

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



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At Presstime...

Spence Abraham Receives AgriPAC Endorsement

Former Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party and U.S. Senate hopeful, Spence Abraham, has received the "Friend of Agriculture" endorsement from MFB's AgriPAC, after a unanimous endorsement from participating county Farm Bureaus, according to MFB AgriPAC Chairperson Faye Adam.

"County Candidate Evaluation committees had a chance to review a survey of both U.S. Senate candidate's past efforts on behalf of agriculture, in addition to their priorities on current and future issues," said Adam. "Apparently, Abraham's announced position on agricultural issues, combined with his position on private property rights, taxation, and the federal budget met the expectations of the county committees."

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Apple Fire Blight Task Force Formed

Severe fire blight infestations in parts of southwestern Michigan prompted various segments of the apple industry to meet recently at the MFB Center in Lansing to form a task force intent on securing additional research dollars and solutions to this bacterial disease that's threatening the state's apple industry.

Fire blight is a bacterial disease that usually infects the apple tree during bloom, eventually killing off limbs of trees. In severe infestations of younger blocks of apples, fire blight can actually kill the entire tree.

Although fire blight is not a new phenomenon to Michigan apple producers, the severity of losses and newer strains resistant to control are refocusing efforts to seek new treatment options and resistant apple varieties, according to Coloma fruit grower Jim Miller, who serves on the MFB board of directors.

"Three years ago, we experienced the worst outbreak of fire blight ever throughout the entire state," Miller explained. "Although the outbreak this year is more specific to various regions of the state, it is extremely severe. The newer high-density plantings established within the last five years are very susceptible to this disease."

Hail storms in Van Buren and Allegan counties, and in the Belding area, combined with an unusually humid wet summer, created an ideal

These Jonathan apple trees were hard hit by fire blight, a bacterial disease that generally infects the tree during bloom.



environment for the rapid proliferation of fire blight. The hail "wounds" the trees, creating openings in the bark, and on the apples, providing the bacteria access into the tree.

Strains of fire blight resistant to the conventional treatment of streptomycin, compounded

Continued on page 5 -- see **Fire Blight**

AFBF Recommends 5 Percent ARP for Corn in 1995

Based on an excellent corn harvest this year and crop projections for 1995, the American Farm Bureau Federation is recommending a 5 percent corn acreage reduction program (ARP) for next year.

While setting the ARP at 0 percent would provide slightly higher farm returns, according to David Miller, AFBF commodity policy and programs coordinator, "A 5 percent ARP allows for more price strength and a more reasonable stocks-to-use ratio."

Farm Bureau analysis indicates a 5 percent 1995 ARP would allow for growth in consump-

tion to record levels, but ending stocks would be a more workable 17.6 percent. At 5 percent ARP, production would reach 8.68 billion bushels and total use would climb to 8.75 billion bushels. The ending stocks would total 1.54 billion bushels of corn.

This level of ending stocks is sufficient to provide for stability in the feed grain sector and increased demand both domestically and for exports, Miller said.

With a 0 percent ARP, corn production would reach 8.99 billion bushels in 1995. Total use would also rise to a record 8.8 billion bush-

els. Ending stocks are estimated to rise slightly to just over 1.79 billion bushels, Miller stated. This would result in a stocks-to-use ratio of more than 20 percent. When ending stocks exceed 20 percent, the ARP for the following year must be set at 7.5 percent, Miller explained.

The recommendation, sent to Philip Sronce, director of the Grains Analysis Division of the ASCS, will be considered in setting the ARP rates for 1995. The preliminary recommendation will be announced Sept. 30, and the final ARP level must be set by the Secretary of Agriculture by Nov. 5.

So New it's Patented...Michigan Farmers Get Their First Look

Farmers across Michigan had their first chance to look at and test drive the newest John Deere has to offer during mid-September field demos at participating dealers. John Deere introduced its 8100, 8200, 8300 and 8400 models rated at 160, 175, 200, and 225 horsepower, respectively, according to Larry Lich of Lich Farm Service, Inc near Portland.

A radically redesigned and patented chassis that positions the engine 10 inches higher and 44 inches further forward provides the operator improved visibility, improved maneuverability with a 16-foot turning radius, improved weight distribution, and added clearance, says Lich. The frame has been eliminated which allows the front wheels to be turned tighter than possible on past models. The redesign doesn't stop with the chassis either, thanks to a new "CommandARM."

"The cab is laid out so that you can actually work the controls, including the hydraulics, throttle, and gear selection and not move your arm more than six inches," Lich said. "The controls are all touch hydraulics and toggles, with no levers to speak of, so the operator can control the tractor with his fingertips."

An all new instrument panel has been relocated from the conventional steering wheel dash to a console mounted on the right hand side of the cab for improved tractor monitoring and diagnostic capabilities. For more details and additional photos turn to page 11



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"November Ballot Proposal Facts and Fiction"

Just like autumn leaves, facts and fiction about the fall ballot proposals are swirling around the electoral landscape. With the flurry of information being distributed by those who are against Proposal C, it's important to take a look at your organization's position (and the reasoning behind that position).

MFB is an active member of the Michigan Citizens for Insurance Reform (MCIR) - a coalition of dozens of organizations and businesses and thousands of individuals supporting reforms to Michigan's automobile insurance law.

We strongly favor a "yes" vote on Proposal C, the referendum to amend Michigan's auto insurance laws. You are probably asking yourself: why do we have to vote on this again? Didn't the Legislature approve and the governor sign a Farm Bureau-backed auto insurance reform package?

That's right: We did have effective auto insurance reform legislation (Public Act 143) signed, sealed and delivered. But those who had the most to lose from reform - the Michigan Trial Lawyers - are asking voters to reverse the law enacted by a bipartisan majority of the Legislature. They have delayed enactment of the new law and placed the issue on the ballot in hopes that they can confuse voters into rejecting the reforms.

In my opinion, the trial lawyers are conducting a campaign that insults farmers and other Michigan motorists by implying we're not smart enough to understand the real agenda behind a "no" vote on Proposal C. A "no" vote is not a vote for real insurance reform. A "no" vote is not a vote for lower rates. A "no" vote is not a vote for protecting the rights of those who file legitimate claims.

A "no" vote is really a vote to reject reforming an auto insurance system that too often rewards wealthy lawyers and penalizes ordinary consumers. But a "yes" vote on Proposal C is a smart choice that brings real reform to the system and saves us up to \$700 million dollars annually in insurance premiums.

Michigan Farm Bureau strongly supported the original auto insurance reform legislation. Remember, your positive "yes" vote on Proposal C will be needed to make auto insurance reform a reality.

Jack Laurie
Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

New MFB Staff Assignments Announced

MFB staff member Scott Everett of the Field Operations Division has been appointed to coordinate administration of the Community Action Group program, with Bob Harms assigned to new group development. Doug Ewald of the Public Affairs Division has been appointed to coordinate local affairs activities and will assist county Farm Bureaus in securing resources to help them deal with local issues.

With the increasing importance of environmental issues facing agriculture, MFB is also strengthening its ability to assist members in this area. Kevin Kirk of the Commodity Activities and Research Division will, in addition to his role in the animal agriculture area, become an environmental specialist to help keep Farm Bureau in the forefront of environmental education and compliance activities.

Country Sunshine in Northern Michigan

Farmers and sunflowers combined their talents this past summer bringing a little more sunshine to the Northern Michigan counties of Antrim and Charlevoix. This 20-acre field, sponsored by the Promotion and Education committees of Antrim and Charlevoix county Farm Bureaus, was located on the Tom Wieland Family Farm. According to Wieland, the field attracted its fair share of onlookers and photographers this past summer.



In Brief...

Net Farm Income to Rise

The Agriculture Department said it estimates net farm income for 1994 will rise from \$43 billion last year to \$47-51 billion this year. The department also estimated net cash income will be in the \$53-57 billion range. Over the past five years, net cash income has averaged \$56 billion per year. The rise in farm income was attributed to an increase in crop receipts, which is expected to come in at between 6 percent and 8 percent for the year.

Feed grain and soybeans are forecast to produce receipt increases of 4 percent to 6 percent and oilseed increases between 9 percent and 11 percent. Dairy and livestock are not expected to rise more than 2 percent. Production expenses are forecast to rise 2 percent to 3 percent and farm debt will likely rise 1 percent. Total farm equity is expected to remain stable at between \$771 billion and \$781 billion.

No Significant Drop in Milk Consumption

Countering anti-biotechnology activist's claims that the use of a bovine growth hormone in dairy cows would cut U.S. consumption of milk by as much as 25 percent, Agriculture Department figures showed a scanty .1 percent drop in fluid milk sales in July over the same time period last year.

"The American public is confident that milk is as pure and wholesome as ever," said Jim Barr, chief executive of the National Milk Producers Federation. "Consumers have recognized that there is no reason to stop drinking milk."

The hormone BST is said to increase milk production in treated cows by up to 15 percent and has the blessing of the Food and Drug Administration, the American Medical Association and the American Dietetic Association.

Court Ruling a Setback for Ethanol

A federal appeals court decision to grant a stay on implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's rule to include ethanol in a cleaner-burning fuels program is being viewed as a setback by agricultural interests and a temporary victory for big oil.

EPA officials said the program will move forward pending final court ruling on a lawsuit filed by the American Petroleum Institute challenging the agency's decision to mandate use of ethanol from renewable sources in the reformulated fuels program. Without a final ruling, the program will include petroleum based oxygenates as the primary air-pollution curbing additive to gasoline beginning Jan. 1. In its ruling, the court did not agree with the oil industry's position, but said its lawsuit must be heard in its entirety.

Although the renewable oxygenate requirement in the EPA plan (that would require a 2 percent oxygenate blend comprised of 30 percent renewable ethanol in gasoline used in heavily polluted cities) does not specify from what source ethanol must come, the oil industry is critical of the plan because it does not require all oxygenates to be derived from non-renewable petroleum sources.

Michigan Milk Production up in August

Dairy herds in Michigan produced 466 million pounds of milk during August, up 2 percent from a year ago, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. Milk per cow averaged 1,390 pounds, increasing 40 pounds from a year ago. The Michigan dairy herd was estimated at 335,000 head, 4,000 less than in August 1993.

The preliminary value of milk sold averaged \$12.60 per hundredweight (cwt.) in August, \$.20 less than last year. August mid-month slaughter cow prices averaged \$45.00 per cwt., \$3.30 less than the previous year.

Milk production in the 21 major states totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 2 percent more than production in these same states in August 1993. Production averaged 1,344 pounds per cow for August, 38 pounds more than last year. The number of cows on farms was 8.03 million head, 65,000 head less than August 1993, but 3,000 head more than July 1994.

Dairy manufacturing plants in Michigan produced 1.2 million pounds of butter in July, unchanged from a year ago. Ice cream output totaled 1.72 million gallons, 19 percent less than July 1993.

Price Elections Announced for Fall Planted Crops

Ken Ackerman, manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), announced the maximum price elections for 1995 wheat and barley. The top price elections will be: wheat - \$3.15 per bushel; and barley - \$1.90 per bushel.

Price elections reflect FCIC's expectations about prices farmers will receive for their commodities in the 1995-96 marketing year. Farmers have the option of selecting any price election at or below the announced maximum election. FCIC must estimate market prices well in advance of production and sales so that farmers will know their insurance coverage and what it will cost.

All affected producers should contact their local crop insurance agents to discuss their risk management options and sales closing dates.

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In Brief...

Continuation of CRP Goal of Nov. 9 and 10 Statewide CRP Forum

A host of Michigan organizations, including Michigan Farm Bureau and the Soil and Water Conservation Society, have banded together to host a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Forum on Nov. 9 and 10, according to MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy.

"With over 300,000 acres planted to grasses and/or trees in our state as a result of CRP, Michigan obviously has a vested interest in the fate of CRP during the 1995 Farm Bill debate," Almy said. "Michigan is estimated to have had an erosion reduction of 3.2 million tons annually due to the CRP."

In addition, there have been conservation and environmental benefits, improved wildlife habitat, and reduced pesticide run-off, according to Almy. Sponsors of the CRP Forum are hopeful that the CRP can be extended once the existing 10 year contracts start to expire. **For more information and forum registration, contact Soil Conservation Service District Conservationist Randy Seelbrede, located in the Paw Paw field office at (616) 657-4220.**

Michigan BST Labeling Bills up to 15 and Counting

Rep. Varga (D-Detroit) has introduced five bills to allow for labeling of milk or milk products not treated with rBST. These five bills are in addition to the 10 bills that have already been introduced which provided for the labeling of milk from cows treated with rBST. The bills have all been sent to the Consumers Committee which is chaired by Varga.

With the limited number of session days, it is uncertain whether the bills will receive a hearing prior to the end of this session, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Ron Nelson. Farm Bureau remains opposed to bills mandating labeling of milk regarding rBST.

West Branch Feeder Calf Sale Celebrates 50 Years

The 50-year anniversary is a family affair for Alcona livestock farmers Jack Small (left) and son, Kevin. Jack participated in the first sale and has served as president. Kevin is currently serving as president for the feeder calf sale event scheduled for Oct. 18.



by Renee Nugent

This fall marks 50 years that the West Branch Feeder Calf Sale has existed. Bill Finley, who was the county agent, prompted the first sale in an effort to get better livestock. The first sale was held in West Branch through the cooperative effort of MSU, Finley, and the original president of the sale, Charlie Prescott.

According to Jack Small, past president of the West Branch Feeder Cattle Association, economics is the real reason the sale has been successful year after year. Jack said, "Producers make money and that's why it works."

Jack's son, Kevin, who is the current president, said, "The main group of producers are mostly family-owned operations and have about 50 to 100 cow/calf pairs."

The Small operation, consisting of Jack and Kevin, raise 150 cow/calf pairs and farm about 900 acres annually. Jack has been involved with the West Branch Feeder Calf Sale since it began in 1944.

According to Steve Gonyea, past president of the Michigan Feeder Cattle Producers Council, a reputation for quality animals has generally resulted in a 5 to 10 cent premium for producers who market their cattle through one of the feeder calf sales.

"A strong reputation for good, healthy animals is why the West Branch sale has survived for half a century," said Gonyea. "It's the quality of the cattle and the producers that are involved in the sale. They are committed to having quality cattle and marketing them that way."

According to Harvey Hansen, secretary for the Michigan Feeder Cattle Producers Council, the same producers often come back every year because of the quality animals.

Hansen said, "Producers pre-sort their animals before bringing them to the yards, which means the animals can come in closer to sale time, cutting down on the possibility of getting sick."

Since the West Branch sale began, it has expanded to three other sites: Alpena, Paulding and Rapid River. The Michigan Feeder Cattle Producers Council is the organization that is responsible for all of the sales. The four sales share the reputation for quality animals, but are run individually by their local branch of the council.

The sales are a cooperative effort. Producers come together to plan the event and supply the labor to conduct the auction. Each sale has its own board of directors and is conducted independently, but they pool their resources with the other sales for advertising and promotion.

This year, the sales will be held on Oct. 10 at 12 noon in Paulding; Oct. 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Rapid River; Oct. 17 at 1:30 p.m. in Alpena; and Oct. 18 at 12 noon in West Branch. Between the four sales, about 4,000 head of feeder calves are marketed. The steer calves average about 500 pounds, while the heifers average slightly less, about 475 pounds. To get more information about any of the sales, contact your local Extension Service.

MFB Takes Position on November Ballot Proposals

Michigan Farm Bureau has announced its position on three of the four proposals that will appear on the Nov. 8 ballot. MFB supports a "yes" vote on C, the referendum to amend Michigan's auto insurance laws. The farm organization urges a "no" vote on A, the proposal to convene a Michigan constitutional convention. Farm Bureau is neutral on P, the proposal to establish a Michigan state parks endowment fund. MFB takes no position on B, the proposal to limit criminal appeals.

"For too long we have endured an auto insurance system where we are forced to pay for policies that are weighted down with unnecessary costs -- dollars that all too often end up in the hands of trial lawyers and those who file fraudulent, unnecessary or ridiculous claims," said MFB President Jack Laurie. "Proposal C gives the people of Michigan the opportunity to take control of their own auto insurance needs and purchase policies that reflect those needs."

Farm Bureau does not believe there are currently any major issues that should be addressed through a state constitutional convention, Laurie said. "Major issues that have occurred since the constitutional convention of 1964 have been handled by constitutional amendments, which we think is a most adequate procedure," he said.

Ogemaw-Oscoda County ASCS Employee Receives National Honor

Darlene D. Winslow, county executive director of the Ogemaw-Oscoda County ASCS office, was selected to receive the 1995 USDA Celebration of Excellence Honor Award, one of the highest awards that the Secretary of Agriculture can bestow upon USDA employees. Winslow is the only county office employee in the nation to receive this award and was one of just two award recipients nationwide.

Winslow was selected to receive the secretary's award for personal and professional excellence during her 36 years of service with ASCS. Throughout her career, she has established as a high priority providing current information and personal attention to her clientele. For 15 years, Winslow has performed as a trainer of employees working to become county executive directors (CED) and has worked within the Midwest Area as an instructor for CED management training.

Winslow is currently serving on special assignment to the National Work Measurement Committee. In addition to her agency service, Winslow has performed in an exceptional manner as an active charter member of NASCOE, the National Association of State and County Office Employees.

She has served as a state officer for eight years, served on numerous state and national committees, was national membership chairperson for eight years and has attended the legislative conference many times in Washington, D.C., representing Michigan employees.



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Weather

30-Day Outlook - "Near Normal" Conditions Expected

Above-normal temperatures during early September caused seasonal growing degree day totals across many sections of the state to surge back to normal or even a little ahead of normal by the middle of September. The mostly sunny, dry weather accompanying the warm temperatures favored early harvest and other field work activities and provided nearly ideal conditions for late maturing crops.

While little has changed with respect to the outlook during the next few weeks, jet stream flow patterns on a hemispheric basis have become stronger and more active since the beginning of the month. This is likely associated with the annual transition of summer to winter.

Should this active pattern continue into October, I would expect highly variable conditions in Michigan, with temperatures ranging from above normal to below normal. Given that cold air has recently begun to appear on weather maps in far northern sections of North America (again, in response to shortening day length and the change of seasons), I would also expect the first killing frost in some sections of the state, especially in interior sections away

8/15/94 to 9/15/94	Temperature		Growing Degree Days		Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal	Actual Accum.	Normal Accum.	Actual (inch.)	Normal (inch.)
Alpena	63.2	+ 0.7	1943	1925	4.31	3.29
Bad Axe	64.3	- 2.3	2041	2306	2.25	2.70
Detroit	69.3	+ 0.5	2844	2502	.77	2.83
Escanaba	63.4	+ 1.0	1626	1537	4.99	3.60
Flint	66.1	- 0.4	2328	2502	1.43	2.83
Grand Rapids	67.4	+ 0.1	2446	2548	1.97	3.14
Houghton	62.3	+ 1.8	1596	1758	3.52	3.94
Houghton Lake	65.6	+ 1.8	2150	1925	4.08	3.29
Jackson	66.8	- 1.7	2425	2486	2.60	3.03
Lansing	65.9	- 1.3	2355	2486	2.77	3.03
Marquette	61.5	+ 1.8	1648	1758	4.00	3.94
Muskegon	66.8	0.0	2180	2201	1.79	3.59
Pellston	62.7	+ 1.3	1855	1991	6.06	3.40
Saginaw	67.2	+ 0.1	2362	2306	2.43	2.70
Sault Ste. Marie	59.3	- 1.4	1434	1537	3.27	3.60
South Bend	68.7	+ 0.2	2753	2548	3.02	3.14
Traverse City	66.2	+ 0.5	2124	1991	4.70	3.40
Vestaburg	63.7	- 2.9	2149	2277	3.29	3.41

Observed and growing degree day totals are accumulated from April 1. Normals are based on district averages. Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

from the lakes. The official National Weather Service 30-day outlook for mid-September through mid-October calls for the variations to average themselves out over time, with near normal temperatures and precipitation expected.

Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	9/30...10/15	9/30...11/30
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	N.....N	B.....A
W. Corn Belt	N.....N	B.....N
E. Corn Belt	N.....N	B/N.....A
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....N	N.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	A.....B	N.....N
Pac. NW Wheat	N.....B	N.....N
Delta	N.....N	N.....N/A
Southeast	N.....A/N	N.....N/A
San Joaquin	N.....N	N.....N

A-Above Average, B-Below Average, N-Normal, MA-Much Above, MB-Much Below, NP-No Precip. Source: National Weather Office

Michigan Crop Yields Expected Down from Last Year

Adequate rain fell across most of Michigan during August, although only one week of above-average temperatures was recorded, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service.

Cool temperatures this time of year normally raise farmers' concerns about crops maturing before first frost, and this year is no different. However, the majority of crop development is near or above the five-year average with growing degree days throughout the state ranging from slightly below to fractionally above normal.

Barring an early frost, yield prospects look good for corn and soybeans. Yield and production forecasts are based on conditions as of Sept. 1, and assume favorable conditions will allow for normal crop maturity and development.

Corn yield for Michigan is forecast at 106 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and four bushels below last year. Total corn production, at 227.9 million bushels, is down from the previous year's crop of 236.5 million bushels.

Michigan soybean yield is expected to average 35 bushels per acre, down three bushels from 1993. Production is estimated at 53.9 million bushels, a decrease of 1 percent from a year ago.

The average yield for sugarbeets is estimated at 16 tons per acre, one ton below last year. Total tonnage is forecast at 2.99 million tons, 6 percent less than 1993.

Summer potato yield is set at 200 cwt., compared to 280 cwt. the previous year. Production is expected to total 2.4 million cwt., a drop of 31 percent from a year ago.

This sharp decline in production is the result of a reduction in harvested acres, to 12,000, as well as poor yields. Growers abandoned about 2,000 acres of summer potatoes due to poor yields and poor quality caused by excessive wet weather during late June and early July.

Nationally, corn production is forecast at 9.26 billion bushels, up fractionally from the Aug. 1 forecast but 46 percent above the 1993 production. Yields are expected to average 129.0 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month and 28.3 bushels above a year earlier.

Soybean production is forecast at a record high 2.32 billion bushels as of Sept. 1, up 1 percent from the Aug. 1 forecast and 28 percent above 1993. Yield is forecast at a record high 38.2 bushels per acre, 0.6 bushel above Aug. 1, and 6.2 bushels above 1993. The previous record high yield of 37.6 was set up in 1992.

Sugarbeet production is estimated at 29.8 million tons, 14 percent above last year's output. Yields are expected to average 20.7 tons per acre, up 2.1 tons from last year.

How to Estimate Your own Corn and Soybean Yields

USDA and private survey firms have already made corn and soybean yield estimates for 1994. The markets have made projections and expectations based on these August reports of Michigan and U.S. anticipated production numbers. Have you?

There are several good reasons to go into corn and soybean fields near maturity. One reason is to estimate yields for storage, feed use or marketing purposes.

Corn Yields

Corn yields can accurately be estimated. Going into fields also tells you about insect damage, weeds, maturity and provides an opportunity to evaluate the variety.

Step 1
Count the number of harvestable ears in 1/1000 acre. For 38-inch rows, this will be 13 feet and 8 inches. For 36-inch rows, measure 14 feet and 5 inches. In 30-inch rows, measure 17 feet and 4 inches.

Step 2
Count the number of rows per ear, and the kernels of one row of the second, sixth, and tenth ears. Do not count half size kernels on either the butt or tip of the ear. Calculate an average.

Step 3
The yield formula is: (ear population) times

(the average number of rows) times (the average number of kernels per row) divided by 90.

Soybean Yields

Soybean yield estimates are more accurate within three weeks of maturity.

Step 1
Count the number of substantial plants in 1/1000 acre. For 7-inch rows, this will be 74 feet and 8 inches. In 8-inch rows, measure 65 feet and 4 inches.

Step 2
Count the number of substantial pods on five random plants. Calculate an average.

Step 3
Shortcut method. Calculate yield as: (number of plants) times (average number of pods) divided by 60.

Long method. Calculate the seeds per acre by multiplying: (2.5 seeds per pod) times (the average number of pods) times 1000.

Step 4
Calculate pounds per acre by dividing: (seeds per acre) by 2,500 seeds per pound.

Step 5
To get yield, simply divide (pounds per acre) by 60.



Serving Michigan Farm Families is Our Only Business

Since its beginning in 1971, Michigan Farm Radio Network's only objective has been to serve Michigan's farm families. This dedication to serve agriculture is shared by 29 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 daily on the following stations:

Station	City	Frequency	Morning Farm	Noon Farm
WABJ	Adrian	1490	5:45 am	11:50 am
WATZ	Alpena	1450	5:30 am	11:30 am
WTKA	Ann Arbor	1050	6:05 am	12:05 pm
WLEW	Bad Axe	1340	6:30 am	12:50 pm
WHFB	Benton Harbor			12:30 pm
WKYO	Caro	1360	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WKJF	Cadillac	1370	5:55 am	11:20 am
WTVB	Coldwater	1590	5:45 am	12:20 pm
WDOW	Dowagiac	1440	6:05 am	12:15 pm
WGHN	Grand Haven	1370/92.1	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WPLB	Greenville	1380	6:15 am	11:45 am
WBCH	Hastings	1220	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WCSR	Hillsdale	1340	6:45 am	12:45 pm
WHTC	Holland	1450		12:15 pm
WKZO	Kalamazoo	590	5:15 am	
WLSP	Lapeer	1530	7:20 am	11:50 am
WOAP	Owosso	1080	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WHAK	Rogers City	960		12:15 pm
WSJ	St. Johns	1580	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WMLM	St. Louis	1540	6:05 am	12:20 pm
WSGW	Saginaw	790	5:55 am	12:20 pm
WMIC	Sandusky	660	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WCSY	South Haven	940		12:15 pm
WKJC	Tawas City	104.7		12:45 pm
WLKM	Three Rivers	1510/95.9	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WTCM	Traverse City	580	5:55 am	11:20 am

* Station signs on at different times during the year. Morning farm times change with the sign-on times.
** Station airs various farm reports between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m.
*** Station airs various farm reports between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.
Some stations carry additional market reports throughout the market day.

Apple Fire Blight Task Force Formed....continued from page 1

the problem even more, according to Tom Butler of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association's Apple Division. The only other control option at this time is a less-effective treatment with oxytetracycline (Myoshield) under a special use permit.

"Obviously this makes fire blight a serious problem, particularly because we grow a number of unique varieties in this state, such as Jonathans, that are very susceptible to infection," Butler explained. "Michigan is the number one producer of Jonathans in the country and producers often receive a premium from processors since they're the most preferred apple pie slice variety in the state. So not only are the producers facing a big loss, but so is the processing industry that's dependent on Michigan for these varieties."

Ida Reds and Rome varieties are also very susceptible to the fire blight. Other varieties such as Red Delicious are tolerant to fire blight, but as MSU Professor of Plant Pathology Dr. Alan Jones puts it, the state can't build its apple industry on Red Delicious.

"There are researchers continually trying to develop varieties and root stock that are resistant to fire blight," Jones said. "However, fire blight was first discovered in 1880, and research has been ongoing since that time. If we're going to control this disease, we need a real commitment from the industry."

A look at the damage caused by hail and fire blight to apple trees in southwest Michigan this past summer.



Part of that commitment, says Jones, needs to include long-term research funding for resistant variety research and immediate research efforts in alternative control options. In addition, he believes that the industry trend toward high

density planting of susceptible varieties creates a greater urgency than what most realize.

"We basically have a number of growers in this state that are sitting on a powder keg that's ready to explode if we get the right conditions and an infestation in these high density plantings," Jones said. "Not only are these varieties highly susceptible to fire blight, the blight only has to move a short distance before it can cause severe damage to the structure of the tree, and it can move from tree to tree much easier than in older plantings where the trees are further apart."

Allegan County fruit grower Alan Overhiser concurs with Jones' assessment, saying that the need for alternative control options is immediate and critical. Overhiser, who serves as chairman of the MACMA Processing Apple Growers Committee, grows 40 acres of apples, including Jonathans, Goldens, Winesaps and Red Delicious.

"We've got a lot of farmers who are at the age where they will never plant another tree, and they've got to be able to protect their investment out there right now," Overhiser said. "Genetic research is necessary, but we need something in the short-term. There is simply no way we can go tear out all of our orchards and replant them with something that doesn't even exist today."

Calling it an elusive number at this time, Overhiser predicts his losses will average 5 to 10 percent, with some orchards suffering a 20 percent loss in production. More importantly, however, is the long-term loss of production from trees and limbs that are lost this year to fire blight.

With tree stock costing \$6 per tree, multiplied by several hundred trees per acre, replacement cost and time become big factors. According to Miller, Michigan's climate and market conditions require a coordinated effort among the industry and legislators.

"The time to move on this situation is right now, before we have spent literally millions of grower assessment dollars to advertise and promote apple varieties that we can't grow because of the fire blight," Miller said. "We either need to come up with a plan to make an attempt to do something to control this disease or we need to make changes in our varietal mix."

Fire Blight Control/Treatment Options Very Limited

The proliferation of a strain of fire blight resistant to the conventional treatment of the antibiotic streptomycin in southwestern Michigan this past season, has growers and researchers alike desperately seeking alternative control methods.

According to MSU Professor of Plant Pathology Dr. Al Jones, the resistant strain was first detected in 1990 in a single orchard. The strain has gradually been building up since that time. Oxytetracycline (Myoshield) has provided some control, but not as successfully as streptomycin had been on other strains of the bacteria.

"If we lose streptomycin because of resistance, growers will basically not have an effective chemical control for fire blight," Jones explained. "That means they'll have to rely on sanitation, by pruning out infections as soon as they see them and get those infected limbs out of there," he said.

Since fire blight is a cyclic disease, producers should take advantage of years when the incidence of fire blight is low, and aggressively prune out infected trees and limbs. "However, if you get a real epidemic going because there was disease there before and the conditions are ideal, then pruning is not going to help a whole lot. You've already lost the battle," Jones said.

Allegan County grower Alan Overhiser learned that lesson the hard way this past summer. Desperate for a solution to limit the loss of young trees, he attempted controlling the spread

of fire blight by pruning, but was less than satisfied with the results.

"We went through and meticulously cut into the green wood, behind the fire blight and sterilized the clippers between each cut by dipping them in bleach," Overhiser said. "However, I really can't see where we did any good by doing that with the weather conditions we had this past summer."

In situations where the strain of fire blight is controllable with conventional streptomycin, Jones encourages producers to put the spray on early, have the applications well timed, and attempt to control the spread early on.

Producers do need to use streptomycin wisely and on a limited basis. Not only is it expensive, at \$14 a pound (typically applied at one to 1-1/2 pound per acre), but it also encourages the proliferation of resistant strains.

"Once blight gets going, continual use of streptomycin or any antibiotic in that situation is how you get resistance," Jones cautioned. "In other words, once you've got a problem, throwing more chemical at it does not solve the problem."

Beyond a miracle cure or genetic engineering solutions, which aren't likely for quite some time, the only other cure may lay in rethinking variety selection and planting methods. "Some of these varieties may not be the most desirable since they won't bring the top dollar as far as marketing is concerned," Jones concluded.

Fall Ideal Time to Control Perennial Weeds

The time between crops in the fall generally provides an opportunity to get control of troublesome perennial weeds.

A perennial weed is any weed capable of surviving three or more years and reproducing vegetatively (from plant parts other than seeds). Such weeds reproduce either by forming rhizomes (underground creeping stems), runners, bulbs, tubers or creeping roots.

They may or may not produce seeds, but they always have the potential to reproduce vegetatively. That's what makes control difficult, says Jim Kells, MSU Extension agronomist.

Seventeen perennial weed species in Michigan can reduce crop yields: Canada thistle, field and hedge bindweed, common milkweed, hemp dogbane, horse nettle, Jerusalem artichoke, johnsongrass, quackgrass, sowthistle, smooth and clammy groundcherry, swamp smartweed, wild onion and wild garlic, wirestem muhly and yellow nutsedge.

The best procedure for getting control of perennial weeds is to begin mapping their location now and either spot treat them with a herbicide or repeatedly till the location before the first killing frost.

Some weed species can also be controlled through crop rotation.

Tillage can decrease perennial weed infestations if it's done every two or three weeks when the soil is warm and dry. Tillage during cool, wet conditions is not as effective.

Chemical spot treatment of perennial weeds either before or after harvest can be effective. Ropewick treatment can be used on some perennial weeds with fair to good results, though retreatment may be required.

MSU Extension has a series of fact sheets - E-2444 through E-2257 - on perennial weed control. The fact sheets contain an illustration and description of each perennial weed and detail the effectiveness of the herbicides that can be used for control.

Maximize your
Winter Wheat productivity with



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 fibrous and extensive root system

- Increased tillering
- Larger diameter stem
- Wider, darker green leaves, fuller canopy fill row sooner
- Earlier pollination
- Heavier seed weight

Observation Timing (Stage of Growth)

- Fall - first to fourth leaves unfolded
- Spring - greenup and vigor
- Spring - observation on plant stand
- Fall - first to fourth leaves unfolded
- Spring - emergence of inflorescence
- Spring - from stem elongation on
- Spring - at completion of tillering
- Spring - at completion of tillering
- Spring - at flowering
- At maturity

The identified performance parameters typically result in:

- Increased uptake of soil nutrients
- Increased utilization of sunlight in photosynthesis
- Improved winter hardiness
- Higher yields and/or test weight
- Increased uptake of soil moisture
- Increased tillering and foliage
- Improved standability and ease of harvest

Yield Information Postemergence applications to Winter Wheat (1993)

- 33 total studies • 7.6 bushel per acre increase • 10.5% increase in yield
- Return on ACA investment of \$17.64 (2/3 pint/acre)
- 2/3 pint ACA per acre broadcast [Winter Wheat at \$3.00/bushel x 7.6 bushel increase/acre = \$22.80 - ACA investment of \$5.16/acre (2/3 pint/acre) = \$17.64 R.O.I./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 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.

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 easily 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 (weed & feed herbicide/fertilizer solution)

Foliar Applications

- Application can be made with liquid fertilizers as the carrier.

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.

Other application methods:

- Soil applied broadcast with water as the carrier, with or without a herbicide
- To wheat foliage with water as the carrier



Contact your local Clean Crop Dealer or call 1-800-292-2701 for additional information
THE ACA ADVANTAGE

6

CORN

The latest USDA Crop Report, for Sept. 1 conditions, was released Sept. 12. It showed the corn crop would be even bigger than the August report estimated. And, if early harvested corn yields are a good indication, the crop may be even bigger than this report indicates.

As shown in Table 1 below, the 1994 corn crop is expected to be 9.257 billion bushels, up 43 million bushels from the August report. The country's average yield is expected to be a whopping 129 bushels per acre. Yes, that is less than the 1992 record of 131.4, but the best before that was ONLY 118.5.

Other supply side news was not so bad. We exported a little more last year than we thought we would which lowered ending stocks brought into this year. But, before we get too excited, look at the USDA Stocks Report, released Sept. 29, which will give the actual corn stocks remaining on Sept. 1.

On the demand side, the news is mixed. Feed use is expected to be up 11 percent over last year. Exports are expected to be up 14 percent over last year's anemic level. Food, seed and industrial uses (FSI) are forecast by USDA to be up 8 percent. However, the FSI increase is expected to be mostly in ethanol use. It is not clear how the court suit by oil companies will affect ethanol use over the next year, but it won't be positive.

Even with the increased use projections, carryover will almost double from last year's low levels. But the 1.601 billion bushel ending stocks forecast for the 1994-95 corn marketing year (shown in Table 1) is still lower than 1992-93. This will put a limit on how low and how long the market will go down.

HOGS

The latest USDA Hogs and Pigs Report was just released Sept. 29. Check it out. Up to this point, the last report was accurate in the sense that it showed more hogs would be coming and they did. Check to see if it shows expansion continuing at the same rapid pace or slowing up. These extremely low prices we have been seeing of late have come after the data was collected.

Nobody is making money at \$33/cwt. These are prices that large hog units, put up in the last few years, have never seen. While I expect that the already planned units will go on up, it will be

Market Outlook...

Dr. Jim Hilker, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

Corn	?
Soybeans	?
Wheat	↑ ?
Hogs	→ ↓
Cattle	→ ↑

Index: ↑ = Higher Prices; ↓ = Lower Prices; TP= Topping; BT= Bottoming; ? = Unsure

Another unknown is how the Corn Marketing Loan option (see article page 7) will affect the market. It may allow the market to drop substantially below the loan rate for a period. However, that should be tempered by the need for loan money from harvest through planting when prices are expected to gradually increase.

Strategy: At this point, the basis is still telling us that on-farm storage will pay for new crop. The marketing tools you should consider are tools that allow you to take advantage of basis narrowing and, in some cases, allow for upside potential. Many elevators now offer a wide variety of pricing tools. Talk to them before harvest to try putting together a package that works best for you. Also watch for marketing loan and deficiency payment opportunities.

interesting to see if the rapid pace continues into late 1995 and 1996.

The futures market shows summer 1995 prices going back up over \$40/cwt. For this to happen, along with the planned expansion, it would mean a lot of smaller units will continue leaving.

Over the long haul, one would expect prices to average at least as much as the total cost of the more efficient producers. This means prices would be in the \$37-43 range.

SOYBEANS

The USDA Crop Report showed we are going to harvest a record soybean crop with respect to both total production and highest yield. The 2.316 billion bushel production estimate for the 1994 U.S. soybean crop was 24 million bushels larger than the August estimate. And the yield estimate of 38.2 bushels per acre is amazing. Early harvested yields are not only backing this estimate up, but are making some believe it will turn out higher.

There is a little bit of positive news. Exports picked up at the end of the 1993-94 marketing year, meaning less carry-in. Crush is expected to be up in 1994-95. And, if exports continue at their current pace, it appears exports will be up. The last thing we need is for South America to

WHEAT

Wheat is a different story than corn and beans for the most part. One place they are the same is the wide basis. At this time, using your on-farm storage for wheat, if it is already there, may pay you better than corn or soybeans. However, there is more downside risk because we are at relatively higher prices.

Strategy: That storage gain can be locked in by hedging, either with futures or with puts, if you want to keep up-side potential. All of the tools are available through many elevators, as I

CATTLE

The latest monthly 7-State Cattle-on-Feed Report on Sept. 16 showed the total on feed, as of Sept. 1, down 5 percent from a year ago. It showed August marketings up 3 percent from a year ago while placements were down 4 percent.

The marketing number was not positive at first glance because we had one more marketing day this August versus last. In addition, weights are staying way above year ago levels. These two together indicate the market is still not current and there is still a plentiful number of cattle to clean up, at least for the next couple of weeks.

On the brighter side, the on feed number being down and, to a small extent, the placement number being down, are indications we should

FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

have their third huge crop in a row this winter. As seen in Table 3 below, ending stocks for the 1994-95 marketing year will weigh heavy on the markets.

Strategy: The advice for soybeans is the same as for corn. Let the basis help you make your pricing decisions. Remember, the option markets let you get back into the market if called for. Don't store commercially just so you can be in a market rally. There are cheaper ways of doing it.

mentioned earlier, which means you don't have to mess with actually dealing with the futures, brokers or margin calls.

The USDA Crop Report shows our total 1994 wheat production number will come in at 2.361 billion bushels. This is down a bit from the August report and is the smallest in three years as seen in Table 2 below. This, is on top of a short crop in Australia. However, exports are only expected to go up marginally due to poor demand from the former Soviet Union countries.

see some rebound in prices over the November-December period. If we don't, try to save overweight cattle for the price increase. Prices will probably go into the high \$60 range and we may even see some \$70 cattle for a little while.

The lower placement number, while welcome, is a little misleading. August 1993 placements were very large, which means being down from a very large number can still be quite large. With low corn prices, feeder prices adjusting down, and a larger calf crop this year, I expect the feedlots will fill on up.

Steer prices over the next year are expected to average under \$70/cwt. This will push calf prices back into the \$86-91 range and yearlings into the \$76-81 range.

Table 1 Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For CORN

	USDA Proj. 1992-93	USDA Proj. 93-94	USDA Proj. 94-95
Corn Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Set-Aside and Diverted	5.3	10.5	?
Acres Planted	79.3	73.3	78.8
Acres Harvested	72.2	63.0	71.8
Bu./A. Harvested	131.4	100.7	129.0
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	1100	2113	824
Production	9482	6344	9257
Imports	7	22	5
Total Supply	10,589	8,479	10,086
Use:			
Feed	5301	4775	5300
Food/Seed	1511	1580	1710
Total Domestic	6813	6355	7010
Exports	1663	1300	1475
Total Use	8476	7655	8485
Ending Stocks	2113	824	1601
Ending Stocks Percent of Use	24.9%	10.8%	18.9%
Regular Loan Rate	\$1.72	\$1.72	\$1.89
U.S. Season Average			
Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$2.07	\$2.53	\$2.20

Source: USDA & Hilker

Table 2 Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For WHEAT

	USDA Proj. 1992-93	USDA Proj. 93-94	Hilker Proj. 94-95
Wheat Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Set-Aside and Diverted	3.5	0.5	?
Acres Planted	72.3	72.2	70.5
Acres Harvested	62.4	62.6	62.0
Bu./A. Harvested	39.4	38.3	38.1
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	472	529	571
Production	2459	2402	2361
Imports	70	109	80
Total Supply	3001	3040	3013
Use:			
Food	829	869	885
Seed	98	95	97
Feed	191	277	200
Total Domestic	1118	1241	1182
Exports	1354	1228	1250
Total Use	2472	2469	2432
Ending Stocks	529	571	581
Ending Stocks Percent of Use	21.4%	23.1%	23.9%
Regular Loan Rate	\$2.21	\$2.45	\$2.58
U.S. Season Average			
Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$3.24	\$3.26	\$3.35

Source: USDA & Hilker

Table 3 Supply/Demand Balance Sheet For SOYBEANS

	USDA Proj. 1992-93	USDA Proj. 93-94	Hilker Proj. 94-95
Soybean Acreage (Million Acres)			
Acres Planted	59.1	59.4	61.8
Acres Harvested	58.2	56.4	60.7
Bu./Harvested Acre	37.6	32.0	38.2
Stocks (Million Bushels)			
Beg. Stocks	278	292	150
Production	2188	1809	2316
Imports	2	6	5
Total Supply	2468	2107	2471
Use:			
Crushings	1279	1270	1315
Exports	770	595	675
Seed, Feed and Residuals	127	92	111
Total Use	2176	1957	2101
Ending Stocks	292	150	370
Ending Stocks Percent of Use	13.4%	7.7%	17.6%
Regular Loan Rate	\$5.02	\$5.02	\$4.92
U.S. Season Average			
Farm Price, \$/Bu.	\$5.50	\$6.40	\$5.25

Source: USDA & Hilker

7 Consider Corn Marketing Loan Options

Jim Hilker and David Schweikhardt
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Farm Bill) contains provisions for a corn marketing loan during the 1994 crop year. While there are several ways for farmers to use this new alternative, the basic idea is that they can pay back their government loans at the market price rather than the loan rate if the market price is lower than the loan rate.

This accomplishes several things. First, it allows corn producers to receive a price equal to at least the loan rate without having to store the crop for nine months. Second, less corn would be forfeited to the government. Third, the market price can go below the loan rate if the market called for it, which would move more corn into the market, reducing the potential for accumulating large surpluses.

Marketing Alternatives/Decisions

The marketing loan program will be administered by local ASCS offices. Farmers should check with the ASCS office for final details. To be eligible for this program, farmers must have participated in the 1994 government feed grain program, and the corn must be eligible for a non-recourse loan. Farmers must still have a beneficial interest in the corn and must provide production evidence. There are fees to participate in this program.

The usefulness of this program depends on the outlook for corn prices. If corn prices stay above the loan rate plus interest, the marketing loan will not be used. However, if corn prices go below the loan rate, even for a short period, it is a tool farmers may need to know how to use.

This is also a year farmers may have to forecast the lowest price as well as the highest during the marketing year. The September USDA Crop Production Report gave an indication of how low prices may go.

The "market price" that the ASCS will use is the Posted County Price (PCP). This price is calculated using predetermined spreads for each county from the Toledo or Cincinnati price. The spread is subtracted from each price and the PCP is the higher of the two.

Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)

There are at least three ways to use this program. The first one is to put corn under loan. If corn is put under loan and the price goes below or stays below the loan rate, a participant will be allowed to repay the loan plus interest at the PCP.

For example, if corn is put under loan at a \$1.86 loan rate and the loan is immediately repaid at a PCP of \$1.76, participants will have gained a 10-cent marketing loan payment. There

LDP Example Corn Marketing Loan for Gratiot County		
1. Determine Posted County Price (PCP)		
	Cincinnati	Toledo
Cash, No. 2 Yellow Corn	\$2.05/bu.	\$1.94/bu.
Gratiot County Differential Spread	-.31/bu.	-.24/bu.
Gratiot County PCP	\$1.74/bu.	\$1.70/bu.
2. Determine Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)		
Loan Rate for Gratiot County		\$1.81
PCP (higher of either Cincinnati or Toledo)		-1.74
Net Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)		\$.07/bu.

are advantages and disadvantages to this approach.

If the price then goes up, participants will have added ten cents to their total price. Participants can sell their corn and not have to pay storage. The disadvantage is that participants no longer have any downside price protection if the corn is stored. In addition, that corn is no longer eligible for the cheaper government loan rate if the price decreases.

To eliminate the burden of taking out a loan just to pay it back, there is another option that allows farmers to collect a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). (This has nothing to do with the regular deficiency payment.)

There are two methods of executing an LDP. In both of these methods, the corn can still be used to deliver on a forward contract. Farmers will need to work closely with their elevator to use this alternative. It appears that LDP must be executed first. Once the LDP is used, that corn is no longer eligible for the loan.

One method is to wait until after harvest and then execute a form CCC-666 at the ASCS office. This allows the farmer to lock in the PCP that is in effect on the day the form is approved. Farmers must make sure to go in early enough to give ASCS personnel time to approve the form before the end of the day. The LDP received will be the difference between the county loan rate and the county PCP in effect that day. For example, if the loan rate is \$1.86 and the PCP is \$1.76, the farmer would receive a 10-cent loan deficiency payment times the quantity requested on the CCC-666 form.

The other method is to execute a form CCC-709 at the ASCS office prior to harvest. At that time, producers can specify the quantity on which they would like to receive the LDP. This amount can be revised at any time prior to harvest, but not after harvest. Farmers should check to see if they will be eligible for a loan if the LDP is zero at harvest.

This method has the advantage of allowing producers to harvest their grain, deliver it to an elevator, and lock in the LDP based on the PCP in effect that day without having to make a trip to the ASCS office.

Producers can then wait until after harvest to go to the office and present evidence of delivery and dates. The PCP may not be the largest on the

FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

date it is delivered, but it is difficult to forecast the exact date when it will be largest. The odds are that PCP will be the greatest during the harvest season.

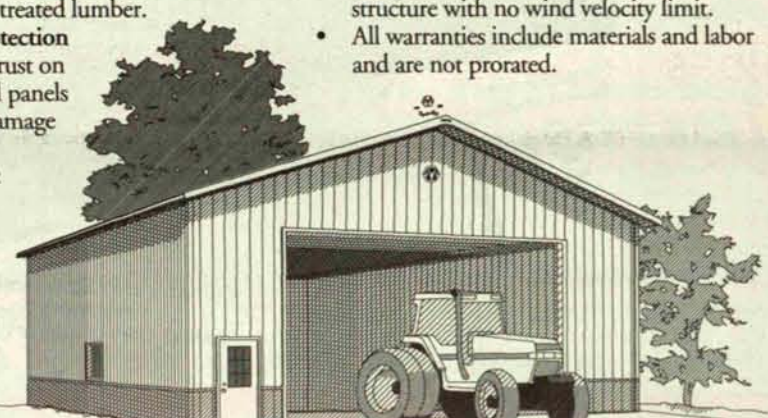
ASCS has the Details

Again, all the details of these programs are not included here. There may also be changes as ASCS learns from implementation.

The use of these programs will require farmers to work closely with the local ASCS office to understand all of these marketing alternatives.

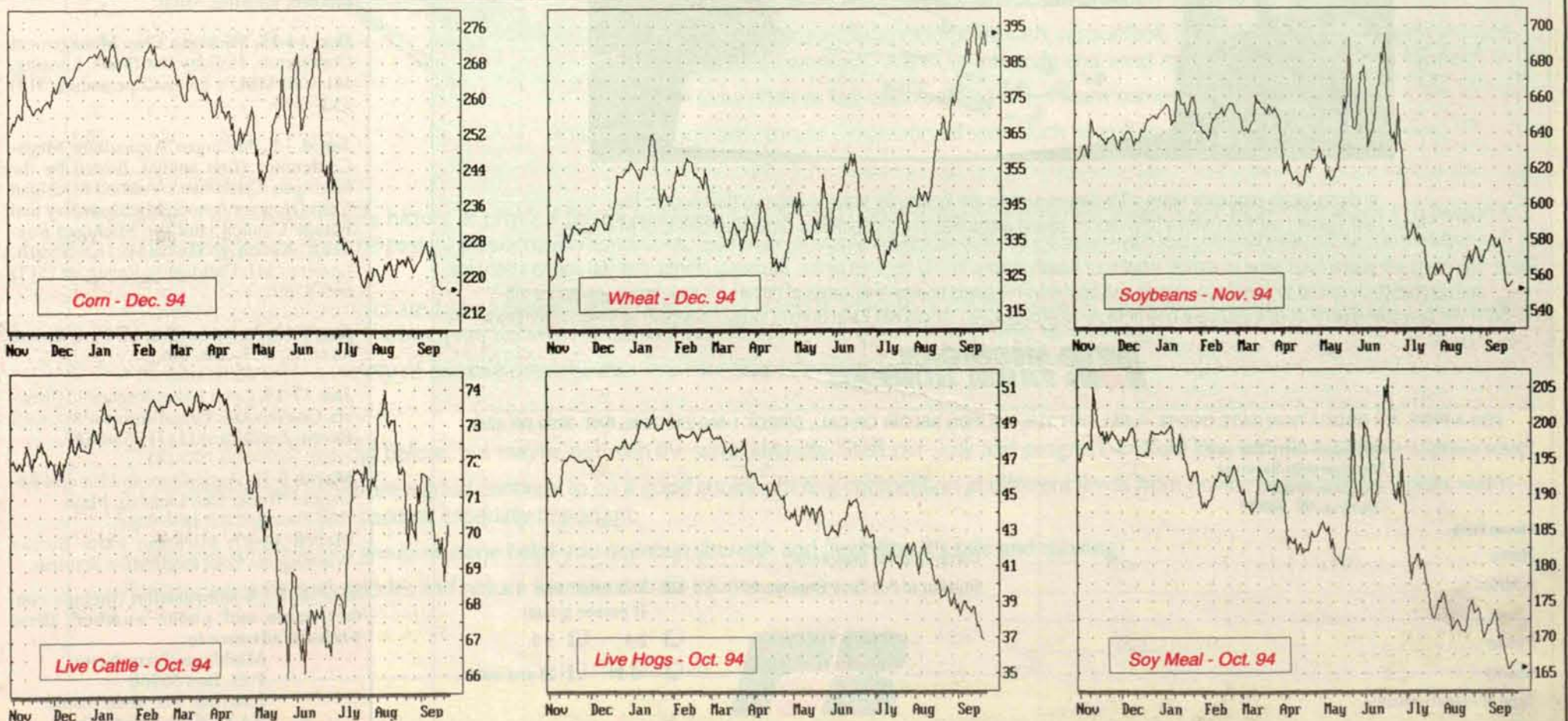
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Charts Provided by Knight-Ridder Financial

Warning Signs of Nutritional Health Risk

Disease — Any disease, illness or chronic condition which causes you to change the way you eat, or makes it hard for you to eat, puts your nutritional health at risk. Four out of five adults have chronic diseases that are affected by diet. Confusion or memory loss that keeps getting worse is estimated to affect one out of five or more older adults. This can make it hard to remember what, when or if you have eaten. Feeling sad or depressed, which happens to about one in eight older adults can cause big changes in appetite, digestion, energy level, weight and well-being.

Eating Poorly

Eating too little and eating too much both lead to poor health. Eating the same foods day after day or not eating fruit, vegetables and milk products daily will also cause poor nutritional health. One in five adults skip meals daily. Only 13 percent of adults eat the minimum amount of fruit and vegetables needed. One in four older adults drink too much alcohol.

Many health problems become worse if you drink more than one or two alcoholic beverages a day.

Tooth Loss/Mouth Pain — A healthy mouth, teeth and gums are needed to eat. Missing, loose or rotten teeth or dentures that don't fit properly or cause mouth sores make it hard to eat.

Economic Hardship — As many as 40 percent of older Americans have incomes of less than \$6,000 per year. Having less, or choosing to spend less, than \$25-\$30 per week for food makes it very hard to get the foods you need to stay healthy.

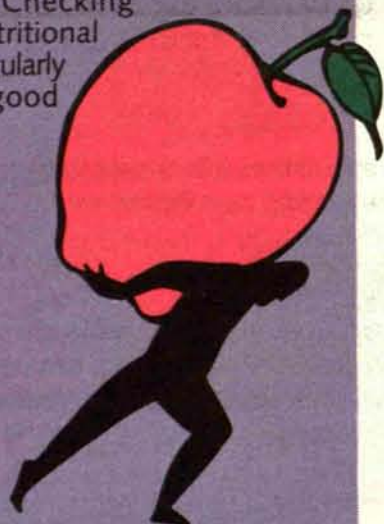
Reduced Social Contact — One-third of all older people live alone. Being with people daily has a positive effect on morale, well-being and eating.

Multiple Medicines — Many older Americans must take medicines for health problems. Almost half of older Americans take multiple medicines daily. Growing older may change the way we respond to drugs. The more medicines you take, the greater the chance for side effects such as increased or decreased appetite, change in taste, constipation, weakness, drowsiness, diarrhea, nausea, and others. Vitamins or minerals when taken in large doses act like drugs and can cause harm. Alert your doctor to everything you take.

Involuntary Weight Loss/Gain — Losing or gaining a lot of weight when you are not trying to do so is an important warning sign that must not be ignored. Being overweight or underweight also increases your chance of poor health.

Needs Assistance in Self Care — although most older people are able to eat, one of every five have trouble walking, shopping, buying and cooking food, especially as they get older.

Most older people lead full and productive lives. But as age increases, risk of frailty and health problems increase. Checking your nutritional health regularly makes good sense.



Air Travel and the Common Cold... Tips to Ease Discomfort.

Air travel probably won't make your cold worse, but landing with a cold can cause severe ear pain. The problem is air pressure. At high altitudes air pressure is low, but as you descend air pressure increases.

When you have a cold, the tiny tube (eustachian tube) that connects your throat and middle ear is often blocked. Normal the eustachian tube equalizes air pressure in your middle ear with the increasing outside pressure. Blockage in the tube leaves a vacuum in your middle ear, leading to build up of painful pressure on your eardrum. Your body's attempt to fill the vacuum causes fluid and sometimes blood to enter the middle ear.

To prevent ear pain when you fly with a cold, take a decongestant at least one hour before landing. Also use a decongestant nasal spray before descent. These over the counter medicines help keep your eustachian tubes open. Sipping a non-alcoholic drink on take-off and landing also helps keep these tubes open.

Drink plenty of non-alcoholic beverages whenever you fly, but especially when you have a cold. Liquids keep your throat and sinus membranes from drying, and they keep sinus secretions thin and easy to clear.

Taking Care of Crowns and Bridges



Keep your mouth healthy, prevent bone loss and discourage periodontal disease by having your dentist regularly check the condition of crowns and bridges. And pay special attention to home care techniques to ensure your dental health and comfort.

If you have crowns and bridges, here's what you can do:

Although you can't get cavities in your tooth replacements, they are potential food and plaque traps. To keep supporting teeth and gums healthy, brush and floss around the edges of the crown or bridge diligently or use interdental cleaners (ask your dentist or hygienist about these devices that clean between teeth). Try rinsing with an anti-plaque mouthwash before brushing. Use a toothbrush with a small, tapered head to reach hard-to-clean areas.

Rinse your mouth with water after every meals. Rinsing will remove any trapped food from your mouth and fixture.

Keep your mouth clean. Brush your gums and the roof of your mouth with a soft brush (soften the bristles first in a warm-water soak). You'll clean away food particles and keep your gums healthy.

Among the school age children, whose parents had described them as sugar sensitive prior to the study, the three diets made absolutely no difference on any of 39 different behavioral measures. Among younger children, differences turned up in three of 31 measurements. The first difference was noted on parents' ratings of their children's school performance.

Their behavior actually improved on the sugar diets. The other two measurements showing differences involved a pegboard test. The youngsters moved more slowly on the test when they were eating sugar.

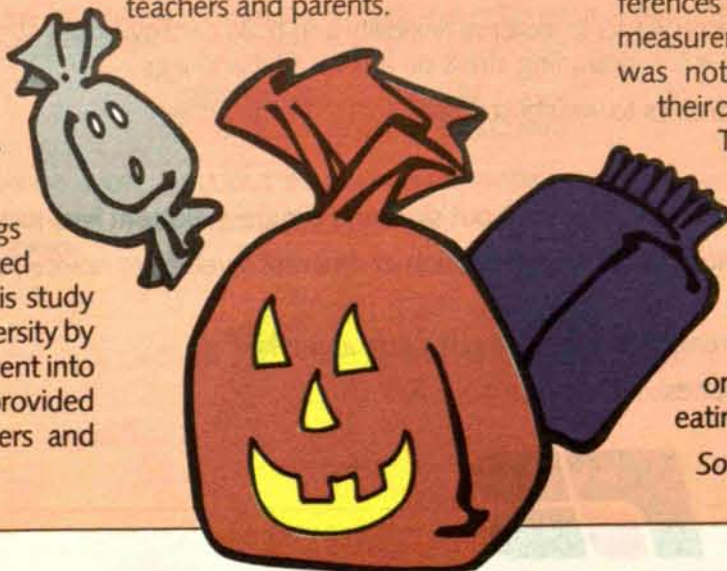
Source: The Sugar Association, Inc., Washington, D.C.

TRICK OR TREAT?

Don't be scared to treat your little monsters to sugar snacks this Halloween. The newest research shows no evidence that sugar has an adverse effect on children's behavior. Those results are reported from a study funded by the National Institutes of Health and the food industry. It suggests—contrary to popular belief—sugar does not cause hyperactivity in children.

The report supports the findings of several other studies conducted over the last few years. In this study conducted at Vanderbilt University by Mark L. Wolraich, dietitians went into the homes of subjects and provided prepared meals for youngsters and

their families. The families followed three different diets, one sweetened with sugar, one with aspartame, and one with saccharin. Throughout the study, the youngster's behavior was monitored and tested by researchers, teachers and parents.



Style

Self Care - A Concern for Rural Women



The unique needs of rural women were the focus of a women's health strategy session in the nation's capitol this summer. Dr. Elaine Eaker, Sc.D., senior epidemiologist at the Marshfield Medical Research Foundation expressed concern over access to good primary care for rural women.

"Often, women will go to their doctors for reproduction issues, but not prevention. Doctors need to be more aware of conducting screening tests and preventive care such as pap smears and checking cholesterol during these visits," said Eaker.

And she encourages women to be more involved in their own health care decisions. "It's not that we shouldn't trust doctors. Rather women need to take more responsibility for their own health. In order to do that she needs more information. Fortunately, there are lots of good health articles available today in women's magazines and in health newsletters," says Eaker.

"A woman doesn't need to know all the guidelines, but she should definitely be informed enough about her health needs and risk factors to ask for a mammogram, for example, or to ask about checking her cholesterol level."

Good, open communication with the physician is essential. "A woman should feel that her physician is listening and responding to her concerns and questions," Eaker recommends.

Making the shift to more active involvement in health care can be simple. Here are a couple of examples: A woman could open discussion with her physician by asking for information about smoking cessation programs, by inquiring whether estrogen replacement therapy is appropriate for her, or scheduling a complete physical exam and discussing the follow-up reports thoroughly with her physician.

"Rural women face unique dilemmas," says Dr. Eaker. "Evidence indicates that women in rural settings may be more likely to suffer from depression compared to women in urban settings. To the extent this may be due to isolation, underemployment, financial concerns and heavy family and work demands needs further investigation.

In addition, rural women may be more susceptible to chronic disease problems such as high-fat diets, obesity, diabetes and alcoholism.

Dr. Elaine Eaker is primarily involved in the study of women's health issues and cardiovascular disease epidemiology. Before joining the Marshfield Medical Research Foundation, Dr. Eaker served in various capacities at the Centers for Disease Control and the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. She received her master and doctorate degrees in science from Harvard University.

Quick Tips

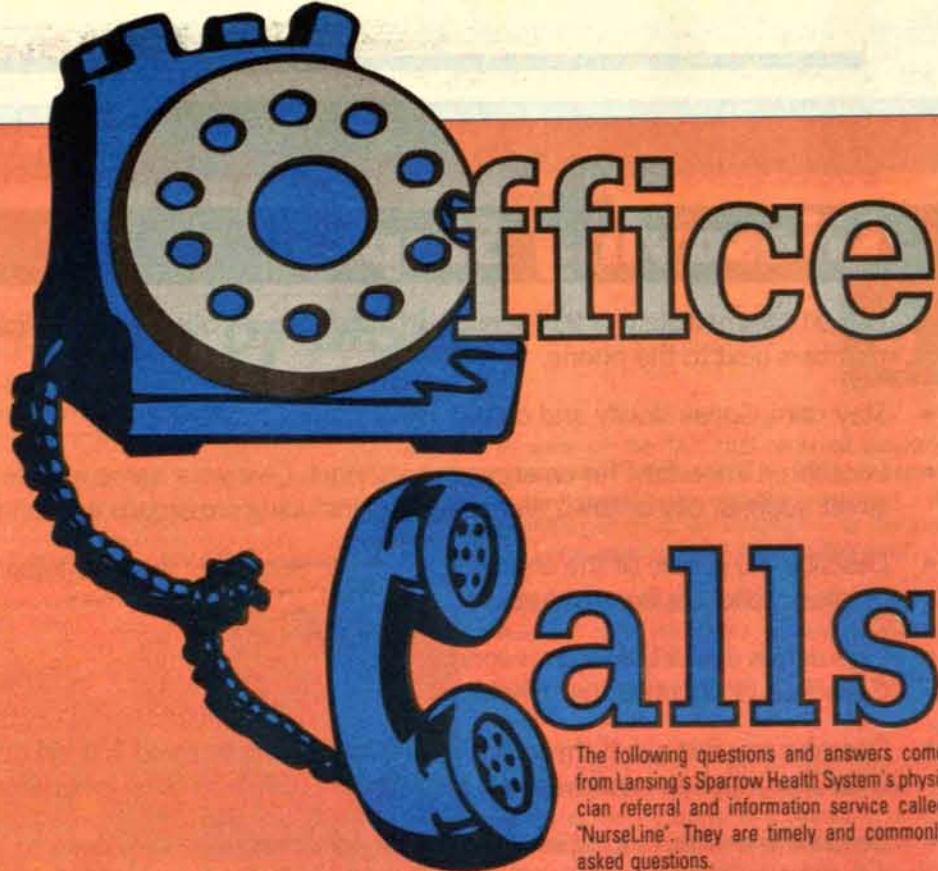
Nutrition research gives new meaning to "three squares." A recent study has found that eating nine small meals a day may be better for the arteries than eating the same amount of food in the traditional three meals a day.

Related research supports findings that frequent snacking can be a factor in lowering blood-cholesterol and may help to control blood sugar levels for people with diabetes.

It's important to remember, however, that eating more often means increasing eating frequency — not increasing calories.

Hold the phone! Don't cradle the phone between your neck and shoulder. Instead, take the time to hold the phone to your ear and you'll avoid the muscle strain and nerve compression that results in pain to your neck and back. If you spend a lot of time on the phone, consider using a headset.

The latest exercise guidelines recommend at least 30 minutes of daily exercise, such as brisk walking. The exercise doesn't have to be strenuous and you can break it up into intervals. Frequent and regular are key words to remember.



The following questions and answers come from Lansing's Sparrow Health System's physician referral and information service called "NurseLine". They are timely and commonly asked questions.

Q: I sometimes experience a ringing in my ears. What causes this?

A: As many as 30 million Americans experience tinnitus, described by many people as a high-pitched, ringing sound in the ears. Some people also describe tinnitus as a buzzing, whistling, popping, hissing or roaring.

Tinnitus is a symptom which can be caused by many different problems. Exposure to loud noises, blows to the head, large doses of certain drugs such as aspirin, anemia, hypertension, stress and impacted earwax are among just a few of the causes.

To most effectively treat tinnitus, the cause must be found and eliminated. However, if the cause cannot be identified, then the tinnitus may have to be treated. Drug therapy, vitamin therapy, biofeedback, hypnosis and tinnitus maskers have been effective in helping many tinnitus sufferers.

If you experience persistent tinnitus, you should consult your doctor who can check for factors associated with tinnitus such as blood pressure, kidney function, drug intake, diet or allergies.

Greg Stewart MS, CCC-A. Mr. Stewart is an audiologist at Sparrow Hospital.

Q: Can snoring be harmful? Is there a medical procedure that can be performed to help someone who snores?

Note: This is the conclusion of a two-part answer on snoring by Dr. Holmes

A: Snoring may be a symptom of obstructive sleep apnea when loud snoring is interrupted with a cessation of breathing. This is a serious medical problem, especially if these episodes last more than ten seconds and occur more than seven times per hour. A sleep study in a sleep laboratory will confirm the diagnosis. Apnea patients have reduced blood oxygen levels to the brain, forcing the snorer to sleep in a lighter stage which keeps the breathing passage muscles tighter to prevent their collapse. As a result, the snorer does not obtain the benefit of deep sleep, leading to a tendency to fall asleep during daytime hours, at work or while driving to and from work. Long-term effects of obstructive sleep apnea are increased blood pressure, enlarged heart, and irregular heartbeat.

For the mild or occasional snorer, most physicians recommend increased exercise and losing weight. Tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antihistamines and alcohol should be avoided prior to retiring. Heavy meals three hours prior to bedtime should be avoided. Regular sleep patterns and sleeping at least seven hours at night are recommended. Sleeping on one side rather than the back with the entire head of the bed elevated will help. Finally, allow the snorer to get to sleep first.

For disruptive snorers or those with symptoms of sleep apnea, a medical evaluation with particular attention to the nose, mouth, palate, throat and neck is recommended. For snorers who have failed self-help remedies and those with obstructive sleep apnea who fail medical treatment, surgery may be necessary to lighten up flabby tissue and expand the air passages. A UvuloPalatoPlasty (UPP) was developed to correct the problem snorer, and, until recently, required an overnight stay in the hospital. This was a one stage operation and felt like a tonsillectomy. Now available in the Lansing area is a Laser-Assisted UvuloPalatoPlasty (LAUP), which is performed in the doctor's office under local anesthesia. The laser is used to trim and reshape the uvula, which has no real function. Usually, three to five treatments are required spaced about four weeks apart. Each session takes about fifteen minutes. A mild sore throat for a few days is expected, but eating and speech are not effected. In most cases, patients can resume their normal activities within a day after each session, an immediate reduction in snoring is common after the first session, and 85 percent of patients are cured of their snoring at the conclusion of the treatment sessions. A LAUP can be performed on adults over 16 years of age. Under 15 years of age, snorers may be benefited by a tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. Should you wish further information about snoring and obstructive sleep apnea, please contact your primary care physician or an otolaryngologist.

Robert Holmes, MD. Dr. Robert Holmes is an otolaryngologist at Head & Neck Surgery Consultants, 2045 Asher Court, East Lansing, and Chief of the Medical Staff at Sparrow Hospital.

Medical Emergency at Home — Lifesaving Steps

- Dial 911 immediately. If 911 service isn't available in your area, keep emergency phone numbers next to the phone.
- Stay calm. Speak slowly and clearly.
- Location is important for emergency personnel. Give your name, phone number, street address, city or town and directions, including crossroads and landmarks.
- Describe the nature of the emergency. Let the dispatcher know whether you need medical, police, or fire assistance.
- Give details about the victim's condition. Is he/she bleeding? Conscious or unconscious? Choking?
- Describe any first aid. If the victim is receiving or has received first aid describe what kind, such as cardiovascular resuscitation (CPR), or other emergency care.
- Describe the victim's location. Emergency personnel need to know if the victim is in an upstairs room, bathroom floor, barn or shed, or open field.
- Listen carefully and write down instructions. If necessary ask the dispatcher to repeat instructions or information.
- Stay on the line. Do not hang up until the dispatcher tells you.
- Make sure that your house or accident site is lighted and visible to emergency personnel. Your house number should be visible from the road.



What is a Heart Attack?

The human heart basically is a muscle that pumps blood. It has its own blood vessels, the coronary arteries, that nourish it and keep it alive. In most cases when a heart attack occurs, fatty deposits (composed mostly of cholesterol) have lined the coronary arteries. As these deposits build up, they progressively narrow the arteries and decrease or stop the flow of blood to the heart. When there's a decreased flow of blood to the heart, the heart muscle may be damaged, but when there's a complete blockage of the flow of blood so that the heart can't get the oxygen and food it needs, a part of the heart may die. This is a heart attack.

A heart attack most often results when a blood clot forms in a narrowed artery and blocks the flow of blood to the part of the heart muscle supplied by that artery. Doctors call this form of heart attack a coronary thrombosis or myocardial infarction.

When a heart attack occurs, the dying part of the heart may trigger electrical activity that causes ventricular fibrillation. Ventricular fibrillation is an uncoordinated twitching that replaces the smooth, measured contractions that cause blood to be pumped to the organs of the body. In many cases, if trained medical professionals are immediately available, they can get the heart beating again by using electrical shock and/or drugs.

If the heart can be kept beating and not too much heart muscle is damaged, small blood vessels may gradually reroute blood around blocked arteries. This is the heart's own way of compensating for the clogged artery, and it is called collateral circulation.

The key to surviving a heart attack is promptly recognizing the warning signals and getting immediate medical attention.

How to Recognize a Heart Attack

If you feel an uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of your chest (that may spread to your shoulders, neck or arms) and your discomfort lasts for more than a few minutes, you could be having a heart attack. Lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath also may occur, although not all symptoms necessarily occur. Sharp, stabbing twinges, on the other hand usually aren't signals of a heart attack.

When a person has these symptoms, it's natural for him or her to deny what's happening. No one wants to think that he might be having a heart attack. But before your shrug off the symptoms, it's important to know that as many as 300,000 heart attack victims died before reaching the hospital last year, many of them because they refused to take their symptoms seriously.

What should you do if you think you might be having a heart attack? If you're uncomfortable for more than a few minutes, call your local emergency medical service (EMS) immediately. If the EMS isn't available, get to the hospital offering emergency cardiac care as soon as possible.

Here's some things you can do to be prepared in case of a cardiac emergency. Know in advance which route from home or work will take you to the hospital the quickest. You might even discuss possible choices with your doctor. Another option is to call your nearest American Heart Association and ask which recognized emergency

medical service and hospitals cover your area. Keep emergency information and phone numbers where you can find it easily and develop a "buddy system" with someone you know.

How To Reduce your Risk of Heart Attack (and Stroke)

Have your blood pressure checked at least one a year. High blood pressure is a major risk factor in heart attack and it's the major risk factor in stroke.

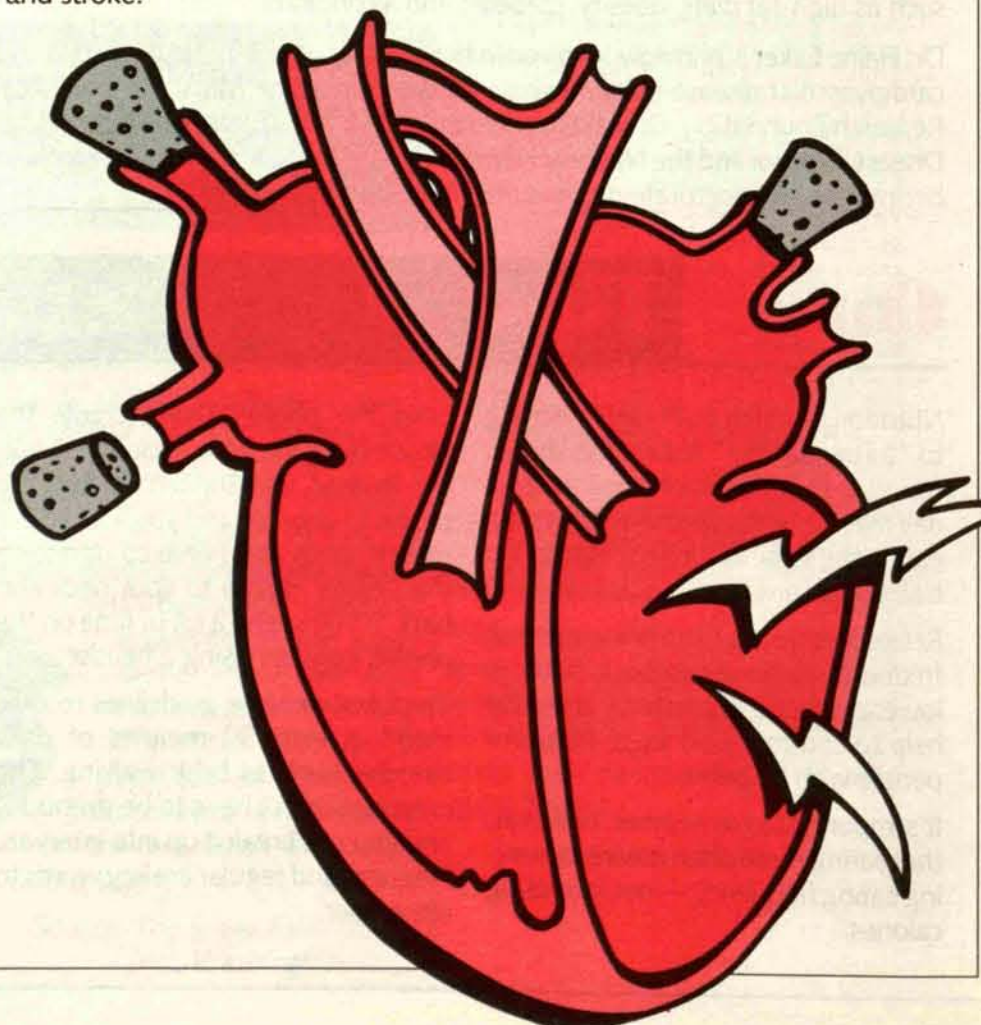
Don't smoke cigarettes. Smoking increases the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Eat Nutritious Food in Moderate Amounts. Eat a well-balanced diet that's low in cholesterol and saturated fats and moderate in sodium (salt). Fatty foods contribute to atherosclerosis, which itself is a major contributor to heart attack and stroke.

Have Regular Medical Checkups. Risk factors such as high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, excess weight, lack of exercise and cigarette smoking call for medical supervision to prevent a heart attack or stroke.

Source: American Heart Association

MEDICAL FOCUS



Michigan Wheat Growers Being Hunted by MSU

"Wanted: farmers interested in growing wheat better. Call (517) 353-9545."

If Michigan State University Extension agronomists had their druthers, the above classified advertisement would appear throughout rural Michigan.

"We want to create a partnership between growers, Extension agricultural agents and research agronomists," says Larry Copeland, MSU Extension agronomist. "Our goal is to make 100 bushel-per-acre wheat yields commonplace in Michigan."

To reach that goal, Copeland and his colleagues, Rick Ward, MSU wheat breeder, and Steve Poindexter, MSU Extension agricultural agent in Saginaw County, are recruiting farmers for a five-year wheat growing improvement project.

Copeland says he would like to see growers from all over the state volunteer for the project before fall wheat planting begins.

"This project will take the most promising management practices from MSU to member growers in a coordinated, comprehensive program intended to substantially improve their production practices," Copeland says.

"This will include blending firsthand grower experience with our best management recommendations to help all of us develop a better knowledge of the wheat crop and how it should be managed for maximum yield under Michigan conditions," he says.

A continued decline in Michigan wheat yields and acreage has MSU looking for producers interested in on-farm research and demonstrations.



The primary reason for the program is the decline in wheat acreage planted in Michigan each fall and a lackluster statewide yield average.

In the 1970s, Michigan growers harvested around 900,000 acres of wheat. By 1992, the acreage harvested had dropped to about 630,000 acres.

In spite of the fact that most of the new wheat varieties released by MSU in recent years have yield potentials exceeding 100 bushels per acre, the average over the past six years is around 49 bushels per acre.

The trend puzzles agronomists and worries leaders of Michigan's milling industry, which depends almost entirely on the state's production of soft white and soft red wheat.

"We really don't know the reason," Copeland says. "Possibly it is a matter of climate, or perhaps it's because wheat planting is treated as an afterthought as the crop year winds down or maybe it's a lack of good management. Whatever the reason, we'd like to solve it because winter wheat should be a lucrative cash crop for Michigan growers."

More information about the wheat growing campaign can be obtained from Copeland by calling him at (517) 353-9545 or by contacting the county MSU Extension office.

MSU Wheat Program Trials

The MSU Wheat Improvement Project will demonstrate different management practices in strip tests on different participating farms. The following provides a guideline that each producer can elect to demonstrate.

1. Plant Populations

- 1.5 million plants per acre
- 1.8 million plants per acre
- 2.2 million plants per acre

2. Date of Planting

Results will be compiled on the basis of whether the participant planted:

- before the fly-free date,
- from the fly-free date to 10 days after the fly-free date,
- more than 10 days after the fly-free date.

3. Single Versus Split Nitrogen Application

A total of 80 pounds of spring-applied nitrogen will be recommended for all participants, who will then elect to either apply all nitrogen as urea prior to spring thaw and before spring greenup; or apply 40 pounds prior to spring thaw and another 40 pounds at growth stage 6.

4. Fungicide Use for Disease Control

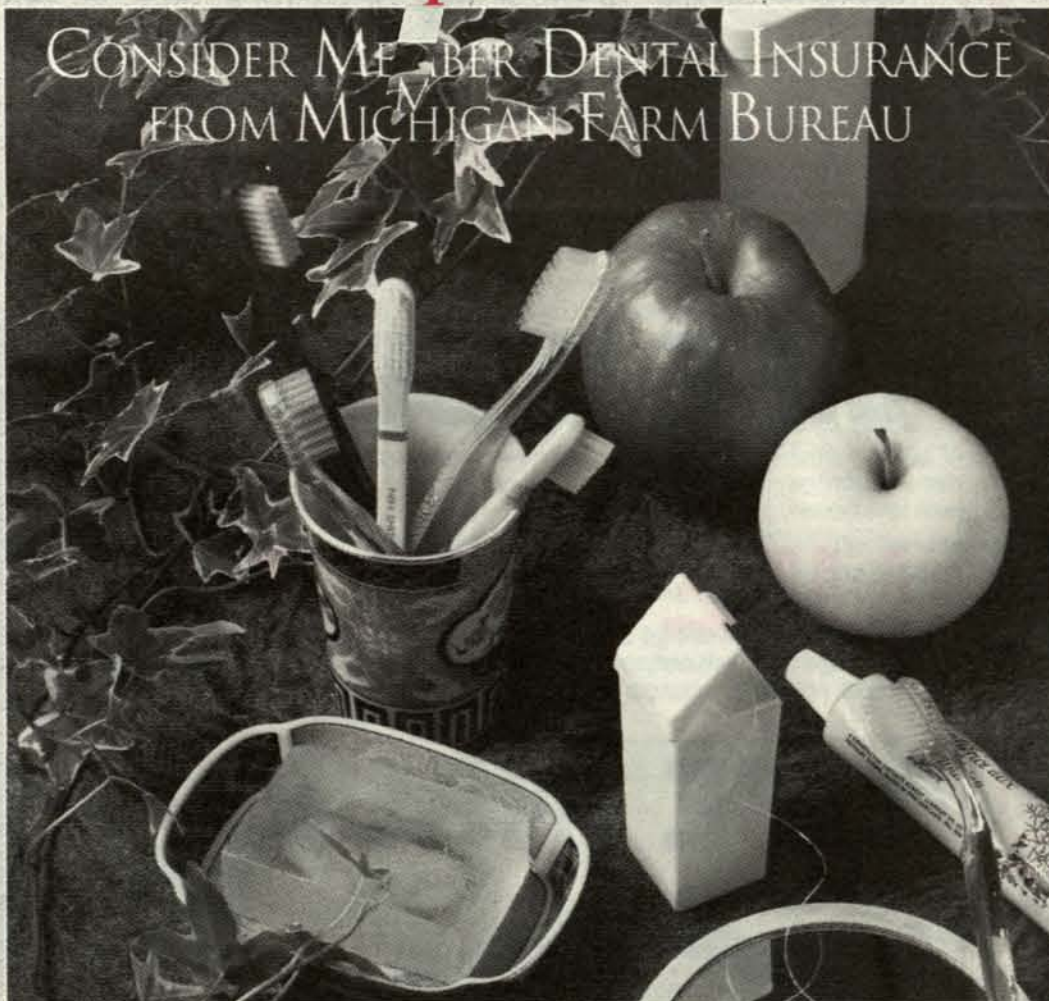
Participants who choose to apply a fungicide based on scouting may apply either Baleton or Tilt; however, each must be applied in accordance with the label.

5. Other Information

Other information collected from each participant will include variety planted, herbicide(s) used, total fertility program etc.

Participation in this program will be formalized with growers signing an agreement to follow one or more practices. Field records will be used to document these practices and yields obtained. These will be analyzed on a regional and state basis and reported annually.

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Please mail to: Michigan Farm Bureau
Membership Services
P.O. Box 30960
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Please Print

Name _____
Address _____
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County _____

10 Telfarm Dairy Management Stats - How do you Compare?

Sherrill B. Nott, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Future profitability in dairy farming is more likely if your farm can perform better than the average in several categories. This discusses how a group of Michigan dairy farmers did in 1992 compared to 1991. The base data and the methods used will help you judge how you are doing. The trends discussed are continuing in 1993.

The net farm profit from operations on a 200 dairy farm sample averaged \$47,572 in 1992. The managers kept records with MSU Extension's Telfarm project. Each farmer provided inventory information, a crop report and 75 percent or more of gross sales came from milk.

A similar group in 1991 made \$42,946. However, the 1992 farms averaged 113.63 cows, or 6.96 cows more than in 1991. To equalize for size, many of the items below are given on a per cow basis. The net farm profit averaged \$419 per cow in 1992, up \$16 from 1991.

Gross income in 1992 was \$353,531. Milk sales were the largest single item averaging \$2,515 per cow, or \$278 more than in 1991. Milk price received was \$13.44 per cwt. for 18,712 pounds of milk sold per cow. This is after all adjustments for fat and quality premiums.

In 1991, the price was \$12.27 and the amount was 18,233 pounds. The 2.6 percent increase in milk sold per cow is about on the long-term trend.

The combination of price, quantity and more cows gave \$47,126 more to the average farm in 1992 compared to 1991. This more than offset the losses on the cropping side.

Cash crop sales were over \$3,000 lower in 1992, and inventory slipped by nearly \$7,000. Corn grain was the big loser. Combined, these crop items were about \$100 per cow lower in 1992.

Cull cow sales averaged \$329 per cow in 1992. Change in livestock inventory added another \$103 per cow to gross income. In 1991, inventory changes were only \$40 per

cow. This may have changed in 1993 depending on how healthy the herd is kept, the number of calves born and the inventory price used per head.

Expenses included cash interest, depreciation, hired labor costs and all other cash business items. In 1992, these expenses totalled \$305,958, or \$2,693 per cow. In 1991, they were \$2,525 per cow. They went up 6.6 percent on a per cow basis during 1992, and could do so again in 1993.

Purchased supplements and feed crops were \$600 per cow in 1992. That's 16 percent more than in 1991.

Flood and drought conditions around the country in 1993, may have resulted in higher feed prices which could make the increase even more in 1993. However, a lot of the cost increase was due to special weather problems in 1992; they didn't appear to repeat in 1993.

Cash wages and related labor expenses averaged \$366 per cow in 1992. This was up 8.8 percent on a per cow basis. This was unexpected given 1992 was a recession

year when managers might have been able to hold down the increases.

Depreciation was \$264 per cow in 1992. This is income tax depreciation on buildings and equipment. It is 6 percent more than in 1991, and probably reflects new investments. Individuals control this item by the capital purchases they choose to make.

Interest paid averaged \$131 per cow in 1992. This was 18 percent lower than in 1991, reflecting lower interest rates being charged. This dropped further in 1993 as managers refinanced old debts to lower interest rates. Capital replacements will also be at the new, lower rates.

Crop costs averaged \$254 per cow in 1992. These cover fertilizer, lime, seed, chemicals and supplies. These farms averaged to sell \$139 of cash crops in 1992. If your farm feeds all it grows, this cost could be \$139 lower and still reflect good management.

All other expenses totaled \$1,078 per cow. These were up 5 percent compared to 1991. Several of these items vary a little with milk per cow. Examples are veterinary and medical, milk hauling, electricity and supplies.

Crop yields on owned land were 101 bushels of corn, 13.2 tons of corn silage and 3.6 tons of hay per acre. They were all lower than in 1991. Yields for oats in 1992 were 58 bushels and wheat was 55 bushels per acre, both up from 1991. Yields on rented land were lower.

Other profit measures indicate the average performance of Michigan dairy farms in 1992. Management income was -\$2,540; profits were not enough to pay 6 percent on capital and \$6.25 per hour for unpaid family and operator labor.

Labor income was \$14,754. The rate earned on owned capital was 5.2 percent. Net worth as a percent of assets averaged 75 percent as of Jan. 1, 1993, which is the same as a .25 debt to asset ratio.

These figures indicate what your competition is doing. If you plan to be in business 10 years from now, you should be doing as well or better.



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Aspen Lodge Kick Off Generates \$27,825 for MFB Kettunen Center Campaign

Seven County Farm Bureaus were honored Sept. 14 in East Lansing, at the Kick Off Dinner for Farm Bureau's Aspen Lodge renovation campaign.

Pacesetter County Farm Bureaus - Berrien, Calhoun, Eaton, Genesee, Kalamazoo, Ottawa, Isabella, and Saginaw - were recognized for pledging at least \$5,000. Guest rooms at the Aspen Lodge will be named in honor of each of these Pacesetter counties.

A spirited after-dinner auction of donated items raised an additional \$4,180. In total, the dinner and Kick Off event netted the Aspen Lodge campaign a total of \$27,825.

Michigan Farm Bureau has pledged to raise \$150,000 in support of the campaign to renovate the Aspen Lodge at the Kettunen Center near Cadillac. The Center, formally known as "Camp Kett," is used to train 4-H leaders and youth from across the state.

Campaign pledge cards have been distributed to all county Farm Bureau offices. For more information on contributing to the campaign, contact Mike Kovacic, director of MFB's Information and Public Relations, 1-800-292-2680, Ext. 6586.



11 John Deere Unveils 8000 Series Tractors from 160 to 225 Horsepower

John Deere has developed four all-new 8000 Series tractor models, ranging from 160 to 225 PTO horsepower. The tractors establish new standards in control, visibility, maneuverability, power and ease of service in this size class.

The John Deere 8000 Series tractors include the 160-horsepower 8100, 180-horsepower 8200, and 200-horsepower 8300, which replace the 4560, 4760, and 4960 models in the product line. The largest model, the 225-horsepower 8400, provides the most PTO horsepower and hitch lift capacity of any row-crop tractor in the industry.

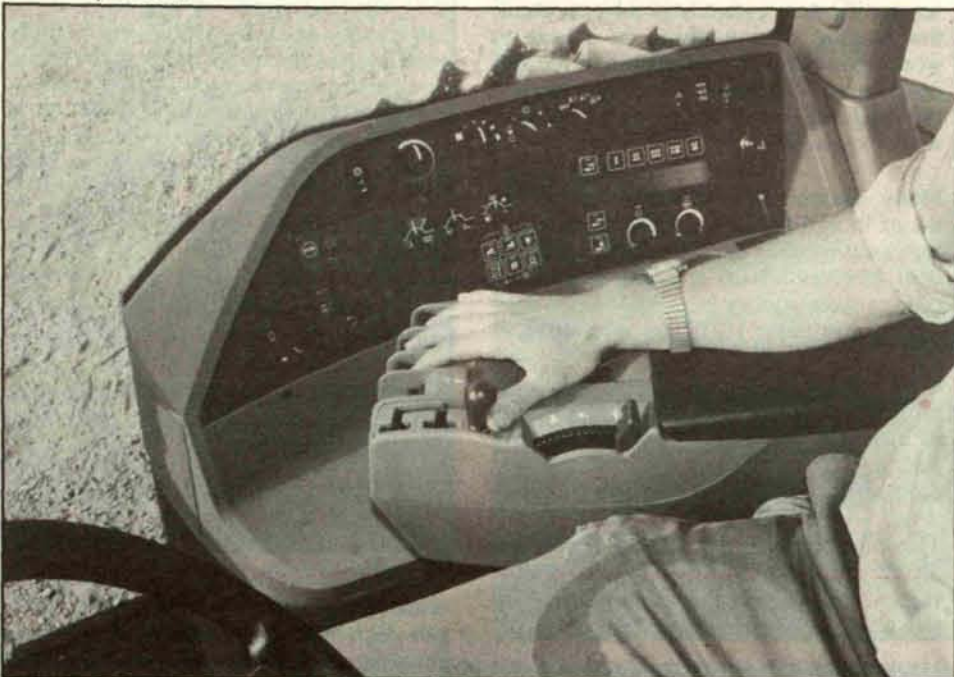
The tractors feature a John Deere-designed-and-manufactured powertrain. They use proven electronic technology to provide fingertip control of the transmission, SCVs, PTO, and hitch; precise engine performance; self-diagnostic capabilities; and complete compatibility with options like row guidance and electrohydraulic depth control.

The chassis design is so innovative and unique that it enables these tractors, equipped with 16.9R-30 MFWD tires set at 60-inch spacing, to have a 16-foot turning radius—the shortest of any competitive tractor in this class.

Fingertip Controls and CommandView Cab

Effective use of reliable electronic technology, widely used in automotive and industrial applications for years, combined with the shape, placement, and color of the controls, provide a system that optimizes operator comfort and ease of operation while minimizing hand and arm movements. The CommandARM moves with the seat when the operator makes adjustments or swivels it, so the controls are always at the operator's fingertips.

One of the most distinctive features of the tractors is the CommandARM that places the controls for the transmission, throttle, SCVs, hitch and PTO in the armrest of the seat for convenient fingertip operation. The secondary tractor controls and the vehicle monitor are located on the right-hand console, within easy view and reach of the operator.



The monitor, located to the right side of the cab as opposed to the standard dash, provides status information on machine systems and has the capability to display diagnostic codes directly to the operator—a first in John Deere tractors. Analog gauges monitor engine coolant temperature and fuel level.

The 8000 Series CommandView cab provides unobstructed visibility to the front tires (for row-crop applications), over the hood, to the sides, and to the rear hitch with 62 square feet of glass area. There are no cab side posts

nor beltline supports for the one-piece front glass panel to restrict the operator's vision.

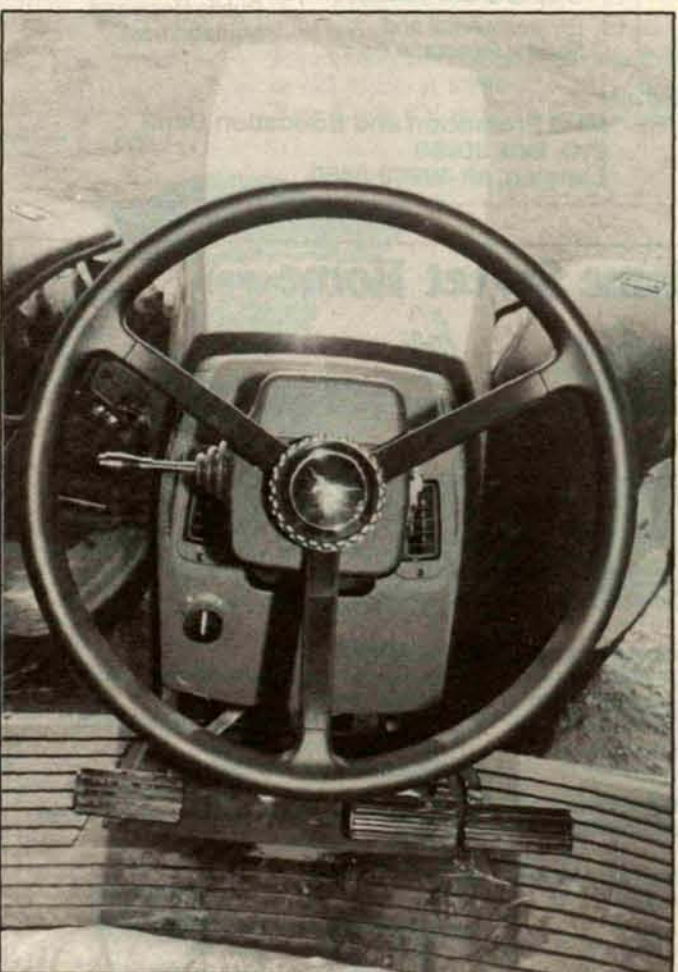
For added comfort, the fully adjustable air suspension seat swivels 20 degrees to the right and 15 degrees to the left.

The CommandView cab has 65 percent more interior volume than the 60 Series SoundGard Body®. Low interior sound levels and tuned sound quality contribute to a pleasant cab environment. Five pairs of attaching points and two convenience outlets (one is standard) are provided for mounting implement monitors and communication equipment.

The model 8100, 8200 and 8300 are powered by a six-cylinder, 7.6-liter John Deere diesel. The 8400 features a new six-cylinder 8.1-liter Deere diesel. Both engines are turbocharged and air-to-air intercooled for increased performance, and both meet 1996 emissions standards.

The engines feature an electronic governor that provides precise, consistent engine performance and up to a 10 percent PTO power bulge within the constant-power range. That means as much as 16 to 22 additional PTO horsepower (above rated power) is automatically available to pull through tough spots. With a PTO torque rise of 40 percent, the engines reach peak torque quickly and sustain it over a wide RPM range.

Forward visibility is enhanced by the narrow steering console and a minipod that telescopes the steering wheel and displays the hazard, turning signals, and high beam indicators.



from increased load starting capability and ample reserve power in tough conditions.

The electronic governor also provides a Field Cruise™ feature for maintaining a consistent groundspeed in light-load operations such as cultivating or spraying. The operator uses the Field Cruise knob in the cab to trigger a constant-speed governor curve that provides instant engine response as loads change to produce a ground speed with little or no fluctuation.

All four models use the same 16-speed forward x 4-speed reverse power shift transmission designed and manufactured by John Deere in Waterloo, Iowa. The electronically controlled transmission provides eight gears in the working range, evenly spaced in 13-percent (about one-half mile-per-hour) increments to easily match ground speed to the field operation for optimum productivity and fuel efficiency.

The transmission control lever (located in the CommandARM) enables the operator to simply bump the lever once with a fingertip to change to the next higher or lower gear.

The operator also can hold the lever and the transmission will shift gears sequentially. Bumping the lever in quick succession permits the transmission to reach the desired (commanded) gear quicker than holding the lever until the desired gear is reached one gear at a time.

The MFWD axle driveline, located above the axle housing, delivers power from the transmission through two drop gears in the axle's differential. This eliminates driveline universal joints and their associated maintenance, and increases clearance for crops and crossing levees.

The axle oscillates a full nine degrees and has a maximum steering angle of 52 degrees. A 5-degree caster angle provides increased traction during turns. Swivel mounts permit the optional MFWD fenders to pivot during turns for a tighter turn angle. The MFWD axle is standard on the 8400 features and features an automatic mode for operator convenience.

To provide maneuverability and visibility for today's row crop applications, the 8000 Series tractors feature an integral chassis that is 60 percent stronger than the 60 Series chassis.

This John Deere designed-and-manufactured chassis consists of seven modules that form a strong backbone for the tractors, yet provide fast, easy access to major powertrain components should repair ever be needed.

The front-frame module illustrates the distinctive design of the chassis. This 350-pound cast structure is the base for mounting the engine and front axle. It also serves as the oil sump for the engine. The front frame is positioned between the transmission and the front assembly, which houses the cooling package of the tractor and serves as the mounting point for front weights, tanks, and an optional front 3-point hitch.

The front frame is narrow by design to provide clearance for large MFWD tires to enhance maneuverability for narrow tread settings. The design positions the engine 10 inches higher and 44 inches farther forward than the 60 Series chassis for increased visibility. It also provides a better weight split on both standard and MFWD configurations, as well as better ballasting flexibility to optimize drawbar performance and fuel efficiency.

Serviceability

All daily engine service can be done from the left side of the tractor by removing a tethered side shield. Wide fill opening make adding oil, fuel or coolant fast and easy. All daily service can be done from ground level.

Aspen Lodge Kick-Off Auction Sponsors

Past MFB President Elton Smith and his wife Lynde accept a twin-size quilt after successfully bidding on the item sponsored by MFB's Blue Cross/Blue Shield Program and Country Stitches. Other donors and buyers are listed below.



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Jane Nelkie	Handmade wire and wood arrangement.	Walt & Yvonne Wosje
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MSU, 4-H Foundation, MSU Athletic Dept., & MSU Academic & Student Affairs Dept.	4 MSU hockey, 2 MSU basketball, 2 MSU football, and 2 AutumnFest tickets.	Bill & Judy Harrison

12 Two and Four Year Agribusiness Programs

by Kelly Jo Siemen

As agribusinesses grow in size and number, the number of jobs available in the area of agribusiness grows as well. Michigan State University offers two programs to help these businesses fill positions with qualified personnel.

The Institute of Agricultural Technology (Ag Tech) offers a three-semester Agribusiness Management program, and the four-year College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) offers Agribusiness Management as an option in the Food Systems Economics and Management major. Each of these programs have unique characteristics that appeal to students looking for a challenging, diversified position in the agribusiness arena.

Two-Year Agribusiness Program

The growth and expansion of agribusinesses are creating a larger demand for individuals with education and training in the various agribusiness settings. The Institute of Agricultural Technology's Agribusiness Management program combines both the business and the technical skills needed for these career opportunities.

The Agribusiness Management program includes several areas of interest: elevator

and farm supply, chemicals and fertilizers, equipment, and fruit and vegetables.

Students graduating from this three-semester, certificate program have job opportunities ranging from working on a farm to working in retail. An internship in the student's area of interest is required beyond the program courses to provide hands-on work experience.

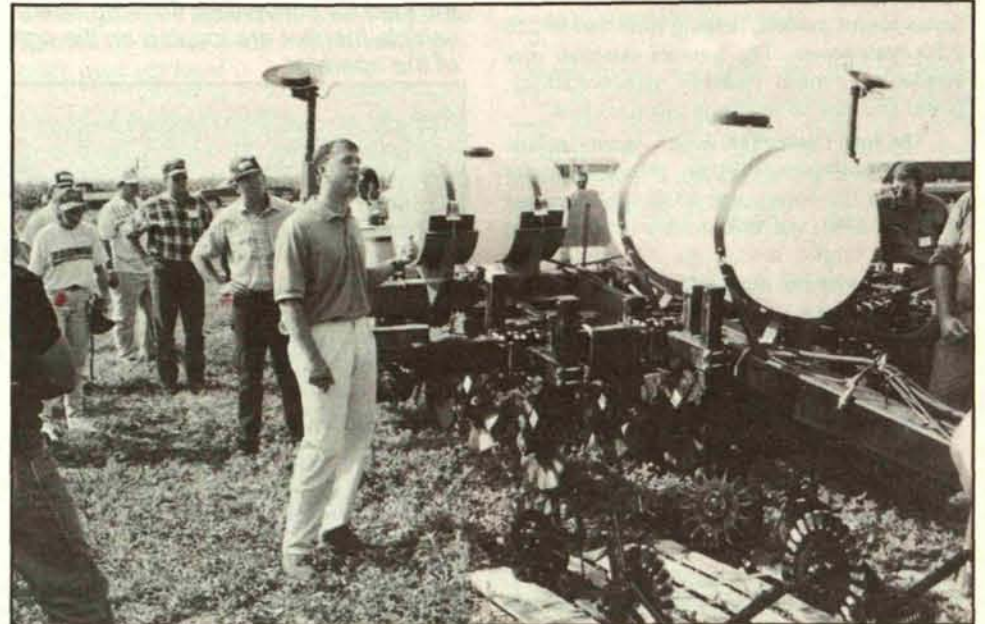
Many students in production agriculture major in agribusiness to enhance their future employment opportunities. Each student receives advice and instruction specific to their priority interest, such as marketing, pesticides, fertilizers or retailing.

Through the Agribusiness Management program, students also have the opportunity to complete the requirements to receive their pesticide applicator's license and their crop advisory license.

This program can also be tailored toward the environmental field, allowing a student to seek job opportunities as a technician in this field.

Admission into this program requires a high school diploma or GED with a C average or higher grade point average. Neither the ACT nor SAT is required. In the past, any graduate from the program has been placed in their particular area of training. If graduates wish to continue for a four-year degree, they can receive up to half of their Ag Tech credits as transfer credits for a related four-year major.

Agribusiness career options are numerous and often offer a variety of responsibilities such as working in sales as a company representative.



There are a few scholarships available to those who qualify. For example, the Michigan Agri-Business Association offers an excellent scholarship for individuals in this program.

Four-Year Agribusiness Program

The Agribusiness Management four-year program at Michigan State University is growing. Why? Agribusiness is an exciting, challenging, diverse area of study, involving industries and careers covering a large range of opportunities, from biotechnology to futures trading, entrepreneurship to international business management, and from sales to production.

The four-year Agribusiness Management program is an option in the Food Systems Economics and Management major. This program is designed to meet the needs of students interested in careers in agricultural input supply, agricultural production, commodity assembly and processing, and also agricultural marketing organizations. The program provides students with the chance to diversify, making themselves better prepared for the job market.

The Agribusiness Management curriculum focuses on management skills needed by organizations throughout the food system. Faculty involved with the program maintain close relationships with agribusiness companies, benefitting students through career consultation and job search.

Classroom learning uses both traditional and non-traditional methods, including case studies, utilizing real life problems, speakers from industry, and field trips.

The job market is very promising for new agribusiness graduates. USDA estimates there will be a shortage of qualified people for agribusiness careers. This shortage will be between 15 percent and 18 percent annually for managers, financial specialists, marketing, merchandising, and sales representatives.

There are several scholarships available for the Agribusiness Management program, and many great job opportunities.

If you are interested in either of these programs at Michigan State, call the Department of Agricultural Economics (four-year program) at (517) 355-4563, or the Institute of Agricultural Technology (three-semester program) at (517) 355-0190.

MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Two-Year Agribusiness Graduate Profile: Joe Simmons

Joe Simmons, a 1992 graduate of Ag Tech's agribusiness program, has been working in his field of study for over two years now. His two-year certificate from the program led to employment with Schoolcraft Farm Services, a custom fertilizer application business.

"The Agribusiness Program provides an excellent opportunity to learn what you need to become employed in the area of your interest," Simmons said.

He went on to say that the program was built around the opportunity area he wanted

to pursue. "I could take the courses that pertained to my interest," he explained.

When Simmons talks to others about the two-year Agribusiness Program, he tells them that if agribusiness is what they want to study, "the two-year program is a great opportunity to learn and discover their exact interest. It allows you to meet many people and instructors at MSU."

In more simple terms, he noted, "The two-year agribusiness program is a direct path to what you want to learn. It's basic, to the point, and provides great opportunities for both learning and employment."

Leach Named MFB Volunteer of the Month

Brigette Leach of Kalamazoo County has been selected as Michigan Farm Bureau's Volunteer of the Month for her efforts in helping to conduct the recent Michigan Department of Agriculture's "Ag Tour," as well as a tour for Kalamazoo County elected officials. Brigette also has personally made 22 "Ag in the Classroom" presentations, and hosted over 200 students at the family's farm operation.

Brigette and her husband Larry, daughter Kelly and son Kevin, operate a cash crop and swine operation raising 200 acres of seed corn, 350 acres of corn, 400 acres of soybeans, and a 100 acres of wheat. The operation also annually feeds out 2,500 market hogs.

Brigette serves on MFB's State Promotion and Education Committee, and the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Brigette is also quite active with the local 4-H and Soil Conservation Service.



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Roundup Ready™ Soybeans Expected by 1996 Season

13

by Deb Laurell

A Roundup Ready™ Soybean that offers less expense, saves times and reduces the number of weed control headaches is expected to hit the market in 1996, pending governmental approval.

The new soybean contains a gene that allows Roundup™ herbicide to be applied for broad-spectrum weed control - a huge technological leap, considering the herbicide could previously be utilized only in soybeans for precise spot sprays or rope-wick applications.

According to Dr. Karen Renner, of MSU's Crop and Soil Sciences Department, the Roundup resistant soybean has been in their research trials for the last three years. Monsanto developed the Roundup resistant soybean and made the gene available to seed companies.

Renner went on to explain companies expect to market the soybeans in 1996 pending the approval of several federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration. Approval from these agencies is required because the new soybean varieties are a genetically engineered crop.

According to Renner, benefits of the Roundup Ready Soybean are dependent upon yield potential. If the new technology and varieties have the potential to produce the same yields as conventional varieties, then there will be definite benefits.

Renner explains that with Roundup resistant soybeans, the producer has a wider herbicide application window. "We can control weeds postemergence with Roundup anywhere from three and with some varieties, up to 10 inches," she said.

Other benefits of Roundup resistant soybeans are reduced cost per acre for herbicide and the simplicity of the herbicide program.

"Roundup at one quart per acre, with an average use rate, would cost the producer \$10 an acre," commented Renner. "Currently many of the postemergence herbicide programs average \$25 per acre, so the producer would have a substantial herbicide dollar savings."

Renner expects the anticipated cost difference of Roundup Ready Soybean seed and traditional varieties will only be \$1 per bag, not a significant difference.

Another benefit is the simplicity of the herbicide program, says Renner. "Currently when weeds are controlled postemergence in soybeans, we often are tank mixing two or three herbicides to control various weed species," she said. "Roundup has broad-spectrum control of grass and broadleaf weeds, eliminating the need for several different herbicides."

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC) has donated approximately \$10,000 of Michigan soybean check-off dollars to Roundup resistant soybean research, since it could prove beneficial to producers both economically and environmentally, according to MSPC Executive Director Keith Reinhold. He explained that Roundup becomes inactive when it hits the soil, a definite benefit to the environment.

What's the expected impact to no-till trends?

Renner and Reinhold both agree that the roundup resistant soybean itself will not necessarily increase no-till trends. However, the herbicide resistant soybean should enhance it. Reinhold predicts that instead producers considering no-till will consider the Roundup resistant soybean as an added advantage."

However, Renner explains it will make a difference in both no-till and conventional tillage production. She currently has one

study funded jointly by Monsanto and the Soybean Promotion Committee looking at two different planting times.

"In this study, we are looking at burndown applications and preemergence timing versus postemergence herbicide application," said Renner. "This study will help us determine the best way to control weeds in no-till systems if we have the opportunity to plant Roundup™ resistant soybeans."

What do some of the companies offering the soybean have to say?

Not much! Only three out of seven companies contacted by Michigan Farm News, ICI Seeds, Pro Seeds and Pioneer Hybrids, were willing to comment about the status of their Roundup Ready™ Soybeans.

Ron Jacobs of Pro Seeds said his company is hoping to market three different varieties in 1997. Likewise, ICI Seed is aiming for product introduction by 1997, provided the product holds real advantages for the farmer, said company representative Bill Banker said.

Pioneer hopes to hit the market with their version of Roundup Ready™ Soybeans by 1996, according to company representative Herb Schmidt.

These plots are part of a Roundup Ready™ Soybean research project at MSU, funded jointly by Monsanto and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.



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05 Livestock

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07 Dogs and Puppies

AKC, UKC, registered dogs/puppies. Dalmatians, Eskimo Spitz, Rat Terriers, Great Danes. Best buys ever! Reducing kennel stock. Leasing possible.

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08 Ponies/Horses

PAIR OF GRADE Haflinger Mares, 3 and 4 years old. Broke to drive! \$2000 pair. Also have wagon. Call 1-313-971-1804.

08 Ponies/Horses

FOR SALE: Purebred Arabian horses. Show quality! Banat, Bask, Aloes. Call 1-616-533-8669 after 6pm.

09 Help Wanted

Grain Dryer Repair Person needed. Full time year round work for the experienced person. Send resume with background to: Grain Dryer Repair, Michigan Farm News, PO Box 6, Stanton, MI 48888. All replies confidential.

SEMI TRAILER REPAIR mechanics wanted. Mechanical aptitude and own hand tools required. Must be available for second shift. Mid Michigan Trailer Service. Apply in person, 4537 Roger Chaffee Drive, Grand Rapids

11 Agricultural Services

BARN FOUNDATION REPAIRS: Underpins, repositing, footings, silo repairs. Anywhere in Michigan! Since 1973.

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14 Real Estate

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WE HAVE CASH BUYERS for farmland in northwest Michigan. Call Ron McGregor for details. 1-616-929-1515 or 1-616-947-6211 evenings. **Northern Michigan Land Brokers, Traverse City**

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2-3 SPORTSMEN looking to lease land for hunting Goose, Duck or Pheasant. Please call 1-616-458-6055 days. 1-616-887-9603 evenings.

HUNTING LEASES WANTED: 80 acre parcels or larger, anywhere in Southern Michigan. 5,000 acres needed by 10-1-94. First come, first served! 1-616-561-2994, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

17 Auctions

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REAL ESTATE
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18 Antiques/Collectibles

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19 General

\$500 REWARD for the return of or for information leading to the return of a Doda Manure pickup. Painted orange. **Plummer Supply, Inc.** 1-800-632-7731

BEAUTIFUL SCOTCH PINE Christmas Trees (5' to 7' tall), \$8, cut and wrapped. Quantity discount and Fund Raising Plan. Wholesale and resale. Call 1-517-866-2515.

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19 General

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20 Wanted to Buy

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WANTED TO BUY: Older farm tractors. Good or not worth repairing. Call Wayne Shinabery, 1-517-448-8469 evenings

21 Special Events

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER American Ostrich Association invites you to attend their Seminar, October 8-9, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo, MI. Exhibitors Seminar Raffle Auction, Ostrich meat for dinner. For rates call, Barbara Smith, 1-517-732-2514, Derrick Borup, 1-616-642-9134.

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VerHages are MMPA's 1994 Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators

Photo: MMPA



Tim and Sandy VerHage, of Allegan, have recently been selected as the state winning 1994 Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators (OYDC). They represented Michigan Milk Producers Association's (MMPA) District 2 and the Kalamazoo Local in the annual OYDC conference held Aug. 17-19.

The VerHages were selected earlier in the year by fellow dairy farmers in their district to participate in the program. As the winning cooperators, the VerHages will represent MMPA at various industry and association activities.

Tim and Sandy VerHage along with daughters Kristi (left) and Julie, operate a 50-cow herd with a rolling herd average of 23,046 pounds in addition to farming 300 acres. Tim and Sandy have won MMPA's Quality Award for the past three years running!

Doug and Cheryl Chapin, from Remus, were selected as the runner-up cooperators. They represented MMPA's District 5 and the Alma Local in the contest.

Selection of the OYDC is based on the applicant's farming operations, farm-related and community activities and demonstrated leadership abilities.

The State OYDC Conference, held at MMPA headquarters in Novi, Mich., is designed to provide information about milk marketing activities, cooperatives, milk testing procedures and other current events within the dairy industry. The contest has been held annually over the past 44 years.

"The OYDC program identifies outstanding young leaders in our organization and provides the opportunity for them to gain a greater understanding of milk marketing activities and MMPA," says Elwood Kirkpatrick, MMPA president.

All 11 of MMPA's district Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators will be officially recognized at the 1995 Annual State Delegate meeting to be held next March.

The VerHages represented MMPA's District 2, which covers Calhoun, Branch, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Allegan, Van Buren, Cass and Berrien counties.

MMPA is a milk marketing cooperative owned and controlled by approximately 3,500 dairy farmers.

U.S. Dairy Industry Concentrated on Fewer, Larger Farms

Nearly half of the U.S. dairy herd was concentrated in large dairy farms (with 100 or more milk cows) in 1993, according to a USDA Economic Research Service summary.

These large dairies represented just 13.6 percent of all U.S. farmers with milk cows, but they were responsible for about 50 percent of total milk production. New technologies have required extensive capital investment that is most feasible for large dairy operations.

Since 1977, farms with fewer than 30 milk cows have declined continuously as a share of all farms with milk cows. The share of farms with 30-49 milk cows gradually increased until 1990, but then began a slow decline.

The share of farms with 50 or more milk cows increased in recent years, with farms having 100 or more milk cows increasing most in both number and share of all farms with milk cows. The largest farms are increasing most in the West and Southwest. The traditional milk-producing states of the Northeast and Lake States have seen their share of milk production become stable and then decline in recent years.

Wisconsin, California, New York, Pennsylvania and Minnesota will probably remain the five leading milk-producing states. Except for California, however, these states will see their relative shares of total U.S. milk output decline. California's dairy industry has grown rapidly during the last 30 years and will probably become the largest producer on an annual average basis in 1994. New Mexico's dairy industry also has good prospects to become one of the top 10 producers in the next few years.

The West and Southwest have accounted for an increasing share of total U.S. milk production. Increased demand for locally produced milk due to rapid population growth and the cost incentives associated with milder climates encouraged the growth of very large specialized dairies in Southern and Central California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Florida. Dairy herds of 700 to 1,500 cows are common in those areas, but rare elsewhere.

During 1977-93, milk per cow rose by 39 percent, reaching 15,554 pounds per year. Total milk output in the United States rose to 150,954 million pounds in 1993.

Technological achievements have significantly influenced the structural changes in the U.S. dairy farm industry. Capital-intensive technologies for milking and feeding have generally increased the minimum economically feasible size of a dairy operation, increased production efficiency, and influenced specialization. Genetic improvements, higher rates of concentrate feeding, and better feeding management have also helped increase milk production per cow.

Emerging technology and environmental concerns will affect the location and structure of dairy farming in the near future. Environmental regulations on air quality and waste handling may limit the type of milk production technologies that can be used, especially in regions where the largest dairy herds are highly concentrated. The trend toward large-scale, more specialized farming is expected to continue.



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