatment of the rash usually consists of anti-itch medications and lotions. In
some cases, patients require systemic corticosteroids to control the spread of
the rash. As with most things, prevention is the key. If one suspects they have been
exposed to poison ivy, it is best to wash the oil off with rubbing alcohol. In the
past, it was thought that soap and water would neutralize this oil, but this is
generally not effective. Some recently developed creams have been thought to
prevent poison ivy if they are applied prior to exposure to the plant. Of course,
what is best is to avoid exposure to the vines and leaves of these plants that
cause such misery, so the best advice is “Leaves of Three Beware of Thee.”

Dr. John Dyke is the director of infection control and epidemiology, Sparrow Hospit~.

Streptococcus pyogenes or “group A strep” is a bacteria that causes a
variety of infections. These include skin infections, strep throat, scarlet fever and
rheumatic fever. This bacteria can be found virtually everywhere in our popula-
tion, and is a part of the natural flora of skin and mucous membranes of humans.

In this sense, yes, it is contagious. However, the media has focused on small groups of patients with serious
infections from a particular strain of group A strep. To label this medical
condition a “food-eating” bacteria is creating needless fear. In comparison to
other strep infections such as strep throat, this condition is not considered
highly contagious.

This strain of group A strep can cause an uncommon infection, which takes
hold in a cut, abrasion or puncture wound, and produces a toxin which destroys tissue.

Warning signs of this infection include:
• Cuts that become red or hot to the touch within a few hours.
• A high fever.
• Extreme pain at the site of the injury.

Early diagnosis and treatment are key in reducing the seriousness of this
infection. Antibiotics are effective, but in severe cases, surgery may be required.

As with any minor cut, abrasion or puncture wound, cleaning the wound, using
appropriate antiseptics and antibiotic ointments and applying sterile dressings
are the best preventative steps. Whenever there exists swelling, severe redness
or pain, or any of the above warning signs, please see your doctor.

Dr. John Dyke is the director of infection control and epidemiology at Sparrow Hospital.

Q: Recently the media has reported a number of deaths
as a result of a “fish-eating” bacteria.
What is this bacteria and is it contagious?

A. Streptococcus pyogenes or “group A strep” is a bacteria that causes a
variety of infections. These include skin infections, strep throat, scarlet fever and
rheumatic fever. This bacteria can be found virtually everywhere in our popula-
tion, and is a part of the natural flora of skin and mucous membranes of humans.

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or pain, or any of the above warning signs, please see your doctor.

Dr. John Dyke is the director of infection control and epidemiology at Sparrow Hospital.

Q: Why does contact with poison ivy cause a rash?
What is the best treatment?

A. Plants of the Rhus family, including poison ivy and poison sumac, can be
found nearly everywhere in Michigan. These plants usually have leaves of three
on a stem. Some people develop a sensitivity to oil contained in the plant, and
suffer very itchy, watery blisters on exposed areas. The time that it takes to develop into a rash varies from individual to individual. Some people can begin to
react in minutes, others in hours. Some people are so sensitive that they can
crush a severe reaction when exposed to the tiny droplets carried in the smoke
from a wood fire, if the wood has had contact with poison ivy.

Treatment of the rash usually consists of anti-itch medications and lotions. In
some cases, patients require systemic corticosteroids to control the spread of
the rash.

As with most things, prevention is the key. If one suspects they have been
exposed to poison ivy, it is best to wash the oil off with rubbing alcohol. In the
past, it was thought that soap and water would neutralize this oil, but this is
generally not effective. Some recently developed creams have been thought to
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what is best is to avoid exposure to the vines and leaves of these plants that
cause such misery, so the best advice is “Leaves of Three Beware of Thee.”

Dr. Donald Holden is a dermatologist and associate clinical professor at Michigan State University.

The above questions and answers are for general information purposes only. If you have symptoms or health
related questions, consult your physician.
Tetanus germs are less likely to infect injuries caused by sharp, clean objects such as a razor blade or knife than an injury caused by rusty metal or a metal hand tool, such as a screwdriver.

The tetanus germ is very common and the disease it causes—lockjaw—is very severe. That’s why it is most important that your children have the protection of the basic series of three tetanus vaccinations and boosters. Adults should have a tetanus booster at least every 10 years.

Consult your doctor or physician’s assistant to make a decision about administering a tetanus shot when there has been a cut or puncture wound. However, the following offers some guidelines for yourself or family members:

- Tetanus germs are less likely to infect injuries caused by sharp, clean objects such as a razor blade or knife than an injury caused by rusty metal or a metal hand tool, such as a screwdriver.
- Scratches or scrapes should not present a danger of tetanus infection. That’s because tetanus germs cannot grow in the presence of air—the germs are anaerobic. Therefore, the greatest danger of tetanus infection comes when the skin is cut deeply or punctured.

The initial vaccination series and timely boosters are the best protection. The first series of childhood tetanus shots causes the body to develop tetanus immunity rapidly and then the protection decreases over the succeeding months. After each booster shot, the immunity develops more quickly and lasts longer. According to the U.S. Public Health Service guidelines, once the initial series of basic three shots and two boosters has been given, protection lasts about 10 years after each subsequent booster shot.

Nonetheless, if you sustain a severe cut or puncture wound and have not had a tetanus booster in the last five years, you should consult a physician or physician’s assistant to make sure that you are fully protected from tetanus infection.

“The field study shows that the traditional baseball-style cap offers little or no protection from sun exposure,” Lee said. Hats with mesh tops offer minimal protection for those with thinning hair.

Although none of the 11 hat types Marshfield tested was perfect, several styles offer a good combination of features. In addition to shading the forehead, earlips, temples, back of the neck, and lower face and lips, the hat must be practical for outdoor activities, ranging from sports, gardening and picnics to farm work with animals and machinery. Children especially should be protected from the sun because skin damage can accumulate over the years. Hat styles tested included pith helmet, deer stalker, cowboy, bush, trek and straw hats.

However, the style most acceptable to farmers, designed by Marshfield Clinic as a result of the study, resembles those worn by the French Foreign Legion. The hat’s removable flaps shade areas vulnerable to skin cancer, Lee noted.

Skin cancer is reaching epidemic proportions, warned Lee, adding, one in six Americans is likely to get skin cancer, and most of the 700,000 new cases expected in 1994 will be the result of too much exposure to the sun.

Groups considered at high risk for skin cancer include those with fair or freckled skin, blue eyes, blond or red hair, family history of skin cancer, those who are exposed to the sun regularly, and especially those who have had severe sunburn cases during childhood.

Most types of skin cancer are curable if detected and treated early, says Lee. But prevention is vital: avoid sun exposure during the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater, and wear protective clothing.
Deciding the Fate of Conservation Reserve Program

Option 1: No Extension of CRP Contracts

There have been several national surveys of CRP holders to determine how much of CRP land would be kept in grass or trees with no commercial use. Three percent of contract holders plan to sell their land, and the remaining 2 percent plan other uses or were undecided on future use. Studies suggest that if all CRP acres are returned to their previous uses, crop prices would be 10 to 15 percent lower than they otherwise would be in years of tight supply. Net income from livestock would increase due to lower feed prices.

Option 2: Partial Extension of Existing CRP Contracts

The impacts discussed previously will be diminished with partial (or full) extension of existing CRP contracts. The impact on prices and farm income will depend, in part, on the set-aside requirements established for land returning to the commodity programs. Any extension of contracts will require new funding. Under the existing budget rules, these funds would probably come from a reduction of commodity program benefits for all commodity program participants.

There is some consideration being given to the option of allowing low-intensity use of CRP land, such as grazing, in return for lower rental payments. Such an option could result in increased competition for livestock producers as CRP land is shifted to such uses, but the budget cost of the CRP would be reduced. Another alternative would be to tailor an extended CRP to match the provisions of the Clean Water Act, so that the CRP could be used to support "best management practices" required under a reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. Such an approach could provide farmers with a source of funding for implementing pollution run-off controls that may be required by the Clean Water Act.

The emphasis on a wider range of environmental benefits stems from an increasing public demand for improved environmental quality and from recently completed trade agreements that discourage agricultural subsidies based on production and supply control, but permit direct income subsidies to farmers based on the adoption of environmental practices.

Conclusion

Though some observers believe the farm bill debate will be less favorable than in the past, programs protecting environmental quality will probably receive as favorable a treatment. Many environmental groups are willing to support some form of CRP, and farm organizations may find that the alliances and coalitions started in 1985 between agricultural interests and environmental groups will be necessary for passage of the 1995 farm bill. However, budgetary constraints will loom large in these discussions.

Option 3: A Re-targeted (Leaner and Meager) CRP

Despite the apparent success of the CRP, the program has many critics. Criticisms of the CRP include the cost of the program, the targeting of the program at soil erosion rather than at a wider range of environmental problems, and the nature of the program. Critics of the program's cost focus on both the total program cost ($1.8 billion annually) and on the fact that in some parts of the country - particularly the arid regions of the Great Plains - the CRP rental rates were 200 to 300 percent higher than local cash rental rates. Some critics suggest that CRP funds would be better spent on purchasing permanent conservation easements on critical lands.

Other critics allege that the CRP places too much emphasis on soil erosion problems and fails to address off-farm water quality problems. They argue that the twin goals of supply control and environmental protection are incompatible and that the program should focus on achieving increased off-farm environmental protection. Any effort to widen the environmental focus of the CRP would have to expand both the types of land and the types of commodities eligible for enrollment in the program.

The third criticism is that the money would be better spent influencing how farmers farm and not which lands they farm - at least if the goal is to protect the environment. These critics would prefer to use conservation dollars for cost-sharing of improved farm management systems.

In response to these criticisms, the CRP could be designed to be "leaner and meager," with fewer acres enrolled and a more direct targeting of the program at off-farm environmental problems. This alternative could include land not currently eligible for the CRP and might allow parts of fields to be enrolled in the CRP as filter strips rather than requiring the enrollment of entire fields as is done under the existing program.

One result of redesigning the CRP is that more Michigan cropland would be eligible under a redesigned CRP, particularly if the enrollment criteria included factors such as potential pesticide loadings, nitrogen leaching or run-off rates, use of filter strips, protection of wildlife habitat, or proximity to population centers.

Studies have concluded that more acreage would be eligible in Michigan under a redesigned program that maximizes environmental benefits per dollar, rather than a program that maximizes the soil erosion reduction per dollar. Much of this acreage would be in non-commodity crop land and would result in a wider range of farming enterprises to be eligible under a redesigned CRP.
Kleinhardt Selected MFB Volunteer of the Month

In honor of her fund-raising efforts for students attending the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar, Erma Kleinhardt was selected as MFB Volunteer of the Month. Her efforts raised over $500 for students from Clare County to attend the week-long program in Grand Rapids recently.

Erma, along with her husband, Charles, operate a 120-cow dairy operation near Clare in partnership with sons, Dick and Tim. As chairperson of the county Promotion and Education Committee, Erma was also instrumental in a recent two-day farm tour for over 140 students from two different schools to the newly-completed Packard Farms.

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MAKING YOUR FUTURE MORE PREDICTABLE
A Design for the Future – Options in Landscape at MSU

The MSU Horticultural Gardens play a key role in the educational experience gained by students in the landscape design major.

Michigan State University Horticultural Gardens are a part of the experience gained by students in the landscape design major. According to Dr. Wayne Loescher, professor and chairman for the Department of Horticulture, the Gardens play a key role in the educational experience gained by students in the landscape design major.

The MSU Horticultural Gardens offer a program to develop nursery management, the Department of Horticulture, and social activities for members, and sponsors many activities for its members including the annual Spring Garden Show. Students with a landscaping interest are able to participate in a national landscape competition, sponsored by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America. These opportunities and activities allow students to build a network of resources, and test their personal abilities and talents on a national level. "With our department continually ranking in the top across the nation, our students graduate from our department with 100 percent placement," notes Loescher.

When Michigan State University began its Department of Horticulture, it attracted Liberty Hyde Bailey, known as the "dean of American horticulture." Today, MSU's Department of Horticulture is growing and thriving with a highly regarded faculty and staff, instructional laboratories and greenhouses, and demonstration gardens where students can gain the knowledge gained in the classroom and put it to work outside. With the reputation for excellence, the Landscape Design Building Construction and Management option is awaiting more creative minds to cultivate a garden of opportunities.

Suppliers of...
High Quality Tillage Parts
Cutting Parts and Roller Chain
To Farm Bureau Members.

by Karen Geiger

Landscape design is a new and growing field of study at Michigan State University (MSU), providing careers to those interested in architecture and plants. The university's Department of Horticulture offers a program that not only teaches the skills and talents needed to put creative minds to work, but also provides a place to work where designers have the opportunity for a number of educational and social activities for members, and sponsors many activities for its members including the annual Spring Garden Show. Students, with a landscaping interest are able to participate in a national landscape competition, sponsored by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America. These opportunities and activities allow students to build a network of resources, and test their personal abilities and talents on a national level. "With our department continually ranking in the top across the nation, our students graduate from our department with 100 percent placement," notes Loescher.

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## 12

### 1993 - 94 Voting Record of Michigan House of Representatives

#### AgriPac Endorsements for Michigan House of Representatives

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### State Court of Appeals Endorsements

**District 2 (three seats will be filled)**

- Marilyn Kelly
- Michael Modelski
- Dennis Strohchuk

**District 3 (four seats will be filled)**

- Richard Bandstra
- Calvin Bosman
- Paul Maiton
- Timothy McMorow

**District 4 (one seat will be filled)**

- Norman Shankle
Discussion Topic for August -- "1995 Farm Bill"

Chairpersons of Community Action Groups and other county Farm Bureaus receive a copy of MTB's video by Jack Laurie inviting them to attend one of three special 1995 farm bill meetings. Each meeting begins at 10 a.m. and adjourns at 3 p.m.

The meetings are scheduled for:
- Aug. 15 at the Holiday Inn, Gaylord;
- Aug. 16 at the Holiday Inn Crossroads Plaza, Grand Rapids; and
- Aug. 17 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre in Flint.

Awe Rats! - A Look at the Truly Absurd

A Kern County, Calif., farmer's equipment is being used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) following an alleged violation of the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of California filed the suit titled, United States v. Michigan Farm News, charging the newspaper with unlawfully killing endangered Tipton kangaroo rats while cultivating his fields.

San Bernardino kangaroo rats could be placed on the federal list, and the Kern County Farm Bureau has organized protests against the listing.

Wang-Un Farms carry penalties of up to one year in prison and $600,000 of the value of an estate. The U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of California filed the suit titled, United States v. Michigan Farm News, charging the newspaper with unlawfully killing endangered Tipton kangaroo rats while cultivating his fields.

Charges also filed against Lin and Wang-Lin Farms carry penalties of up to one year in jail and $100,000 in fines. A coalition, including the Kern County Farm Bureau, has organized protests and will aid in the defense of Lin.

Fish and Wildlife officials said the San Bernardino kangaroo rat could be placed on the federal list of endangered species. The San Bernardino rat is a cousin of the endangered Tipton kangaroo rat. Developers fear listing the San Bernardino could place San Bernardino County, Calif., in jeopardy, making construction projects in jeopardy, including construction of the San Bernardino International Airport and the Seven Oaks Dam.

Continued from previous page

State House Voting Issues

$600,000 of the value of an estate. The House passed the bill May 5, 1993. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

6. Land Application of Fruit and Vegetable Residue (H.B. 4852) - Vote on passage of a bill to allow a farmer to apply fruit and vegetable residue from food processing plants to the land. The House passed the bill June 23, 1993. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

7. Personal Property Tax Exemption for Certain Farm Markets (H.B. 4831) - Vote on passage of a bill to clarify and continue agriculture's personal property tax exemption on agricultural handling equipment for fruit and vegetable. The House passed the bill July 14, 1993. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


10. Farmland Definition (H.B. 5329) - Vote on passage of a bill to tax agricultural land or used primarily for agricultural purposes at the same 6 mill rate as homesteads. The House passed the bill May 12, 1994. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

To help you prepare for attending these meetings, a considerable amount of background information has appeared in the past several issues of the Michigan Farm News.

To further assist you in your farm bill discussions, this month's discussion topic presents 10-year economic projections developed by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute. The Institute was established in 1964 by a grant from Congress to provide economic analysis for policymakers and others interested in the agricultural economy.

The Institute predicts continued high economic growth in Asia for the next decade, modest growth in the U.S. economy and economic deterioration in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

In real terms, oil prices will remain relatively low. The U.S. dollar will go down versus the Japanese yen, but will gain in value against the currencies of most developing countries. Interest rates will increase from current low levels, but will remain well below the levels seen in the early 1980s.

In crop production, the Institute believes that feed-grain and wheat imports by Russia will decline. Feed-grain exports by China and the European Union will also decline. Mexico will substantially increase imports of feed-grains.

Argentina and Brazil will continue to expand exports of soybeans and soybean products, while soybean imports by the European Community and soybean meal imports by the countries of the former Soviet Union will be flat.

The livestock and dairy projections show declining world beef trade but increasing world pork trade. In particular, Japan and Mexico will continue to increase meat pork imports.

The Institute believes feed use and industrial uses for U.S. crops will continue to expand. Assuming normal weather and ARP, prices will remain relatively stable while strengthening somewhat after the turn of the century. Net returns over variable costs are expected to generally decline, with cost increases outpacing yield increases.

For the U.S. livestock industry, the projections indicate that dairy farmers will increasingly adopt the use of BST. Milk prices will fall as the industry adopts this new technology. Retail demand for beef will remain weak.

Finally, the Institute believes that cash receipts will continue to grow. Poultry, fruits and vegetables will show the largest gains. Production expenses will increase by an average rate of 1.6 percent per year. Net farm income is expected to decline through 1997 and then increase. Real farm income will likely decline through 1996 and then stabilize.

The 1995 farm bill will be an important policy development topic this fall. Become well informed so you can effectively contribute your ideas to the upcoming discussion.
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In addition, participating teachers received an information/activity package on agriculture and natural resources for use in their classrooms.

The program relied on the assistance of 200 dedicated volunteers and various clubs which helped with the program, and many local agricultural and natural resources organizations and businesses, including the Manchester High School Leadership Class, the Saline FFA, Washtenaw County Environmental Health, Washtenaw County 4-H, Extension, Farm Bureau groups and members, Soil Conservation, and the Ann Arbor Rabbit Breeder's Association.


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