Farm Bureau New Co-Sponsor of "Miracle of Life" Birthing Exhibit at Michigan State Fair

Michigan Farm Bureau and the county Farm Bureaus of Southeast Michigan are now sponsors of the Miracle of Life Animal Birthing Exhibit at the 1994 Michigan State Fair. The exhibit is presented by the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan.

From Aug. 25 - Sept. 5, several hundred thousand state fair goers can see several sheep, pig and cow births, a new and exciting chicken hatchery with over two dozen chicks hatching each day; an educational display on animal nutrition, diet, and feed presented by Farm Bureau; agricultural talks by Farm Bureau; and videos of previous births; photographs and displays of the animal birthing process; and brochures about animal agriculture, careers in veterinary medicine, Michigan's agricultural industry, and food production and safety.

"The Miracle of Life exhibit will bring a special aspect of the Michigan livestock industry to the fair," said Michelle Kopcha, project leader, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. "It is unusual for most people to witness the birth of livestock. This project allows us to showcase the role of the veterinarian in the birthing process."

The animals brought to the exhibit will be within a few days of giving birth, or will have newborns at their side that is less than two weeks old, during the 12 days of the fair.

"Farm families, who care so much for the animals they raise, are very pleased to be new co-sponsors of the exhibit this year," said MFB President Jack Laarie. "The birth of animals is a common part of most Michigan farm operations, but for non-farmers, it can be a unique and awe-inspiring event to witness."

Water Use Reporting Requirements Effective for 1994 and 1995 for Agricultural Irrigators

If you're one of the 3,823 Michigan farmers who irrigate roughly 366,465 acres annually, you can expect to receive a water use reporting form and a letter from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in your mailbox later this year.

The DNR - working with the Department of Agriculture (MDA), MSU Extension, and the Soil Conservation Service - will begin a statewide program for water use reporting that will include Michigan farmers who irrigate, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Vicki Pontz.

"The water use reporting program is mandated under Michigan Public Acts 326 and 327, which were passed in 1990, but not funded until this year," said Pontz. "Water users who withdraw over 100,000 gallons a day, averaged over a consecutive 30-day period, are required to report their water use information annually. As a general rule, irrigators who irrigate more than 20 acres will meet this reporting threshold."

The good news, says Pontz, is that the DNR and MDA are required by Michigan's water law, to also develop a process for estimating agricultural irrigation water use in the future. That means producers will be asked to continue the water use reporting forms in 1994 and again in 1995 about crops irrigated, water sources, and estimated water use.

"That data will then be used to develop a formula or model to estimate water use in the future, eliminating the need for annual reporting," Pontz explained. "Water use information will benefit individual irrigators as well, since an accurate inventory will help them make an informed decision about the availability of water before making a substantial capital investment in additional irrigation equipment."

The water use reporting requirements are necessary to bring Michigan into compliance with key provisions of the 1985 Great Lakes Charter agreement with Canada, and other Great Lakes states to protect the Great Lakes water from diversion. The last inventory was done in 1977.

Michigan Blueberries in the National Spotlight

The famed and colorful weatherman, Willard Scott of NBC's morning news show "Today," brought his wit and charm to the 31st annual National Blueberry Festival, in South Haven to open a celebration of the state's blueberry industry.

The show, which aired Aug. 11, featured a blueberry pie eating contest, an array of unique blueberry dishes, and conversations with blueberry festival staff. Scott spoke of the economical importance of blueberries to the state and repeatedly declared, "I love blueberries!"

For the 1994 season, Michigan is expected to produce 54.6 million pounds, accounting for over 30 percent of the nation's total production of 151.5 pounds, making Michigan the largest blueberry producer in the country.

Michigan's 18,000 acres of blueberries are located primarily in the southwestern counties of Berrien, Van Buren, Ottawa, Allegan and Muskegon, according to MBG Marketing Horticulture Manager Dave Trinka. MBG is a 450-member marketing co-op of Great Lakes blueberry growers, and is a sponsor of the National Blueberry Festival. Below, Kathy DeGrandchamp of DeGrandchamp Blueberries, appears on national TV with Willard Scott. Photo: The Herald Palladium.
Farmers thrive by managing for the long term. As professional stewards of the soil, they know that a careful investment of resources today can ensure sustained productivity in the future.

The same sort of ethic stands behind Farm Bureau’s commitment to communicate with and educate the public. We understand that protecting the long-term activities that tell consumers about today’s modern agriculture. We hope these programs will pay big dividends in the future by building support and understanding for our industry’s goals.

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer’s Land Use Task Force recently made a short-sighted proposal that, if implemented, would destroy the stake through the heart of our efforts to communicate with non-farmers in Southeast Michigan. The task force suggested that the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit be converted into an industrial park.

I believe that the State Fair is a crucially important vehicle for fostering long-term communications between rural Michigan and our major consumer market in the Detroit area. The fairgrounds are located near the exact population center of the state, easily accessible to millions of people. There are many places in Southeast Michigan that get fairgoers to local fairs, but the fairgrounds are a unique and historic location, that doing something other than holding the State Fair at that site would be a major mistake.

As chairman of the State Fair Council, I can tell you that the Council and current management have worked diligently to bring the State Fair back to being an important and viable part of Detroit’s heritage. The Land Use Task Force apparently fails to recognize the value of the State Fair to Southeast Michigan. Their recommendation is focussed only on short-term economic benefits rather than the long-term cultural, economic and social development of the Detroit area.

Farm Bureau has long supported consumer education efforts at the State Fair. In fact, MFB and the county Farm Bureaus of Southeast Michigan are new sponsors of the Miracle of Life animal birthing exhibit at this year’s fair. The exhibit is presented by the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan.

We ask Mayor Archer to join us in our long-term efforts to build bridges of understanding between Detroit and rural Michigan by rejecting the short-term lure of converting the fairgrounds. If he comes to our 1994 annual meeting in Detroit, we’ll be glad to tell him more about the virtues of preserving the State Fair as a nest egg for future generations.

Jack Laurie
President
Michigan Farm Bureau

Farmers Seek End to Rail Strike

The Iowa Farm Bureau has urged President Clinton to appoint an emergency board to order striking Soo Line railroad employees back to work. The month-long strike has forced many Northern Iowa elevators to shift to more costly trucking to move grain and make room for perishable goods.

Iowa Farm Bureau President Merlin Phagge said use of trucks has already reduced corn and soybean prices by five cents to 12 cents a bushel.

Despy Denies Charges

USDA Secretary Mike Espy continues to deny charges that he illegally accepted gifts and trips from USDA-regulated companies and said he hopes to be exonerated.

“I have served my conscience, I have faith in God, and I believe that I have done nothing wrong,” Espy said in a televised address to USDA employees. Under the Independent Counsel Act, the Justice Department had little choice but to refer his case to a special counsel for further investigation, Espy said.

AmeriCorps Service Program Seeks Candidates for Soil Conservation Service Jobs in Michigan

A domestic version of the Peace Corps, known as AmeriCorps, will be hiring and placing more than 400 employees in the state of Michigan to work for the Soil Conservation Service in six priority watersheds. The individuals will work one-on-one with farms to assess farmlands for potential pollution problems, and make recommendations for sources of technical and financial assistance.

According to a USDA fact sheet on the program, candidates will be mostly college and professional graduates whose expertise match the needs of rural communities. “However, anyone over 11 years of age, including high school dropouts, high school graduates, college students, college graduates, and professional school graduates may qualify. The participant profile will mirror the demographics of the civilian workforce in Michigan.”

The six priority watersheds include: Direct Drainage to Lake Michigan (Traverse City area); Lower Grand River (Kent County area); Kalamazoo River; Upper Grand River (Ingham County area); and the Black, Belle and Pine Rivers (St. Clair, Tuscola and Sanilac counties).

The term of service is for 1,700 hours and will be a full-time position, with other part-time positions also possibly available. The positions are scheduled to begin Sept. 19, 1994. Benefits include a living stipend of $12,000, education awards for college or vocational training, basic health insurance, and a child care allowance. Applications can be sent to Alan G. Hersch, USDA - Soil Conservation Service, 3191 Logan Valley Road, Traverse City, MI 49684. For more information, call (616) 946-6011.

In Brief...

USDA Releases Crop Figures

The Agriculture Department’s 1994 crop report is predicting a record soybean crop of 2.28 billion bushels -- and the second-highest corn crop of 9.21 billion bushels. The department reported that corn is projected to be down 4 percent over last year and 4 percent over 1992. Corn is projected to take a dramatic 45 percent increase over last year and will come in at 3 percent below the all-time high 1992 crop.

The report pegged wheat production at 2.39 billion bushels with winter wheat at 1.67 billion bushels. Both figures are down 1 percent from the department’s July 1 report. The crop is expected to be down 3 percent from the July report at 9.79 million bushels.

USDA revised its corn price projection down five cents, ranging from $1.95 to $2.35 a bushel. Soybeans are expected to average $4.75 to $5.75 per bushel. What does it mean to the markets? See MUSI’s line Hilkier’s interpretation on page 6 of this issue.

Pesticide Agreement Reached With USDA/ERA

USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that they say will enable farmers to use necessary crop protection tools that reduce pesticide risks while ensuring economically sound agricultural production. EPA Administrator Carol Browner and USDA Secretary Mike Espy said the agencies will, within six months, identify cases where producers will face lack of pest management tools due to pending regulatory action.

USDA, meanwhile, will work with the agriculture and research communities to develop alternative methods. AFBB staffer Dennis Stolte said the announcement is positive news because it will give farmers time to find alternatives before a crop protection product is canceled. Stolte added, however, that “the proof will be in the practice” of how the agreement is carried out.

Michigan Milk Production Steady - Decrease in Cows

Dairy herds in Michigan produced 469 million pounds of milk during July, unchanged from a year ago, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. Milk per cow averaged 1,400 pounds, increasing 20 pounds from a year ago. The Michigan dairy herd was estimated at 355,000 head, 4,400 less than in July 1993.

The preliminary value of milk sold averaged $13.40 per hundredweight (cwt.) in July, $10.80 more than last year. Mid-month July slaughter cow prices averaged $42.30 per cwt., $7.40 less than the previous year.

Milk production in the 21 major states totaled 11 billion pounds, 1 percent more than production in these same states in July 1993. Production averaged 1,368,000 pounds per cow for July, 22 pounds more than last year. The number of cows on farms was 8,032 million head, 8,010 head less than July 1993 and 9,000 head less than June 1994.

Dairy manufacturing plants in Michigan produced 1.2 million pounds of butter in June, 17 percent less than a year ago. Ice cream output totaled 1.95 million gallons, 37 percent less than June 1993.

Russia’s Economic Stimulus

Russia has announced a plan to stimulate its weak economy by making trillions of rubles of savings available to the public in a bid to help financial institutions liquidate huge amounts of bad debt. President Boris Yeltsin, Russian enterprises will be able to get for 4.2 trillion rubles (roughly $2 billion in U.S. dollars) in state credits, either for investment projects or to help enterprises convert to other activities.

Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Aleksashenko noted that Russia had a payments crisis as a result of a company producing paper rusted goods to buy and enterprises that were failing to adequately recognize their finances. Another decree would allow concerns to sell their assets to other activities.

Meatpacker Files Libel Suit

IBP Inc. has filed a $5 million libel suit against an Arizona attorney who alleged the meatpacker manipulated the cattle market. The lawsuit, filed recently in U.S. District Court in Arizona, alleges that Attorney Robert Cook "falsely stated that IBP engaged in unfair practices."

Last month, Cook, claiming to represent a group of U.S. cattle feeders, announced plans for a yet-to-be-filed billion dollar class action lawsuit against IBP for allegedly causing this spring’s collapse in cattle prices. The Arizona attorneys’ goal is to file suit next week in Ohio District Court, after he has gathered $2 million in funding from U.S. cattle feeders.

Cook said IBP “dumped” Chicago Mercantile Exchange live cattle futures on Mondays and Fridays, driving down cash prices and forcing feeders to accept lower cattle prices. A Commodity Futures Trading Commission review found that IBP’s futures trading patterns had no significant impact on the market.
Fertilizer Act Amendments

MBF POSITION
Michigan Farm Bureau supported S.B. 688 as passed.

MBF CONTACT
Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046

Ag Statistics Service Celebrates 75-Year Partnership With MDA

July 1994 marked the 75th anniversary of formal cooperation between the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The agreement resulted in the formation of the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS) which provides farmers and industry with information to help them plan their growing seasons.

The cooperative agreement in 1919 was formed to avoid duplication of effort. In 1963, USDA issued its first monthly crop report. Separately, the state of Michigan established its first crop reporting service in 1886 and a law was passed requiring each township supervisor to report list of livestock on farms.

The cooperative agreement was held and researchers gave mid-term reports. Dr. David Crumbaugh, director, Michigan Department of Agriculture; Don J. Fedewa, state statistician, Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service, was appointed as official cooperation between the Michigan Department of Agriculture and MDA. The agreement not only covered livestock but also crops. The agreement was renewed in 1984.

Dr. Karen Renner, MSU weed specialist, reported on her checkoff funded project to study reduced rate herbicide application, emphasizing that using reduced rates of postemergence herbicides for effective weed control appears to be cost-saving.

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MSU Soybean Research Highlighted Both in the Field and in the Lab

During Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee Tour

As a part of the over $180,000 in soybean research funded by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSCP) at MSU, a plot tour was held and researchers gave mid-term reports.

Highlights of the day's events and the research included: weed control, white mold, nematode, phytophthora and soybean consumption efforts on farms. Final reports of the research will be distributed at project completion.

Dr. Karen Renner, MSU weed specialist who reported on her checkoff funded project to study reduced rate herbicide application, emphasized that using reduced rates of postemergence herbicides for effective weed control appears to be cost-saving.

"However, be sure to know your targeted weeds, growth stage and environmental conditions at the time of application," Renner said. "Herbicide rates recommended on product labels are set to ensure weed control over various conditions. This study could potentially increase profits while reducing possible herbicide runoff."

Another report revealed the soybean checkoff, the golden colored soybean and cancer research search at MSU has something in common in fighting colon cancer.

MSU Professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Dr. Maurice Bennick, reported on his research examining soybeans called genistein and how this may help in treating cancer of the colon.

"Up until our recent research, genistein has been extracted from soybean molasses in very small quantities," Bennick explained. "We have been successful in extracting large enough quantities from soybeans called genistein and how this may help in treating cancer of the colon."

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The Michigan Farm News provides market analysis, weather, and news to Farm Bureau members daily through various stations. Michigan Farm Radio Network offers the latest market analysis, weather, and news to Farm Bureau members daily on the following stations:

- **WTCM Traverse City**: 580 AM (5:55 am - 11:20 am)
- **WKJC Tawas City**: 104.7 FM (12:45 pm)
- **WMLM St. Louis**: 1540 AM (6:05 am - 12:20 pm)
- **WSJ St. Johns**: 1580 AM (6:15 am - 12:30 pm)
- **WOAP Owosso**: 1080 AM (6:15 am - 12:30 pm)
- **WKHA Hart**: 1540 AM (6:15 am - 12:30 pm)
- **WMLW Lakeview**: 1590 AM (6:15 am - 12:30 pm)
- **WMLK Saginaw**: 1780 AM (6:15 am - 12:30 pm)
- **WCSB Flint**: 1580 AM (6:15 am - 12:30 pm)
- **WTCM Traverse City**: 580 AM (5:55 am - 11:20 am)

Since its beginning in 1971, Michigan Farm Radio Network's only objective has been to serve Michigan's farm families. This dedication to serving agriculture is shared by 20 local radio stations in Michigan. Through these stations, Michigan Farm Radio Network provides the latest in market analysis, weather, and news to Farm Bureau members on the following stations:

**Station City**
- **WAGJ Alpena**: 1450 AM (5:45 am - 11:50 am)
- **WATZ Alpena**: 1450 AM (5:30 am - 11:30 am)
- **WTKA Ann Arbor**: 1050 AM (6:05 am - 12:05 pm)
- **WLEW Battle Creek**: 1540 AM (5:30 am - 11:30 am)
- **WHFB Benton Harbor**: 1590 AM (5:45 am - 12:20 pm)
- **WKYO Caro**: 1360 AM (6:15 am - 12:15 pm)
- **WKFJ Cadillac**: 1370 AM (5:55 am - 11:20 am)
- **WTBV Coldwater**: 1590 AM (5:45 am - 12:20 pm)
- **WODW Dowagiac**: 1440 AM (6:05 am - 12:05 pm)
- **WGHN Grand Haven**: 1370/92.1 AM (5:45 am - 12:15 pm)
- **WPLE Greenville**: 1380 AM (6:15 am - 11:45 am)
- **WBCH Hastings**: 1220 AM (6:15 am - 12:30 pm)
- **WCSR Hilldale**: 1340 AM (6:45 am - 12:45 pm)
- **WHTC Holland**: 1450 AM (5:45 am - 11:45 am)
- **WKZO Kalamazoo**: 590 AM (6:15 am)
- **WLSR Lapere**: 1530 AM (7:20 am - 11:30 am)
- **WQAP Owosso**: 1090 AM (6:15 am - 11:15 am)
- **WAKH Rogers City**: 960 AM (6:15 am - 12:15 pm)
- **WSJ St. Johns**: 1580 AM (6:15 am - 12:15 pm)
- **WMLM St. Louis**: 1540 AM (5:05 am - 12:05 pm)
- **WSGW Saginaw**: 790 AM (5:55 am - 12:20 pm)
- **MICW Sandusky**: 660 AM (6:15 am - 12:45 pm)
- **WCSY South Haven**: 940 AM (6:15 am - 12:15 pm)
- **WKJU Tawas City**: 104.7 FM (12:45 pm - 3:30 pm)
- **WLKM Three Rivers**: 1510/95.9 AM (6:15 am - 12:15 pm)
- **WTCM Traverse City**: 580 AM (5:55 am - 11:20 am)

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**Michigan Weather Summary**

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<td>Vestaburg</td>
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**Michigan Yield Prospects Dampened**

The apple crop forecast for Michigan was 900 million pounds, 12 percent below 1993. Yield potential is down considerably in the Northwest and slightly in the East and Southwest. Prospects in the West have continued statewide and precipitation to range from near to below normal in the northwest part of the state to near to above normal in the southeast.
Abandoned Wells - How Big a Threat are They in Michigan?

No one knows exactly how many abandoned wells there are in Michigan, but it’s estimated there may be more than 1 million!

by Dave Lusch

The back seven years. Does the name Jessica McClure ring a bell? Do you recall a young child that fell into an abandoned well in Texas? The nation watched intensely for days, fearing for Jessica’s life.

Is there an abandoned well on your property that you haven’t properly plugged? If so, it’s a hazard to the health and safety of you and those living around it, as we saw in the case of Jessica McClure. An abandoned well also provides a direct link for contaminants to enter an aquifer, possibly the one you or your neighbor are relying on for drinking water.

According to Dave Lusch, research specialist in the Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University, an abandoned well is a well that is no longer in use or is that is in such a deteriorated condition that groundwater can no longer be obtained from it. In Michigan, wells that are contaminated and pose a health risk also meet the legal definition of an abandoned well.

Without question, the biggest concern is that the old well is an open conduit down to an aquifer,” said Lusch. "It may not be the aquifer you’re using today, but it is somebody’s aquifer. If we allow this to happen, there’s opportunity for hazardous materials to enter the surface to flow directly down into it.”

Q. What procedures are common to the plugging of all wells?

Lusch explains that the purpose of plugging the well is to provide hydraulic insulation.

"The main thing we are trying to do is not just hide the well; we’re actually trying to provide hydraulic insulation," said Lusch. "We need to seal the well with impermeable material to break the hydraulic connection between the surface and the well.”

The first step that should be taken is to contact your county health department and request a copy of a well log. This is a record filed by the well driller that provides information on well depth, casing depth, water quality, and pump performance among other things.

Next, remove all pumping equipment, pipes, debris, and other obstructions from the well. Measure the well depth and casing diameter to determine the volume of plugging material needed. Plug well using suggested materials. Removal of the well material is recommended at least below ground level to eliminate interference with future use of the site and damage to excavation equipment. Mound and pack a layer of impermeable soil over the plugged well to prevent ponding of surface water.

In addition, the health department has the specific guidelines for well plugging in your county.

Q. Can I plug the well myself?

In many cases, driven wells and large diameter dug wells can be successfully plugged by non-professionals with a minimal amount of special equipment. However, it is recommended that individuals consult with professionals at the local Soil Conservation District and health department to discuss specific guidelines.

Keep in mind, you may be required by state law to file a record of the well plugging with the local health department.

Q. What products are acceptable for proper plugging material?

Effective well plugs are typically a clay-like material that is dependent upon careful selection and use of materials. Plugging materials should be impermeable to prevent water from migrating into or between aquifers. The following materials are approved for well plugging in Michigan.

Cement - a mixture of one 94-pound bag of Portland cement (type I or IA) to not more than six gallons of water. Portland cement is readily available at building supply stores.

Concrete - a mixture of neat cement with 1 cubic foot of sand or aggregate added per bag.

Bentonite clay - a swelling clay available as granules or powder that’s mixed with water to form a high solids slurry, or as chips or pellets that swell in water to form an effective plug.

Other materials may be used on a case-by-case basis if prior approval is given by the local health department.

Q. How much will plugging a well cost?

According to Lusch, costs will vary depending on the well depth, casing diameter, the amount of plugging material used, and other factors. A shallow driven well may be plugged for as little as $25, whereas a municipal well may cost several thousand dollars to plug.

For more information about well plugging, contact your local health department, licensed well drilling contractors, your local Soil Conservation District office, or the Michigan Department of Public Health. Well Construction Unit at (517) 335-5183.

Maximize your Winter Wheat productivity with a

Features To Profitability

Visual Response
• Vigorous early plant growth
• More winter hardy
• More fibrous and extensive root system
• Improved standability and ease of harvest
• High yields

Observing Timing (stage of Growth)
• Fall - first to fourth leaves unfolded
• Spring - greenup and vigor

Yield estimation
• 33 total studies • 7.6 bushel per acre increase • 10.5% increase in yield
• Return on ACA investment of $17.64 (2/3 per acre)

Productivity
• 7.6 bushel increase/acre • 10.5% increase in yield • Return on ACA investment of $17.64 (2/3 per acre)

Application Technique/Procedures
Test results have shown that ACA can be applied to the soil or foliar spray 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 applied herbicide. The incorporation or movement of ACA into the soil profile can be by tillage, rainfall, or irrigation. This will position the ACA near the developing root system of the plant.

Fall applications should be made prior to dormancy 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 easily with and is fit into the following fertilizer programs:

Applications
• Soil broadcast with dry blended fertilizers
• Soil broadcast with liquid blended fertilizers

Other application methods:
• Soil applied broadcast with water as the carrier
• With or without a herbicide
• To wheat foliagewith water as the carrier

For more information about well plugging, contact your local health department or call 1-800-292-2701.

NOTE: The effect on weed control when ACA is added to post-emergence herbicides is unknown. Thus, it is not recommended at this time to apply ACA with any postemergence herbicide.
CORN

On Aug. 11, the USDA released its first 1994 corn production estimate based on objective surveys. The estimate for 1994 U.S. corn production was 9.214 billion bushels. To get the 9.2 billion bushel estimate, USDA used the June harvested acres estimate of 71.8 million and a yield estimate of 128.4 bushels per acre average for the country. While this is below the record 131.4 average in 1992, it is well above the next highest of 119.8 in 1987. This is a huge crop! Yields in Iowa are expected to average about 145 bushels per acre.

Michigan is expected to produce 227.9 million bushels, with an average yield of 106 bushels. This is off from last year’s 110 bushels per acre and well below the record of 115 bushels per acre.

The supply/demand estimates, shown in Table 1, for 1994-95 show good increases in all categories of use, but they don’t come close to the increase in production. Therefore, projected ending stocks will jump to 1.66 billion bushels for 1994-95 from 952 million for 1993-94. This is 19.8 percent of use and would indicate an average annual price of around $2.15 per bushel. This means harvest prices below $2.

Strategy: What pricing strategy do you follow? At this point, the basis favors on-farm storage, but again much less than the increase in supply. Ending stocks are expected to jump from 8.8 percent of use for the 1993-94 marketing year to 17.7 percent of use for the 1994-95 crop marketing year. This would suggest an average price of about $3.25. Some say soybeans are made in August, so we could still have a small rally - if we do use it, especially if you do not have enough on-farm storage.

SOYBEANS

The picture is much the same for soybeans. The crop production survey released by the USDA was 2.262 billion bushels. If this crop is realized, it will be the largest on record. The yield estimate was 37.6 bushels per acre which would tie the 1992 record.

Michigan’s yield is expected to be 35 bushels per acre. While this does not seem like a bad yield, it is 5 percent lower than the 38 bushels per acre average we have hit three times before.

The latest Supply/Demand Report, as seen in Table 2, shows some pick-up in expected use, but much more likely too much than the increase in supply. Ending stocks are expected to jump from 8.8 percent of use for the 1993-94 marketing year to 17.7 percent of use for the 1994-95 crop marketing year. This would suggest an average price of about $3.25. Some say soybeans are made in August, so we could still have a small rally - if we do use it, especially if you do not have enough on-farm storage.

Strategy: Like corn, the basis says it will likely pay for on-farm storage. It also says it will not pay commercial storage. Consider storing a good chunk of your unsold soybeans if you have room-on-farm and the picture hasn’t changed by harvest. If on-farm storage is not an alternative, consider a minimum price contract, selling at harvest and buying some calls, or a basis contract, if you think the market will rally.

Market Outlook...

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Price Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>$3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>$3.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hogs</td>
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<td>Cattle</td>
<td>$2.44</td>
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Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply/Demand</th>
<th>Balance Sheet For</th>
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<tr>
<td>CORN</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>Proj.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>93-94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn Acreage</td>
<td>(Million Acres)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres Set-Aside and Diverted</td>
<td>5.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres Planted</td>
<td>79.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Harvested</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu./A. Harvested</td>
<td>131.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stocks (Million Bushels)</td>
<td>10,589</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use</td>
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<td>Feed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed</td>
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<td>Total Domestic</td>
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<td>Exports</td>
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<td>Total Use</td>
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<td>Ending Stocks</td>
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<td>Stocks Marketed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Loan Rate</td>
<td>$1.72</td>
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</table>

U.S. Season Average
| Farm Price, $/Bu. | $2.07 |
| Source: USDA & Hilker |

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply/Demand</th>
<th>Balance Sheet For</th>
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<tr>
<td>WHEAT</td>
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<td>USDA</td>
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<td>1992-93</td>
<td>93-94</td>
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<td>Wheat Acreage</td>
<td>(Million Acres)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres Set-Aside and Diverted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres Planted</td>
<td>72.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres Harvested</td>
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<td>Bu./A. Harvested</td>
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<td>Stocks (Million Bushels)</td>
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<td>Use</td>
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<td>Food</td>
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<td>Exports</td>
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<td>Total Use</td>
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<td>Ending Stocks</td>
<td>529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Stocks</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>Regular Loan Rate</td>
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U.S. Season Average
| Farm Price, $/Bu. | $3.24 |
| Source: USDA & Hilker |

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply/Demand</th>
<th>Balance Sheet For</th>
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<td>SOYBEANS</td>
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<td>USDA</td>
<td>Proj.</td>
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<td>93-94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soybean Acreage</td>
<td>(Million Acres)</td>
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<td>Acres Harvested</td>
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<td>Bu./Harvested Acre</td>
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<td>Stocks (Million Bushels)</td>
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<td>Use</td>
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<td>Crushings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed, Feed, and Residuals</td>
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<td>Total Use</td>
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<td>Ending Stocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Stocks</td>
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<td>Regular Loan Rate</td>
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U.S. Season Average
| Farm Price, $/Bu. | $5.50 |
| Source: USDA & Hilker |

WHEAT

The Crop Report showed total U.S. wheat production will be 2.386 billion bushels, given Aug. 1 conditions. The yield is estimated to be 38.5 bushels per acre – near last year’s yield and about average.

While the estimate was somewhat above expectations when combined with the new world estimate, it was a fairly neutral report. The USDA lowered the Australia wheat estimate from 15.5 to 12.5 million metric tons.

Michigan’s 1994 yield was estimated at 50 bushels per acre in the August report versus a 46 bushel estimate in the July report. While it is an improvement over last year’s

LIVESTOCK

Hog slaughter continues to run above year ago levels, as expected. This and seasonal factors will put pressure on hog prices as we go into September. You might as well keep very current as prices are likely to continue to drop into November.

Cattle: Cattle slaughter increases are expected to be up 4 percent and fourth quarter production is projected to be up 2.5 percent, both compared to the same quarter in 1993.

Per capita pork consumption for 1994 is expected to be up about 1 percent to 52.8 retail pounds. As expansion marches on in 1995, per capita consumption is expected to jump another 4 percent to 35 pounds.

Broiler and turkey production and, therefore, consumption, is also expected to continue to grow. Per capita consumption of broilers is expected to be 70.1 retail pounds in 1994 and 72.8 pounds in 1995 after being 68.3 pounds in 1993.

Per capita consumption of turkey is expected to be level in 1993 and 1994 at 17.8 retail pounds. But growth is expected to start up again in 1995 to 18 pounds.

Strategy: If you are storing wheat now, the basis indicates that you should consider continuing to do so.

Michigan Farm News

August 30, 1994

FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

41 bushels, it is below 1992's 56 bushels per acre and the 1985 record of 60 bushels per acre.

The wheat Supply/Demand Report as seen in Table 2, shows total supplies will be about the same as last year, with use down slightly. Feed use is expected to decrease, with exports holding about the same. Ending stocks are expected to be 24.9 percent of use, which would indicate an average annual price of about $3.15.

Strategy: If you are storing wheat now, the basis indicates that you should consider continuing to do so.
Michigan Farm News

August 30, 1994

7 Understanding the Social Security System

by Glenn A. Kale
District Extension Farm Management Agent, North Region, Michigan State University

I get numerous questions every year on Social Security as: □ When to apply? □ What can I expect to receive? □ How to apply? □ Procedures? □ Documents? □ Calendar quarters needed?

Request for Earnings History/Benefit Estimate

Form SSA-7004-SM should be sent in every five years regardless of your working age. Fill in, sign, and send to:

Social Security Administration
Willie Barres Data Op Center
P.O. Box 7004
Willies Barre, PA 18767-7004

This record needs to be verified periodically to ensure proper recording by Social Security. If errors exist, the old years can be corrected, but the taxpayer must prove it by showing W-2 or Schedule SE for the year in question.

In about a month, Social Security will then return Form SSA-7005, showing your earnings history and expected monthly benefits based on data you sent in.

Calendar Quarters - Qualifications for Social Security

To qualify for Social Security benefits, a worker must accumulate a certain amount of "work." For anyone under age 65, that "work" is a minimum of 40 calendar quarters. A quarter is measured by every approximately $600 one "earns" up to a maximum of four quarters per year.

Procedures to Determine Monthly Benefits

Average monthly retirement benefit nationwide is about $650 in 1993; maximum is about $1,450 per month. In general, four steps must be followed to determine your benefit:

Step 1
If you are under age 65, you must use the past 35 years as your "base." (Therefore, substantially increasing one's earnings a couple years before drawing Social Security will not have a big effect on benefits.)

Step 2
Average for inflation (multiply yearly base by index factor on the Social Security earnings worksheet - shown below).

Step 3
Average the 35 previous indexed years.

Step 4
Multiply by an average of 42 percent (this figure goes up if your indexed earnings are lower and down as your indexed earnings are higher). Then divide by 12 (months). This is approximately your monthly benefit amount you can expect if retiring at age 65.

Benefits are reduced 5/9 of 1 percent each month before 65 if drawing between age 62-65. If you do not collect benefits until after age 65 (currently), your benefit check will increase about 4 percent per year each year after 65 (up to age 70) if you continue to work full time. However, if you are age 57 or younger, retirement age will gradually be moved upward to age 67 (from 65).

If you register for Medicare at 65 but do not draw Social Security and continue to work full time, Social Security logs in your date-of-death automatically and sends the first retirement check five years later on your 70th birthday, even if you have not applied formally for the benefits.

First Year Retirement Benefits in 1994

In the first calendar year of applying for Social Security benefits, there is a monthly earnings limit rather than the normal yearly earnings limit. This means you can draw your full Social Security benefits without forfeiture if you earn less than $670 per month (age 62-65) or $930 per month (age 65-70) after your official retirement date. For the self-employed, this rule is based on hours worked in any given month. Less than 45 hours worked per month results in no forfeiture of benefits.

Furthermore, wages are based on actual income, not estimated. Social Security will check your earnings and goes down as your indexed earnings are verified.

Social Security Benefits

FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

A special one-time payment of $255 is available for funeral expenses to surviving spouse, (or child if disabled or under 18).

How to Sign Up for Social Security Benefits

Appointments can be made at your local Social Security office, or you can dial 1-800-772-1213 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to file a claims benefit with a representative. Best time to call is before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

You will need:
1. Certified copy of your birth certificate.
2. W-2 (or tax returns) for two years prior to filing.
4. Marriage certificate if filing as a spouse.
5. Divorce decree if filing as an ex-spouse.
6. Death certificate if filing as a widower.

Remember to keep copies of every document supplied to Social Security, enter the claim number on all pages, read all letters sent to you and try to keep notes of important phone conversations with Social Security.

**Note:** This information is subject to change due to new Social Security laws.

**Charts Provided by Knight-Ridder Financial**
Eaton Rapids Barn Becomes Famous in Washington, D.C.

The 160 year old 30 x 40 foot barn was the center of activity on the Topliff family farm in Eaton Rapids for 90 years. Today, however, the barn is the central attraction in the National Building Museum.

The Topliff barn has become the central exhibit of a nationwide campaign to keep old barns in existence, called "Barn Again!"

"A whole set of coincidences brought the barn to this point," said Carolin Spragg, the barn owner.

According to Spragg, she and her father, Jerold Topliff, who are in partnership, had discussed the condition of the barn and decided it didn't make a lot of sense to spend the money it was going to cost to restore it.

Spragg contacted David Ciolek, a barn restoration expert, to see if he would be interested in taking the barn structure down. A few months later, Ciolek contacted her about the "Barn Again!" idea and wanted to get started right away.

The Topliff barn will be in place until Sept. 11, 1994, when it's expected to be sold. For more information, contact Barn Again!, National Building Museum, 401 F Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 272-2448.

Above the Topliff family barn sits on display in Washington, D.C., until Sept. 11. At right, the barn being disassembled on the Eaton Rapids farm it called home for 90 years.

Annual MCA/MSU Bull Test Open to All Breeds

Nomination forms for the MCA/MSU Bull Test are due on Sept. 12, 1994. The Bull Test is co-sponsored by the Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) and the Animal Science Department of Michigan State University (MSU). The Bull Test station is at Stoneman Feedyards, Breckenridge, Mich. Bulls are to be delivered to the station on Oct. 14 and 15.

The objectives of the MCA/MSU Bull Test are to promote performance testing of beef cattle and serve as an educational tool to acquaint producers with its overall value. The test also provides a common environment for evaluating young bulls for rate of gain, soundness and body composition. The Bull Test aids purebred and commercial cow/calf producers in obtaining superior performance tested bulls that have been evaluated for growth and received reproductive physical examinations.

Bulls will come off test on Feb. 23. The top performing bulls will be sold on March 18, 1995.

For more information, call the MCA Information Line at (517) 669-8389.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 20-22, Ohio State University Farm Science Review.

Sept. 27-29, Farm Progress Show, Bloomington, Ill.

Oct. 8 - 9, Great Lakes American Ostrich Association Annual Seminar, Radisson Plaza in Kalamazoo, Call Barb Smith at (517) 732-2514 or Rick Borup at (616) 642-9134.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, MFB Annual Meeting, Westin Hotel, Detroit.

Mail or FAX information (include contact name and phone number) three weeks in advance to: Michigan Farm News P.O. Box 30960 Lansing, MI 48909-8460 FAX: (517) 323-6793
Michigan Farm News

August 30, 1994

1994 Young Farmer Discussion Meet Contests Underway

State winner to receive $500 cash from Dodge, $1,000 worth of Great Lakes Hybrids products, and an all expense paid trip to St. Louis to compete for the national prize of a 1995 Dodge Dakota Club Cab 4 x 4 pickup truck.

Michigan young farmers once again have the opportunity to express their views on key ag issues and compete for some heavy-duty prizes in the process. District level Farm Bureau Young Farmer Discussion Meet competition has been held or just getting underway, according to Rockford-area farmer Andy Hagenow, chairman of MBF's State Young Farmer Committee.

"We're pleased that Dodge Truck and Great Lakes Hybrids are continuing their support of the Young Farmer Discussion Meet Competition in Michigan," Hagenow said. "This competition offers Michigan young farmers an excellent opportunity to discuss critical ag issues with their peers in a non-debate format and in a good training exercise for future agricultural leaders in dealing with legislative and regulatory issues facing farmers.

A total of 31 district contests will be held, with three winners from each district selected to compete in state-level competition during the MBF annual meeting in Detroit. The discussion topics for this year include:

Michigan FFA Students in Former Soviet Union

While in the Former Soviet Union, four Michigan FFA members and one agriscience instructor had a chance to visit and work on private and state-owned farms.

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

The following districts are still scheduled to hold local discussion meet contests:

District Date/Counties
District I Sept. 25
Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren
District IV Sept. 8
Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Ottawa.
District V Sept. 21
Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, and Shiawassee
District VII Sept. 26
Manistee, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, and Oceola
District X Sept. 20
Alpena, Alcona, Antigo, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Presque Isle, and St. Joseph

For more information about attending and/or competing in your district Young Farmer contest, call MBF Young Farmer Department Manager Ernie Birchmeier, at 1-800-292-2688, ext. 3234.

Michigan FFA members and a Michigan FFA advisor recently participated in the National FFA Leadership Exchange program with the Independent States (former Soviet Union).

Members Greg Achatz of Hillman, Michel Trail of Cross Village, and Melissa Wright, also of Vicksburg, had an opportunity to visit and work on private and state-owned farms.

"We worked right beside the rest of the labor force harvesting and cultivating the crops," explained Tom Hurst, Vicksburg FFA advisor. "It was a wonderful experience and I'd recommend other students to try it.

We made friends with Russian and Moldovan students. During their stay in the Independent States, participants had one week living with a family and the remaining time in a dormitory at an agricultural school.

"While in the Former Soviet Union, four Michigan students and advisors to participate," said Tom Hurst, Vicksburg FFA advisor. "It was a wonderful experience and I'd recommend other students to try it.

"Students in Former Soviet Union..."...

Michigan Farm News

August 30, 1994

Business Reply Mail
First Class Permit No. 2334 Kalamazoo, MI
Postage will be paid by addressee
FIRST OF AMERICA BANK
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P.O. BOX 2549
KALAMAZOO, MI 49003-9917

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ICN: 243-3456

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Better premiums
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Northrup King to Expand Availability of Load and Go™ Seed Handling System

Northrup King Co. will expand availability of its Load & Go Seed Handling System to corn and soybean growers throughout the U.S. in 1995. The move follows a successful pilot program conducted with growers in the Midwest in 1994.

The Load & Go system features specially-engineered durable plastic boxes which make filling planter boxes easier and quicker, allowing coverage of more acres per day.

"This system enables growers to go straight from the dealer to the field, without taking the intermediate step of loading a poly bag into a gravity wagon," says Jack Bernen, Northrup King corn product manager. "No one has ever packaged seed like this before."

The idea for Load & Go originated with five Iowa farmer-dealers, their Northrup King District Manager Lloyd Bigler (now retired) and an Amstol Hoechst Northrup King planter manager at Waterloo, Iowa. "We are looking for a safer, easier way to handle large quantities of seed to replace the poly bag," Bigler says. The group shared their ideas with Northrup King Corn Product Manager Jack Bernen, who worked with container manufacturers to transform the concept into blueprints and a prototype. The prototype was unveiled last summer at the American Soybean Association National Expo.

The centerpiece of the Load & Go Seed Handling System is the Q-Bit™ container, an injection-molded polyethylene bin manufactured in two sizes from durable, recyclable plastic. One Q-Bit container is the equivalent of 30 bags of seed corn or 40 bags of soybeans. When full, the Q-Bit container weighs about 2,000 pounds, and can be loaded between the wheel wells of a full-size pickup truck.

Seeds are discharged from the container using a simple hose connection or belt conveyors, specifically designed augers or pneumatic air transfer systems to fill planters or drills.

Rodent-proof, moisture-resistant and stackable, the patented design of the Q-Bit container features a sliding gate for unloading the container from the side or bottom, and regulating the flow similar to a gravity box. A slotted flange ensures that beans or corn empty out, and smooth inner walls keep seeds from becoming trapped. Before shipment, the top of each container, as well as the slide gate, is sealed to guarantee varietal purity. The Q-Bit container also includes a four-way pallet for loading the box with a fork-lift, a retro-fitted three-point hitch or an adapted front-end loader. When empty, the container can be collapsed in half for storage and dealer return.

The popularity of those poly bags— one in every 10 Midwest soybean farmers has switched tobulk soybean purchases in the past five years— has presented a disposal problem.

"Every year, our industry needs to find a way to get rid of about 90 million soybean and seed corn bags," Bernen explains. "The Q-Bit container addresses this problem with a 15-year life expectancy. That’s five to seven times longer than the poly sacks."

Prototypes of the new seed handling system were tested last season includes a crop and sota farms. Jerry Ostrander and his son, Jay, used the prototypes to plant soybeans on their Jefferson, Iowa, farm.

"We planted 1,800 acres of corn and soybeans last year, and with the wet spring, we didn’t have a lot of time to get the crops in," Jerry Ostrander says. "On a normal day, we go through 150 to 200-50 pound seed bags. The Load & Go system really helped speed up planters to transform the seed.

Corn and soybean growers throughout the country can begin ordering Northrup King’s Q-Bit containers of seed from expanded quantities this fall.
11 Weed Seed Management

Potential Solutions and Farmer/Researcher Contacts

**Problem:** Combines spread weed seed rather than destroying it, causing the need to broadcast herbicides which increases the potential of herbicide run-off and pollution around water and surface water. Combines also pick weed seeds out of fence rows and distribute them into the field.

**Solution:**
- Fence rows and field borders. When pasturing cattle on crop residue, start them on the fields with the least weeds.
- Shallow tillage (discs, fields cultivators, chisels) enhances the seed's light, moisture content and air content, leaving conditions which favor weed seed germination.

**Problem:** Use low disturbance no-till systems and rotations to disturb less area when planting and compete with weeds.

**Solution:**
- Exposure to sunlight, even if only briefly, can trigger germination of some weed seeds. Shallow tillage exposes weed seed to sunlight and then renews many of the seeds into conditions that are optimum for germination and growth.

**Problem:** Nighttime tillage and creating artificial nighttime tillage at ground level during daytime operations can reduce germination of some weed seeds.

**Solution:**
- Mow fence rows and field borders. When cutting, use a higher mower header when you combine.
- Use herbicides which increases the potential of herbicide run-off.
- Reduce the temperature and humidity higher in the daytime.

MSU’s College of Ag and Natural Resources’ Resource Development

**Curriculum Focus is on Environmental Management**

by Trisha Sheeley

Within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University is a unique educational opportunity called Resource Development (RD). This department contains a variety of studies and areas that are special or dealing with the students. Students with a strong interest in natural resources and environmental issues should find Resource Development interesting and challenging.

The Department of Resource Development was founded in late 1970s as a Conservation Institute for outreach and applied research. In 1950, the department began offering on-campus internships. This year, the department has offered more than 100 students enrolled in the RD graduate program. The average graduate student is in their last 20s, with approximately five years of field experience.

Focus areas for graduate students are: environmental and natural resources policy, or community, economic and organizational development. Approximately 40 percent of these students are international students. There are also several U.S. students that have a definite interest in international development.

The department’s research program is problem-oriented and mainly focuses on real-world problems. The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) provides guidance for much of the department’s research. It contributes to project funding and salary support. Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) represents the field connection for the research conducted by the MAES.

For more information about the Department of Resource Development, contact Dr. Frank A. Fear at Michigan State University, 323 Natural Resources Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1222, (517) 355-3421 or fill out the coupon below and mail it as directed.

**Resource Development Graduate Profile: Pat Lindemann**

by Trisha Sheeley

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann is a recent graduate of the Department of Resource Development (RD) at Michigan State University. He was unlike the typical student in that he had to begin to pursue a higher education until he was 40 years old. He had previously served on the Lansing City Council for 12 years. Lindemann was elected as drain commissioner before he finished his undergraduate degree.

Lindemann is a firm believer in education. He says that if a person hopes to be effective in any type of career, especially one dealing with environmental issues, a person should never stop learning. Lindemann believes that he has the ability to do a better job tomorrow if based on my willingness to learn. He also believes that a resource manager or policy maker needs an open-minded approach to their jobs. They become ineffective if they become too technical or specialized.

RD offered him a broad range of courses in resource conservation, giving him knowledge about a variety of issues. He found it to be more flexible than most educational disciplines, with a helpful, knowledgeable faculty. As a student, he enjoyed the RD curriculum very much.

If Lindemann does not get re-elected as a drain commissioner, he plans to pursue a career in water management. He plans on pursuing his master's degree.

**Resource Development graduate Pat Lindemann has found his education allowed him to be objective in dealing with environmental issues. As Ingham County's drain commissioner, his work encompasses a wide range of concerns, such as giving presentations, as well as giving them technical skills. Internships are not a requirement at this time, but they are extremely encouraged. Undergraduates receiving on-campus internships are encouraged by the department to work with a graduate student on a particular project. This gives the undergraduates practical experience as well as offering a sense of mentor. Presently, there are over 100 students enrolled in the RD graduate program. The average graduate student is in their late 20s to early 30s, with approximately five years of field experience.**

**Focus areas for graduate students are: environmental and natural resources policy, or community, economic and organizational development. Approximately 40 percent of these students are international students. There are also several U.S. students that have a definite interest in international development.**

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**MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Potential Solutions and Farmer/Researcher Contacts**

**Problem:** Weeds are spread by animals and birds. Cattle can carry thousands of weed seeds in their stomachs and will "plant" them for two days following ingestion.

**Solution:**
- Mow fence rows and field borders. When pasturing cattle on crop residue, start them on the fields with the least weeds.
- Shallow tillage (discs, fields cultivators, chisels) enhances the seed's light, moisture content and air content, leaving conditions which favor weed seed germination.

**Problem:** Use low disturbance no-till systems and rotations to disturb less area when planting and compete with weeds.

**Solution:**
- Exposure to sunlight, even if only briefly, can trigger germination of some weed seeds. Shallow tillage exposes weed seed to sunlight and then renews many of the seeds into conditions that are optimum for germination and growth.

**Problem:** Nighttime tillage and creating artificial nighttime tillage at ground level during daytime operations can reduce germination of some weed seeds.

**Solution:**
- Mow fence rows and field borders. When cutting, use a higher mower header when you combine.
- Use herbicides which increases the potential of herbicide run-off.
- Reduce the temperature and humidity higher in the daytime.

**Problem:** The career I'm most interested in is: **Four-Year Majors**

- **Agricultural Engineering**
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources Communications**
- **Agriscience**
- **Animal Science**
- **Bioinformatics Engineering**
- **Building Construction**
- **Crop and Soil Sciences**
- **Environmental and Natural Resource Policy**

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This listing will serve as official notice of the following county Farm Bureau annual meetings. Business to be conducted will include:

- Report of Program Activities
- Consideration of Policy Resolutions
- Election of Directors
- Consideration of By-law Amendments
- Financial Reports

Consideration of By-law Amendments
Consideration of Policy Resolutions
Financial Reports
Election of Directors

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### September Discussion Topic - "Getting Out the Rural Vote"

The 1994 election is shaping up as pivotal for the future of Michigan agriculture. The people you help elect on Nov. 4 will play a critical role in consolidating the gains of recent years and positioning agriculture for the challenges of the future.

Many Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPac "Friends of Agriculture" have been elected in the past few years. These elected officials (such as Gov. John Engler) were instrumental in helping to pass significant legislation that benefits your farming operation. For example, in 1994 the Legislature approved:

- **Property Tax Reform** - After approximately two decades of discussion and debate, major property tax and school finance reform was finally achieved. Before the reform, property tax accounted for 60 percent of the funding of K-12 education. With the increase in the state sales tax and the reduction in property tax, approximately 80 percent of the funding for schools now comes from the state. As a result, it is anticipated the average farmer will see approximately a 50 percent reduction in the property tax burden on farmland. Friends of Agriculture were instrumental in making sure that all farmland would be taxed at 6 mills for school operating purposes.

### Funding for the Animal Agriculture Initiative:

- **The Legislature this year funded the construction phase of the Animal Industry Initiative. Fiscal year 1993-94 was critical in obtaining additional dollars to provide for staff, faculty and research to carry out the goals of the Animal Industry Initiative.** Working with major livestock, poultry and equine organizations, Farm Bureau and the Friends of Agriculture were also successful in obtaining $4 million in programmatic funding for the fiscal year of 1994-95. The appropriation will allow for MSU to begin working on solutions to problems faced by producers. This will result in a healthier and more stable livestock economy with additional jobs provided for support industries, agribusiness, transportation, processing and retail.

### Personal Property Tax - Legislation was introduced and successfully passed which clarified that farm personal property could be used in food processing and still receive the agricultural personal property tax exemption. The bill clarifies and broadens the law to permit farmers who process commodities on farms the freedom from personal property tax on certain handling, washing and grading equipment.

### Recreational Trespass - Farm Bureau Friends of Agriculture helped amend the Recreational Trespass Act to increase penalties and enforcement and to enhance the landowners' protection from liability. New language requires restitution for damage done to property while trespassing and allows seizure of property being used while trespassing.

### Other legislation approved by our Friends of Agriculture in the Legislature and Congress includes the Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act, amendments to the Fertilizer Act to ensure that all possible sources of nitrates be included in programs to abate nitrogen contamination, a measure calling for three new schools to train over 300 additional State Police troopers, and approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

### Legislative challenges remain. Lawmakers in the future must continue their attention toward continuing to improve the state's business climate, protecting private property rights, farmland preservation, funding for MSU and MDA agricultural and food safety programs, reform of workers compensation and unemployment insurance, assuring annual funding for the Animal Agriculture Initiative, the cost and availability of health care, environmental laws, tax policy, the 1995 Farm Bill, and controlling federal spending.

You need Friends of Agriculture elected on the state and federal levels to ensure that your views are represented on these issues. Get involved with a Friend's campaign by displaying a yard sign, distributing campaign materials or urging your neighbors to vote. And remember, in many close elections, the turnout of rural voters can be decisive. Be sure you know who your Friends are and vote for them on Nov. 4.

### Discussion Questions

1. What is the most critical national issue facing farmers and rural communities as we go into the upcoming election?
2. What is the most critical state/local issue facing Michigan farmers prior to the election?
3. Why is it important that Farm Bureau members support "Friends of Agriculture"?
4. How can Farm Bureau members support and help elect "Friends of Agriculture"?
5. What can Farm Bureau members do to follow up with lawmakers after the election to sustain support for the organization's policies?

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Michigan Farm News
August 30, 1994
ENER-RUN III Road Rally Powers Through Michigan

Ethanol Power Competes Well With Other Alternative Fuels

Sioux City, Iowa, police officer Mark Wyant and his ethanol-powered FXR Pursuit Glide 1340 Harley Davidson (sargh, aargh, aargh!) were in Michigan recently as part of ENER-RUN III, an alternative fueled vehicle, 3,800-mile road rally.

The road rally is intended to prove that alternatively fueled vehicles can work in everyday situations, and allow people an up-close look at the vehicles, according to event organizer Les Adam of Hardy, Ark.

"We're taking these systems right out to the people, so they can feel and touch these things and be convinced that these alternative fuels could be a viable thing for them," Adam said. "We have to go where they're going, at the speeds they're going, under the same conditions they're driving in. You can't do that by running a vehicle around a test rack with 300 engineers standing by if something goes wrong!!"

ENER-RUN III was Adam's third trip in a converted kit car known as a Sterling, that was running 100 percent pure ethanol alcohol. The car, says Adam, performs quite well on ethanol, and is capable of speeds of up to 150 mph.

Other vehicles in the rally included a diesel-powered CJ-5 Jeep, a three-wheeler known as a FREEDAWY running on a gas and hydrogen peroxide blend, and a propane powered Volkswagen.

The rally is a true road test, with competition held for best mileage, lowest operational cost per mile, lowest total costs, and actual repair hours, if any, required. Adam expected the competition in the rally to come down between the three-wheeled FREEDAWY and the ethanol-powered Harley Davidson.

The Harley Davidson was donated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to the Sioux City police department with the stipulation that the department allow the bikes to be equipped to burn ethanol and be run in the ENER-RUN III rally to demonstrate ethanol's effectiveness in smaller engines as well as automotive engines.

According to officer Wyant, the modifications required to burn E-85 (an 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline blend) were minimum and dealt primarily with carburetion. The main jet and flow jet were both replaced with larger ones, and the nozzle was bored slightly larger to allow for the needed increase in fuel flow.

"Cars can be equipped with a fuel flow sensor and electronic fuel injection to burn both regular gas or E-85, since they have oxygen sensing devices, and can make the adjustment of the air fuel mix automatically," Wyant explained. "A motorcycle, however, must be manually adjusted, meaning it can only burn E-85, or it must be retro-fitted with the regular jets and nozzles to burn gas."

According to Wyant, the E-85 blend has performed well in the motorcycle with mileage actually improving. The fuel blend's octane level has also improved by 20 points, says Wyant, from 87 to 107. A support truck, sponsored by the IDNR, supplied the fuel for the bike, since E-85 was not readily available.

According to Ed Woolsey, with the IDNR's State Energy Office, the department's commitment to ethanol and the ENER-RUN III is intended to show the practical application of high-blend ethanol, not just in cars, but in small engines as well.

"Right now we have well over a 100 vehicles in Iowa running on high blend etha- nol," Woolsey said. "The Governor's Etha- nol Coalition is sponsoring the motorcycle. Grow Mark is sponsoring the fuel, and Har- ley Davidson has sponsored some equip- ment and supplies. The IDNR has also committed several dollars and time to this project."

The rally made a total of five stops in Michigan, including Grand Rapids, Lansing, Saginaw, Flint, and Detroit, in hopes of attracting the interest of the auto- motive industry in the state, according to Adam. In total, the rally covered 3,800 miles and made 32 stops over a two week period.

Below (left to right), Sioux City, Iowa, police officer Mark Wyant, Michigan Department of Agriculture's Bob Craig and Michigan Farm Bureau commodity specialist Bob Boehm discuss modifications to, and the performance of the ethanol-powered Harley Davidson that's intended to show smaller engines can perform well on ethanol.