USDA approves early-out option on CRP contracts

Citing tight domestic and world grain supplies, USDA announced plans to allow producers to opt out early on Conservation Reserve Program contracts expiring Sept. 30. Nationwide, that could mean, potentially, another 15.3 million acres coming back into production this spring.

According to Michigan's Farm Service Agency Agricultural Program Specialist Bob Payne, 67,700 acres in Michigan are scheduled for contract expiration on Sept. 30 and would be eligible for the early-out option. "Some of those acres would not meet the eligibility requirements, so the actual acres eligible for early release would be less than 67,000 acres," he advised.

Payne said that land devoted to wildlife easements, windbreaks, grass waterways, shallow water areas, fish strips, or land within an average of 100 feet of a stream or permanent water body would not be eligible for the early-out option.

Eligible land must have an erosion index of 15 or less, and if classified as highly erodible, producers must have an approved conservation plan. If the ground is to be used for hunting or pasture, producers must also have an approved hunting or grazing plan.

USDA plans to announce sign-up dates and other details as soon as they become available, once the rule-making process is completed. USDA of 100 feet of a stream or permanent water body would not be eligible for the early-out option.

Secretary Dan Glickman, said the early-out option supplies of grain to meet market demand. On CRP contracts extensions before the early-out sign-up period. USDA also estimated that land devoted to wildlife easements, windbreaks, grass waterways, shallow water areas, fish strips, or land within an average of 100 feet of a stream or permanent water body would not be eligible for the early-out option.

Eligible land must have an erosion index of 15 or less, and if classified as highly erodible, producers must have an approved conservation plan. If the ground is to be used for hunting or pasture, producers must also have an approved hunting or grazing plan.

USDA plans to announce sign-up dates and other details as soon as they become available, once the rule-making process is completed. USDA of 100 feet of a stream or permanent water body would not be eligible for the early-out option.

Secretary Dan Glickman, said the early-out option supplies of grain to meet market demand.

Meanwhile, traders at the Chicago Board of Trade called the announcement neutral to slightly friendly to the markets, since the market had been trading early-out futures for over a week. USDA also estimated that producers will withdraw only 1 million to 3 million acres ahead of schedule from CRP.

Making the decision to switch to 15-inch rows was easier than finding a corn head to harvest them with for Farm Bureau member Dan Morse of Saginaw County. He used a design from a three-row prototype created by Illinois farmer Marion Calmer to build the first 11-row, 15-inch corn head in the country. Morse was pleased with how well the narrow-row head worked on harvesting over 400 acres of corn last year.

Narrow rows — How low can you go?

Still no 1995 farm bill

D uring the three-week vacation without a final farm bill package or a budget deal.

Congress takes a three-week vacation without a final farm bill package or a budget deal.

Don't look for any direction from Congress in making your farm management decisions for the 1996 growing season until at least the end of February. Politics and a three-week congressional recess have prevented both the House and the Senate from finalizing a farm bill package that would assure producers in making management decisions for the 1996 growing season.

During the two days preceding the recess, events surrounding the efforts by Congress to pass a new Farm Bill changed by the hour, according to MPR Public Affairs Director Al Almy.

Almy said, that despite House Agriculture Committee approval of a three-reading farm bill on Jan. 30 that was almost identical to the Freedom-to-Farm Act (which President Clinton vetoed as part of the budget reconciliation package), efforts to waste a three-day rule failed, preventing the full House from voting on the measure.

"The three-day rule prevents a bill approved by committee to be considered on the floor before three days have passed, to allow committee members who desire to file comments in the report that accompanies the bill to the floor," Almy said. "Congressman Pat Roberts, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, then tried to get unanimous consent from the House to consider the farm bill on Feb. 1, which also failed."

The House then adjourned until Feb. 6. Almy said, there is some speculation that the House might revert before then to consider the farm bill and an increase in the ceiling debt, but only time will tell at this point.

Late Feb. 7, the Senate passed a 1995 farm bill by a vote of 64-32. The bill had bipartisan support with 44 Republicans and 20 Democrats voting for it on final passage. Farm Bureau urged passage of the bill without weakening amendments.

Following are some of the provisions included in the bill passed by the Senate:

The bill provides for full planting flexibility for farmers but restricts production of certain fruits and vegetables.

Farmers would have the opportunity to sign seven-year market transition contracts. During each of the seven years these farmers would receive guaranteed but declining payments not linked to market prices. Payment eligibility would be linked to whether a farmer has marketed a crop for three of the last five years.

Mandatory acreage killing and other production controls would end immediately.

Assigned acreage planting limits for domestic sugar growers would end and the guaranteed minimum price support would in effect be lowered 1 cent a pound.

The current dairy program would not be changed. An amendment to delete a provision creating a Northeast Dairy Compact was approved.

Payments would be available to farmers who agree to keep wetlands out of production.

Continued on page 6

EPA to proceed with pesticide cancellations

A new era in financial analysis ...

Planned post program provides top weed control ...

Are you fuel storage tanks insured?

Hemp dogbane control in corn ...

Fifth generation farmer makes commitment to agriculture ...

Apple committees pursue funding increase ...

What's the future of dairy futures?

MPPA honors farmers, veterinarian ...

Nutritional benefits of soybeans growing ...

Consider testing corn for fumonisin if feeding swine or horses ...

Ag and the Internet ...

Cover Story

Interest in 22- and 15-inch rows appears to be spreading, Michigan producer first to build 15-inch corn head.

Noticed thought of as a novel idea reserved for specialty crops such as dry bean and sugar beets, narrow rows are quickly proving their worth in more typical crops, drawing the interest of many and more Michigan crop producers. A standing-room-only crowd of 257 producers gathered recently in Frankenmuth to hear the latest on narrow rows and to get answers on how to plant and, most importantly, how to harvest them.

According to Michigan State University research trials, 22 inch rows have shown an average 7 percent yield increase in corn, an additional 21/2 bags per acre in dry beans, and an additional 1.2 tons per acre in sugar beets. Equally important, sugar content and quality is improved, according to Saginaw County Field Crops Agent Steve Poindexter.

Although 22-inch rows have been in the spotlight for quite some time in the state's sugar beet and dry bean growing region, the results of narrow rows in corn, and the availability of factory-built planters capable of planting 15-inch rows, has many producers poised to make the switch to narrow rows, says Poindexter.

"In this area, 22-inch rows fix our system the best because there's sugar beets in the rotation," Poindexter explained. "However, if you're a corn and soybean producer, you may want to look at 15-inch row widths, since you aren't limited to 22-inch row widths to harvest sugar beets. I have no doubt that there's going to be a significant amount of continued on page 4
Group alleges use of BGH increases risk of cancer

In a meeting called the Carson Protection Coalition, four key Michigan producers spoke to Washington, according to the National Environmental Action Committee.

Michigan vegetable growers produced country's highest tonnage of snap green beans, and the number of tomatoes fell by 6 percent from 1994.

Grain trader to use crop maps

Starting next month, Chicago grain traders will be able to use new maps to see how specific crop fields are doing around the United States. The traders will be able to "vegetable" the information from the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather satellite.

Another use for soybeans?

Along with more soybean meal for animal feed, many growers are looking at the possibilities of using soy protein for food and health-related supplements.

Michigan vegetable growers produced country's highest tonnage of snap green beans, and the number of tomatoes fell by 6 percent from 1994.

Grain trader to use crop maps

Starting next month, Chicago grain traders will be able to use new maps to see how specific crop fields are doing around the United States. The traders will be able to "vegetable" the information from the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather satellite.

Another use for soybeans?

Along with more soybean meal for animal feed, many growers are looking at the possibilities of using soy protein for food and health-related supplements.

Fischler: No backing down on EU meat hormone ban

European Union Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler said the European Union has no intention of ending a ban on imports of hormone-treated meat or similar deals with the U.S. The EU opposes it on imports of growth hormone-treated beef.

The European Parliament also passed a resolution calling for a vote on the conference on "growth hormone ban.

Recent farm break-in "wake up call" to animal rights terrorism

The London-based group Animal Liberation Front has been targeting Michigan farms and stealing equipment.

Michigan producers speak at Triazine review conference

The Michigan Agricultural Research Service reported that Michigan vegetable growers produced country's highest tonnage of snap green beans, and the number of tomatoes fell by 6 percent from 1994.

Crop production 1995

The mid-winter market of 1995 and above normal temperatures during most of the growing season were factors in the record harvest of 1995. Michigan was the leading state in cultivated fruits, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service.

Meat inspection rules open for comment

Public comments are being accepted on the USDA's new meat inspection rules and regulations. The major part of the update would require federally inspected meat and poultry plants to adopt new protocols under the Food Safety Modernization Act. Comments on the plan are being accepted through Feb. 27.
**STATE ISSUE**

**Michigan seed law amendments would provide MCLA liability protection**

B. 715, sponsored by Sen. Diane Byrum (D-Lansing) has passed the Senate and is currently on the House calendar for consideration. The bill has two major sections. The first section deals with problems in seed and disease control. The second section deals with the Michigan Crop Improvement Association and the growers who are members. The bill provides for the Michigan Department of Agriculture to certify that the field bean seed is free of those diseases.

**Michigan aquaculture development act introduced**

Rep. Mike Green (R-Midland), sponsoring a bill to develop aquaculture as an agricultural enterprise and designate the Michigan Department of Agriculture as the lead agency. The company is to provide aquaculture using the same rights and responsibilities as other sectors of agriculture. The legislation establishes a list of approved aquatic species that can be cultured in the state and requires special approval. The bill also develops processes for other species to be permitted on a case-by-case basis. The Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality will continue responsibilities and control for the protection of the environment, including the regulation of discharge, waste, and the control of natural resources.

**Michigan grain dealers act amendments clears the House**

H. 5533, sponsored by Rep. Gary Randall (R-Midland) has passed the House Committee on Agriculture. The bill deals with the issue of truckers, or those individuals involved in transportation of grain, and provides a requirement for truckers to register with the MDA. The bill also develops procedures for other species to be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

**Property rights training**

B. 5483, sponsored by Rep. Greg Kuzma (R-Rochester Hills), has passed the House Committee on Agriculture. B. 5483 is intended to provide truckers with training related to the constitutional takings, which means the taking of private property by government action such that trucking is a secondary activity. This provision deals with the issue of individuals who occasionally have access to income from their primary source of income. The trucker would be required to pay cash at the time of the transaction, therefore providing a level of protection for the farmer.

**NATIONAL ISSUE**

**Clintond administration signals flexibility on methyl bromide ban**

The Clinton administration has said that it's willing to work with Congress and the agricultural community to accommodate methyl bromide to continue beyond the year 2001. Witness from EPA and USDA told the House Committee on Agriculture that the agencies would support legislation to address agricultural concerns or work for a special regulatory exemption for agriculture. Methyl bromide is an agricultural pesticide that is used extensively to control insects and pests in the production, processing, storage and transportation of grains, nuts, meats, and Great Lakes Commission and is on its way to the House. The bill requires certain employees of state agencies to receive training related to constitutional limitations on the regulation of private property. The training shall include an overview of the law related to constitutional takings, which mean the taking of private property by government action such that trucking is a secondary activity. This provision deals with the issue of individuals who occasionally have access to income from their primary source of income. The trucker would be required to pay cash at the time of the transaction, therefore providing a level of protection for the farmer.

**CDL drivers required to be alcohol/drug tested**

Any Michigan farmers could be affected by a piece of legislation that became law Jan. 1 of this year, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Howard Kelly. The Omnibus Transportation Emergency Act of 1995 requires alcohol and drug testing of safety-sensitive employees in the aviation, motor carrier, railroad, and mass transit industries, which includes agriculture, Kelly explained.

The provisions apply to all operations, regardless of size, and applies to all persons who operate commercial motor vehicles, defined in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 385, and are required to have a Commercial Driver License (CDL). Those provisions include immediate and intrastate drivers:

- Commercial motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more;
- Commercial motor vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more;
- Motor vehicles designed to transport 16 or more
  passengers including the driver; or
- Motor vehicles of any size transporting hazardous materials, which would include pesticides and fertilizers, in amounts that require placing in a testing program.

Kelly says that a narrow exemption exists for some farm drivers in Michigan. "Drivers who are eligible for an alcohol test as operating a vehicle covered by an F endorsement on their license is exempt from the drug and alcohol testing program," Kelly says. Those provisions include immediate and intrastate drivers:

- Commercial motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more;
- Commercial motor vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more;
- Motor vehicles designed to transport 16 or more
  passengers including the driver; or
- Motor vehicles of any size transporting hazardous materials, which would include pesticides and fertilizers, in amounts that require placing in a testing program.

Life-saving for farmers who are driving vehicles that do not require a CDL, are not required to be in a drug and alcohol testing program even though they may possess a CDL, says Kelly. "Farmers will not be required to get a CDL to avoid the drug and alcohol testing program," he explained. However, before they can drive a vehicle requiring a CDL, they must be in a testing program or obtain an F endorsement to operate a vehicle.

Otherwise, employees of CDL drivers and owner/operators holding a CDL and operating a covered vehicle, including farmers, are responsible for meeting compliance testing provisions, Kelly warned.

Drug and alcohol tests are required in the following circumstances:

- Pre-employment (drug testing only) — Must be conducted before an applicant can be hired or after an offer to hire is made, but before actually performing safety-sensitive functions for the first time.
- Post-accident — Conducted after an accident on the job or after an accident that resulted in injury or property damage of $1,000 or more.
- Random — Conducted on a random, unannounced basis, before, during, or after performance of safety-sensitive functions.
- Return to duty and follow-up — Conducted when an individual, who has violated the prohibited drug and alcohol conduct standards previously, returns to performing safety-sensitive duties.
- For cause — Conducted at the request of an employer when an employee tests positive for drugs or alcohol.

For more information on the provisions or on establishing a program or the availability of training contact Byrd, your local farm bureau, or your local government or other appropriate state or local government agency.
EPA to proceed with pesticide cancellations — important pesticides threatened

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced that it will proceed with canceling the use of pesticides on raw food products, even though the action is not required by the Delaney Clause, which applies only to processed food. EPA claims that the action is required by the EPA’s “coordination policy” which requires the agency to revoke pesticide tolerances for raw foods if a corresponding processed food tolerance revocation is required to the rulemaking Delaney provision.

EPA announced the decision in response to a 1992 petition by the National Food Processors Association, which requested that the agency examine and revoke tolerances for fruits and vegetables. EPA agreed to revoke pesticides for raw fruits and vegetables, even though this could result in violations of food processing requirements.

“Farm Bureau believes that the action is unjustified and that it imposes unnecessary costs on farmers and food processors,” said Al Arnt, director of Michigan Farm Bureau’s Public Affairs. “In effect, this extends Delaney’s ‘zero tolerance’ provision to raw food. This allows the agency to ignore consideration of pesticide benefits which are required under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), the law that regulates pesticides on raw agricultural commodities.”

EPA plans to announce its intent to revoke pesticide tolerances for about 30 pesticide products. This announcement will be followed by a 90-day comment period. If the revocations are issued, the corresponding use of the pesticide will be canceled.

“Farm Bureau agrees with the agency that the coordination policy is necessary to protect farmers from the use of pesticides which could result in violations of food processing requirements,” said Arnt.

Graceland Fruit Cooperative of Frankfort, Mich.; and Monitor Sugar Company of Bay City, Mich., the producer of Big Chief® brand sugar products, are pleased to announce the signing of a definitive agreement whereby Monitor agrees to purchase a controlling interest in Graceland Fruit Processing Company. The definitive agreement whereby Monitor agrees to purchase a controlling interest in Graceland Fruit Processing Company is a step toward becoming the national leader in processing cherries, cranberries, strawberries, blueberries and a variety of other fruits including peaches and bananas, dried products, trail mixes, candies and other food products.

Graceland’s President, Donald W. Nugent, said: “I am very pleased about our association with Monitor Sugar. This alliance will help Graceland realize its true potential and progress into new products and markets at a more rapid pace.”

“This acquisition broadens our competitive advantage in the food processing industry in Michigan,” Monitor Sugar’s President, Robert Hetzer, said. “The companies complement one another and both see considerable opportunity for growth in the years ahead.”

Nugent, who is a trustee of Michigan State University, will continue as president of Graceland and will become a member of the Monitor Sugar Company board of directors.

I5-inch rows — How low can you go?

“Delaney Clause reform is supported by the medical research, Ken Nye,” said MFB’s Director of Cooperative Activities and Research, Ken Nye. “We have some very important specialty chemicals that are used on Michigan crops.”

Almy cautioned. “If the cancellations go forward, it could have a very severe and impact on this spring.”

Almy noted. “We need to do a better job in understanding the need for legislation to change Delaney’s zero-tolerance provision.”

There is strong bipartisan support for H.R. 1627 and its companion bill, S. 1166. Almy said. “Delaney Clause reform is supported by the medical community, the Clinton Administration, the food and Drug Administration and, tractably, Carol Browner, administrator of the EPA. Farmers should not have to suffer because of the inaction of the 104th Congress.”

Monitor agrees to purchase a controlling interest in Graceland Fruit Processing Company, which is the producer of Big Chief® brand sugar products, and Monitor Sugar Company of Bay City, Mich., the producer of Big Chief® brand sugar products, are pleased to announce the signing of a definitive agreement whereby Monitor agrees to purchase a controlling interest in Graceland Fruit Processing Company.
Each day we light the way for you and other farmers across the state — providing the power that keeps you in business. But our commitment to you doesn’t stop there.

We have a 24-hour, toll-free number to answer your energy service questions. Plus, we’ve established a dedicated, toll-free number so we can respond to your questions about stray voltage. And, with 39 Customer Service Centers state-wide, we’re ready to serve you.

We’re also working with key agricultural organizations like Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan FFA on issues that impact your productivity and profitability.

We’re proud to serve 20,000 farms — more farms than any other utility in the state — and we’re committed to helping you succeed every step of the way.

For stray voltage questions call 1-800-252-VOLT
For other service questions call 1-800-477-5050
Market Outlook

by Dr. Jim Hilkens, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University

Soybeans

While soybean stocks are tight, it is a little clearer than corn that we will have a sufficient supply through the year. Exports are running quite strong, but that has been calculated in and should not drive down prices through the year. My inventory accounts for 83 percent of the corn on feed in the U.S. All corn on feed in the U.S. were up 5 percent on Jan. 1st, 1995; versus Jan. 1, 1994. We will have a plentiful supply of corn on feed through the summer. There were 1 percent less corn marketed in December than the previous year in the 7 major states.

The first report showed we had 8 percent more corn on feed in the 12 major producing states compared to the previous year. This resulted in weak producer prices in late spring. The fact that these prices have held is an indication that these increases are real. Consumption and disappearance through November 1995 was 3.3 percent above 1994. The 1995 year has shaped up as one of the best dairy demand years in a decade. As demand hangs against static milk production, December milk production nationally was flat. For the first time in recent memory, California production was 2 percent below a year earlier. Higher feed prices are taking a toll on the finances and morale of dairy producers nationwide. The combined effects of higher feed costs, lower corn prices and residual weather-induced production problems will continue to constrain milk supply. Even if demand for dairy products weakens slightly, the tight supply situation will keep milk prices at their current level for the next couple of weeks.

The intermediate-term outlook (March through July) will depend on the feed cost trends if feed costs come down and start up again, profits margins can return to levels that would return some optimism to the dairy business. Similarly, the dairy industry has had several rounds of hope that the dairy policy situation would be settled. Even though there is nearly total agreement on eliminating the de minimis and deficiency payments, the lack of a dairy bill means that producers are still under the yoke of assessments. Because of last year’s production problems, the Mar 1996 assessments are expected to increase to 20 cents or more per hundredweight (cwt.). If feed costs decline and the assessments are eliminated, some producers may be able to return to Michigan’s producers. If they do not, more producers will have to bear the burden of assessing that milk supplies will still be at their current level.

Wheat

If all of the current focus for most producers is an new crop prices, with old crop being long gone, demand through the remainder of this crop year is important for next year. At this point, it appears exports will meet the USDA projections, which is the biggest unknown. Weather in the Southwest continues to be a major concern for your 1996 corn production. Don’t let last year’s forward pricing decisions get in the way of sound decisions this year.

COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS

1995 farm bill

Continued from front page

The Conservation Reserve Program would be reauthorized.

Moccie would be provided to help farmers pay for conservation and a program would be created to help livestock producers with manure-handling facilities. There are reportedly some restrictions on the size of livestock operations that would be eligible.

The Market Promotion Program would be cut to $70 million per year from the current $100 million per year, and in use it would be restricted to small businesses

An amendment to reauthorize the Farmer Owned Reserve was defeated

Research programs were reauthorized

The food stamp program was reauthorized

The 1989 and 1990 farm bills are retained as permanent law. This provision was necessary to get enough Democrat votes to pass the bill. "While Congress is on recess during most of February, it will be important for Farm Bureau members to talk with their congressional back in the district and tell him or her, very clearly, that they expect Congress to pass a farm bill this promptly," Amy urged. "It’s time for both Republican and Democrat congressmen to pass a farm bill that farmers and ranchers can put their hands on every year."
FINPACK also includes two other modules: (1) FINBUR for long-run budgeting, and (2) FINFLO for annual cash flow and financial statement program. The FINAN program, which allows for the electronic import of data, can be used in conjunction with other programs including what was MicroBank. How Do You Get a FINAN Analysis Run? You can run the FINAN analysis through many different avenues. Some farmers and farm management consultants, many Area of Expertise (AEL) agents and county Extension agents, most campus Extension farm management specialists and all district Extension farm management agents have the FINPACK 8.0 programs, including FINAN, residing on the mainframe computers and available for use. Start locally for MSU Extension assistance, as that will maintain the strongest and most responsive relationship that you would have available. You can purchase an individual farmer FINPACK version from the Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota, for $245 (phone 800-324-1311). The program is available to run the FINAN program: (1) beginning and ending stock corn, feed, crops and livestock inventories, (2) beginning and ending machinery, buildings and land valuations, (3) beginning and ending balances in savings, investment and liability accounts including accrued accounts payable and receivable, (4) crop acreage and yield information and basic live-stock production information; and (5) your financial cash flow, reporting, on a year-end accrual basis, and in a summarized file that can be used for other enterprise analysis files as possible but only from farm managers who contribute to the FINAN in the MSU database and after any personal identification has been stripped off. MSU Extension programs and publications, and MSU research and teaching efforts will all benefit from the database. **Pre-Cast Concrete**

**Bunker Silos**

8' or 10' "L" Style

Easily Converts to Center Wall

**MANURE STORAGE TANKS**

**Solid or Slat Top**

6'-8' or 10' Deep

SCS Approved

**FENCILE FEED BUNKS**

8' Lengths

Beef/Dairy Cattle

Concrete with Wire Mesh Reinforcing

**ADL AG SALES INC.**

PORTLAND, MI

517-647-7543

800-344-6941

**EVENINGS:**

TERRY GRANT

517-647-4690

**MICHIGAN FARM NEWS**

February 15, 1996
B<br>ack in the late 1980s, Tim Stutzman took a look at his family’s heavy reliance on atrazine for weed control and concluded that there had to be a better way. Weed control on corn acres wasn’t up to snuff. Triazine-resistant barnyardgrass was beginning to break through the farm’s highly variable soils, which have organic matter ranging from 2 percent to 17 percent, complicated the situation. “We said ourselves we had to come up with something better than atrazine,” recalls Stutzman, who farms near Sevca, Mich., with his father, David Stutzman, and grandfather, Jack Raymond.

“Weed control wasn’t adequate in our book,” he says. “We decided to handle broadleaf weeds by coming back over the top with a planned postemergence herbicide treatment. Today, we’re gone away from atrazine and we are getting a lot better control.”

Achieving top control can be a tall order on Raymond and Stutzman Farm’s 1,250 acres, which are grown in continuous corn to provide feed for the 10,000 cattle fed out on the farm each year. The lack of storage for weed seeds to fields where it is spread.

“Velvetleaf is our biggest problem,” says Tim Stutzman. He rated weed control in 1995 at the 90 percent control level, says Stutzman. “With some of the older herbicides, volatility is really a problem. We have neighbors with soybean growers. So volatility is important to us.”

Control of broadleaf weeds was a pleasant surprise. “The herbicide just smokin’ it,” he says. “We got 90 to 95 percent control with a single application.” For great weed control, the operation relied on Harmason herbicide, which was sprayed while planting. The herbicide, which controls small seeds/broadleaf weeds like atrazine-resistant barnyardgrass and common ragweed, in addition to grasses, handled broadleaf weeds well enough on about 200 acres that no postemergence herbicides were needed.

“Grass control was excellent,” he says. “And common ragweed control was good enough that in some fields we didn’t even need to cultivate.”

Stutzman was especially impressed with premixence weed control because of the high variability of organic matter on the farm and within individual fields. On one field three-quarters of a mile long, organic matter ranges from 3 percent to 16 percent, according to Stutzman.

To compensate for more difficult weed control typical at higher organic matter levels, Stutzman varied the herbicide rate on the go. “Harness rates varied from 2.5 pints to 2.7 pints per acre for 5 percent organic matter soil, to 2.5 pints for 7 percent organic matter, and to 2.8 pints per acre for 12-16 percent organic matter.”

With the monitor tied to a radar gun, he says, “With the monitor tied to a radar gun, I feel I can control the situation by providing a steady supply of weed seed to fields where it is spread. Safe on corn. Rip through broadleaves, with the unmatched performance of Permit herbicide. You can use it in corn or grain sorghum, to control a broad spectrum of tough weeds, including: velvetleaf, cocklebur, pigweed (even triazine-resistant varieties), common ragweed and sunflower:

**Stronger, Longer**

It’s unique chemistry and two-fold action allows Permit to move into both the leaves and roots of labeled species, attacking weeds immediately. Then, its residual soil activity keeps Permit working all season long.

Savage on broadleaves,

**PERMIT® FIGHTS TOUGH**

**WEEDS, TOOTH AND NAIL.**

Safe on corn. Rip through broadleaves, with the unmatched performance of Permit herbicide. You can use it in corn or grain sorghum, to control a broad spectrum of tough weeds, including: velvetleaf, cocklebur, pigweed (even triazine-resistant varieties), common ragweed and sunflower:

**Stronger, Longer**

It’s unique chemistry and two-fold action allows Permit to move into both the leaves and roots of labeled species, attacking weeds immediately. Then, its residual soil activity keeps Permit working all season long.

Call 1-800-CORN-SAFE

Discover how Permit can help you bear down on tough weeds, without the fear of corn injury. For more information, call 1-800-CORN-SAFE (1-800-267-6723).

**Monsanto announces commercialization plans for Roundup-Ready soybeans**

Growers planning to use Roundup-Ready soybeans in their cropping strategies will be required to sign an agreement with Monsanto and pay a $5-per-bushel “technology fee,” at the time of seed purchase. According to Doug Denby, soybean marketing manager for Monsanto, the agreement will ensure that growers understand the benefits and the responsibilities associated with the technology before purchasing Roundup-Ready soybeans.

Two key elements outlined in the agreement stipulate that Roundup-Ready soybeans cannot be saved for replanting and that Roundup brands of herbicides are the only herbicides containing glyphosate that can be used on Roundup-Ready soybeans. Because Roundup-Ready soybeans are patented, growers cannot save seed for replanting or for sale as seed. The patent rights extend beyond Plant Variety Protection (PVP) rights, which prevents growers from brown bagging or selling to other growers, but may allow them to save back seed to plant on their own farms. Patented varieties, unlike PVP varieties, cannot be saved.

The company expects that Roundup Ready soybean seed will be limited during the introduction 1996 season, and will be available primarily for growers planting Group III through mid Group VII varieties. Agrow Seed Company and Harriz Seed Company will sell the majority of Roundup-Ready seeds this season, although several other seed companies will have small quantities available.

In a company press release, Monsanto said that Roundup-Ready soybeans will be widely available in 1997, and that by 1999 there will be enough seed available that every grower who wants it will be able to purchase the new seed.

Dry bean stocks up

Commercial elevators in Michigan held 4.1 million bushelsworth (4.1 cwt.) of dry beans in storage as of Dec. 31, 1995, according to the Federal State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. This stock level is 4 percent more than last year. The quantity on hand included 2.8 million cwt. of navy beans and 2.0 million cwt. of other classes. This compares with 2,850,000 cwt. of navy beans and 1,070,000 cwt. of other classes on hand a year ago. All other beans recorded the highest Dec. 31 stocks since records began in 1985. Stocks on hand Aug. 31, 1995 included 370,000 cwt. of navy beans and 300,000 cwt. of other classes. Dry bean stocks account for all beans in commercial off-farm storage and include a small portion of non-Michigan grown products. An estimate of the quantity of dry beans held on farms is not included in this report.
Are your fuel storage tanks insured?

With the demise of the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Fund Act (MUSTRA), operations with underground fuel storage tanks in excess of 1,100 gallons are now subject to financial responsibility. That means demonstrating evidence of at least $1 million of first party liability for cleanup and restoration, as well as $1 million worth of third party liability, explains Jim Gallagher, manager of Community Service Acceptance Company (CSAC).

CSAC, which provides Farm Bureau Insurance agents with an underground fuel tank insurance product, underwritten by Zurich Insurance and marketed through Foster Environmental Insurance Group, has been offering farmers an opportunity to purchase the required insurance since last June.

Roger Brunner, president of Foster, says the policies are surprisingly affordable and are quite prescriptive, based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. Premiums start as low as $350 per tank annually, with deductibles starting as low as $1,000.

"What we are required to provide is coverage for releases that happen after the insurance is purchased, meaning that insurance will not cover historical spills," Brunner said. "We provide coverage for environmental cleanup both onsite and offsite if the leak has migrated, as well as third party liability for bodily injury and/or property damage."

Michigan hog inventory declines

Michigan's hog and pig inventory on Dec. 1 declined 8 percent from a year ago, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. Total inventory was estimated at 1,150,000 head. Market hogs made up 87 percent of Michigan's hog and pig inventory while breeding stock comprised 13 percent of the total.

Market hog inventory was down 8 percent from last December at one million head. The under 60 pound weight group totalled 320,000 head, a drop of 55,000 from last year. Above-ground tanks, as a general rule, are less expensive to insure than underground tanks," Brunner explained. "There are some new underground tank installations that, because of all of the bells and whistles, are less expensive to insure than above-ground tanks."

"Above-ground tanks, as a general rule, are less expensive to insure than underground tanks," Brunner explained. "There are some new underground tank installations that, because of all of the bells and whistles, are less expensive to insure than above-ground tanks."

"Above-ground tanks, as a general rule, are less expensive to insure than underground tanks," Brunner explained. "There are some new underground tank installations that, because of all of the bells and whistles, are less expensive to insure than above-ground tanks."

"Above-ground tanks, as a general rule, are less expensive to insure than underground tanks," Brunner explained. "There are some new underground tank installations that, because of all of the bells and whistles, are less expensive to insure than above-ground tanks."

"Above-ground tanks, as a general rule, are less expensive to insure than underground tanks," Brunner explained. "There are some new underground tank installations that, because of all of the bells and whistles, are less expensive to insure than above-ground tanks."

Your best bet, however, says Brunner, is to seriously consider whether or not you even need an underground fuel storage tank since the risks are substantial. "As somebody that's been involved in environmental risk financing, I'd suggest that if you don't have serious need for a tank to get rid of it," he added. "People don't seem to realize just what a risk underground tanks are, but they're a high risk that requires a lot of effort."

Once again, the cream rises to the top.

Johnson Farms - Pinconning, MI (Bay County)
Planted: 08/07/95 Harvested: 10/25/95
Brand-Hybrid: DEKALB - DK471
#2 Yield: 187.4
Return: $413.10 Per Acre

DK 471

Paid: Moisture: 18.6%
Harvested: $469.98 Per Acre

Great Lakes - GL471
Pioneer - 3751
Ciba - 4214

DK 527

Return: 20.6% $465.05 Per Acre

Bubba Johnson - Fremont, MI (Newaygo County)
Planted: 10/16/95
Harvested: 10/25/95

Brand-Hybrid: DEKALB - DK527
#2 Yield: 174.7
Return: 24.8% $467.36 Per Acre

Pioneer - 3527
15.5% $403.63 Per Acre

1 year the DEKALB side-by-side, the Pioneer, and it was 19 bushels better and was standing great. It came out of the ground good and looked good all year with good plant health."

Britton Elevator - Britton, MI (Lenawee County)
Planted: 08/07/95 Harvested: 10/25/95
Brand-Hybrid: DEKALB - DK456
#2 Yield: 146.1
Return: 21.5% $391.55 Per Acre

DK 546

Paid: Moisture: 17.7%
Harvested: $402.38 Per Acre

Great Lakes - GL 450
Pioneer - 3751

Return: 22.7% $396.53 Per Acre

17.1% $372.10 Per Acre

*Prices Per Acre Calculated @ $2.25 per Bushel and $.01 Drying Cost per Point of Moisture above 15.5%

For the name of your nearest DEKALB dealer CALL 1-800-B-DEKALB

THE CREAM RISES TO THE TOP.
Weed Strategies

by Dr. James J. Kells & Corey V. Ransom, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University

Hemp dogbane is a perennial weed, native to North America, that can be found in most of the lower 48 states. Michigan farmers identify hemp dogbane as a serious problem more frequently than any other perennial species. Once established, hemp dogbane spreads primarily by underground rootstock as compared to bane infestations but may simultaneously increase the size of the infestation by spreading root sections across the field. Hemp dogbane can survive under any tillage system, but it is most competitive in a no-tillage environment. As the number of acres of no-tillage increases, hemp dogbane will likely become an even greater problem.

Two years of research, financially supported by the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, has been conducted at Michigan State University to evaluate postemergence herbicides for hemp dogbane control in corn. In each year, one site was no-till and the other site was tilled. Accents and Beacors were evaluated alone and in combination with 2,4-D or Clarity. Nonionic surfactur (0.25 percent v/v) was added to all treatments containing Accent or Beacon. The results are summarized in Figure 1.

Beacon tank mixed with 2,4-D amine gave the greatest hemp dogbane control (82 percent) and was the most consistent across sites in years. Accent or Beacon tank mixed with Clarity were the next most consistent treatments, with an average of 68 percent control. Hemp dogbane control with 2,4-D alone averaged 59 percent while control with Clarity averaged 34 percent. Accent and Beacon alone averaged less than 25 percent control.

Hemp dogbane control was generally greater at the no-tillage sites. Control was lower at the tilled sites because additional hemp dogbane shoots emerged following herbicide application. At the no-till sites, hemp dogbane emerged more uniformly and control was more complete.

Beacon tank mixed with 2,4-D amine is the most effective treatment for selectively controlling hemp dogbane in corn. Tank mixtures of Accent or Beacon with Clarity also provide greater, more consistent control than any single herbicide applied alone. Tank mixtures of Accent with 2,4-D are not currently labeled.

Hemp dogbane requires long-term, persistent management in order to maintain control. An effective strategy for controlling hemp dogbane can include corn, soybeans and wheat grown in rotation. During the corn rotation, the treatments suggested above could be used to control hemp dogbane.

In soybeans, Roundup could be applied with wipers or other selective equipment when hemp dogbane grows above the canopy. Roundup could also be applied broadcast in Roundup-Ready soybeans. If wheat is included in the rotation, hemp dogbane could be treated in the fall, following harvest. Small patches of hemp dogbane can also be spot-treated in-season with Roundup.

Detailed recommendations for hemp dogbane control are described in Extension Bulletin E-2247. IMF Fact Sheet, available from any county MSU Extension office.

1995 MSU soybean tillage by variety study

Maurice L. Witsell, MSU Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University

Two soybean studies were conducted in 1995 at the MSU Research farm, East Lansing. Fourteen varieties were evaluated in adjacent no-tillage and conventional tillage experiments. The soil type was a Cayuga loam. The data are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Both experiments were planted on May 19, 1995. All seed was inoculated with Rhizobium inoculant. The surface residue cover on the no-till was estimated to be 65 percent.

During the growing season, the crop encountered some periods of moisture stress. There was no white mold in the trial. No till plots were har vested on Oct. 11. Conventional plots were harvested on Oct. 16. The overall yield averaged for no-till and conventional plots was 56.1 and 57.0 bu./acre, respectively. Some varieties performed slightly better under no-till, however, the reverse is true for other varieties. Most varieties performed similarly for the two tillage systems.

Table 1 — Performance of 14 soybean varieties on no-till

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield Bu/A % (em)</th>
<th>Moisture %</th>
<th>Height in.</th>
<th>Lodging Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TerraT5253</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AsgrowA2506</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greatlakes2415</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NK519-90</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NK524-92</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pella86</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>91.3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resnik</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greatlakes2415</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TerraT5253</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer9152</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalbC3212</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes2415</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resnik</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pella86</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 — Performance of soybean varieties on conventional tillage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield Bu/A % (em)</th>
<th>Moisture Height Lodging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TerraT5253</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AsgrowA2506</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NK519-90</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NK524-92</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pella86</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resnik</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greatlakes2415</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TerraT5253</td>
<td>62.7</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer9152</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalbC3212</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes2415</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resnik</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Yield adjusted to 13% moisture; Lodging Score: 1 = no plants lodging; 2 = 25% lodging; 3 = 50% lodging; 4 = 75% lodging; 5 = 100% lodging.

Figure 1

Hemp dogbane control six weeks after treatment averaged over four sites. Herbicides were applied at the following rates: Accent — 0.33 oz/A, Beacon — 0.38 oz/A, Clarity — 0.5 pt/A, 2,4-D amine — 1.0 pt/A. The red dot represents the average control provided by each treatment. The gray boxes represent 50 percent of the data and the whiskers indicate plus consistent control.
Weather Outlook
by Dr. Jeff Andresen, agricultural meteorologist, Department of Geography, Michigan State University

Temperatures moderated across the entire state during the middle of January as an upper low trough of low pressure, which had been centered over the Great Lakes region during much of the fall and early winter, shifted westward to the northern and central Great Plains. This upper air regime provided a series of strong storms that moved into Michigan from the southern Plains bringing abundant precipitation to much of the area. The most intense system of the month occurred Jan. 17 and 18 as a strong storm moved north-northeast from the lower Mississippi Valley. Several record high temperatures were established across the Lower Peninsula ahead of this system. Blustery conditions prevailed across the western Upper Peninsula, while severe thunderstorms with damaging winds moved across southern portions of the state. 12-hour temperature drops of more than 40 degrees occurred with passage of the storms. The jet stream plunged southward during the final week of January bringing much below normal temperatures to the entire state; however, temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal for the entire month at most locations. Above normal precipitation occurred across much of the state, particularly in lake-effect locales, where substantial snowfall occurred on several occasions; however, southwestern portions of the state received below normal precipitation for the month.

Hog lot debate in Iowa
The Iowa Legislature may begin debate this week on a bill that would give county officials new controls over large hog lots. The state senate measure would allow counties to use zoning laws to regulate hog producers who don't raise at least 20 percent of the grain needed to feed their animals.

Supporters say it is important to allow counties to control the growth of large hog lots. Opponents of the proposal will hurt small producers.

In a related move, county officials in Garner, Iowa turned down a request by DeCoster Farms to build a 10-building complex housing 14,000 hogs. The county board based the decision on an ordinance that makes it unclear whether the county has jurisdiction over zoning local farmers. DeCoster Farms said it doesn't really need county permission to build the facility since the land is already zoned for agricultural use.

This Season’s Winning Lineup For Sugar Beets.

When you team up Pyramin® SC herbicide with Poast® herbicide you’re sure to score some major points against broadleaf and grasses in your sugar beets. And no wonder, The unmatched preemergence control of Pyramin SC blocks out troublesome broadleaf plants like lambsquarters, ragweed, pigweed, mustard and nightshade. And when followed by Poast, adds a strong defensive line of grass control that’ll keep you in the game all season long.

No other combination delivers more economical or consistent control. There’s no risk of damage or extra expense of hand hoeing. Poast can even be banded to keep costs down.

The Beet Team. Put them through a tryout on your farm this year.
Call 1-800-874-0081.

Agricultural Products

BASF
Fifth generation farmer makes commitment to agriculture, education

by Sue Ann Stuever

Making the decision to farm wasn’t a tough one for Blaine VanSickle, a Marshall native. After a year away at college aspiring to be an ag teacher, he decided to return to the family farm.

VanSickle’s father owned the farm along with a trucking business, “but his heart was in his trucks,” VanSickle said. “I came home, replaced one of the hired men and just basically took over the farm at about 19.”

The VanSickles grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay and have a small farm-to-finish operation. Blaine is the fifth generation to run the family’s sesquicentennial farm, which his ancestors purchased from the government in 1855.

Farming isn’t the only thing that’s a family tradition for Blaine VanSickle. So is Farm Bureau. While he represents District 2 on the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, his son Kent is president of the Calhoun County Farm Bureau. VanSickle’s father, Lorain, was also an active member.

VanSickle first joined Farm Bureau in his 20s to take out a life insurance policy. He became active in the organization and held positions as county president and county vice president, before being elected to serve on the MFB state board of directors.

He also served on the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Swine Advisory Committee for four years. VanSickle is now a member of the board of directors for Farmers Pension Cooperative.

Saying active in agriculture keeps him abreast of industry issues. “Probably one of the greatest issues that we have to face in agriculture today is the conversion to free enterprise,” VanSickle said. “As government starts to wean itself from agriculture, as we recover from dependency on farm program payments to the open market, as we work with GATT and NAFTA and the effects they have on agriculture,” he continued, “there are going to have to be some adjustments in farm operations.”

“I always look for a better tomorrow,” VanSickle said of the industry.

Besides his involvement in Farm Bureau, VanSickle has served on his township’s planning commission since 1979, was a 4-H leader and ASCS Board member.

Following yet another family tradition, VanSickle is the third generation to serve on the local school board. He’s starting his 23rd year on the Marlee School Board of Education, the largest K-8 district in Michigan, and is its president. VanSickle is very involved in education, and had a seat on the Michigan Association of School Boards’ State Committee, as well as their task force on school finance.

Blaine VanSickle doesn’t just farm because it’s a tradition. He likes the people, the land and the lifestyle. “People talk about retirement, and I’d like to have a few more days in the field, but I don’t look for retirement because I like what I do,” he said.

Blaine VanSickle and his wife, Sharon, have three grown children.

VanSickle first joined Farm Bureau in his 20s to take out a life insurance policy. He became active in the organization and held positions as county president and county vice president, before being elected to serve on the MFB state board of directors.

For more information on our full range of products and services, call 1-800-444-FARM.

**Farm Credit Services**

At the heart of a growing America.
Apple committees pursue funding increase

200 grower signatures attained in petition drive; MDA hearing set for March 12.

From an advertising standpoint, we see a need to expand our promotional programs, both domestically and off-shore," Arney added. "For example, the Jonagold is a variety that is increasing dramatically in new-planted and soon will have a more important role in the marketing mix for Michigan, and we need to be ready for that." Arney said that, through Michigan's participation in the U.S. Apple Export Council, markets are becoming established in Brazil, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and Mexico.

The Michigan Apple Research Committee also recommended an increase in assessments on all categories of apples to fund expanded research efforts. The research funding target of one cent currently would increase a penny per hundredweight on all fresh, processed and juice apples each of the next three years for a total of four cents per hundredweight in 1998.

"The Apple Research Committee was established in 1982, and we haven't asked for an assessment yet," states Michigan Apple Research Committee Chairman Jim Swindeman from Dearfield. "Everybody knows that the ag program at the federal government is sooner or later going to be cut, and with that, we're going to be standing on the outside looking in, if we don't do something to help ourselves out."

"One of the things we want to focus on with this increased money is to do some marketplace research," continues Swindeman. "We're an arm of the Apple Committee and, since we're the research committee, that's what we definitely should be doing some research in -- the market aspect of it."

The referendum will generate approximately $950,000 more to the Apple Committee's advertising and promotion budget and approximately $600,000 more for the research budget," explained Arney. Swindeman says, the additional funds would allow the research committee to focus its energy on apple quality and production research including pest control measures, environmental stewardship and pre- and post-harvest research.

"All this is hand-in-hand with the university," states Swindeman. "We're right now one of the industry groups in the state that are funding the integrated pest management project that's going on at Michigan State University. This research group right now is funding that for $10,000 a year.

"I think growers recognize the need to promote and to fund programs for research and development," states Nye. "The apple industry is large here in Michigan, and I think the apple growers want to make sure that we're going to have a viable industry in the future."

"I just feel it's time for the industry to stand on its own two feet a little bit more," adds Swindeman. "We want to continue to stretch the growers' dollar," notes Arney. "So we always constantly evaluate the programs that we're conducting."

"From a personal standpoint, an individual has invested a small fortune in the land and in the trees and time to grow this crop," explains Bull. "It just makes sense to me that we have some control on where this crop is going to go and in creating a demand for this crop. By increasing our budget for advertising, and promotion in general, we can help create a demand for these apples that we have so much time and money invested in now. We just have to take responsibility ourselves for creating a demand for these apples."

"Prowl lets me worry about things other than spraying my corn again in the summer; it works great all season."
What's the future of dairy futures?

airy producers now have a new marketing tool at their disposal that's been available to crop and livestock producers for quite some time—futures contracts, as both the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa (CSCE) since December 1995 and, effective Jan. 11, 1996, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). While there are some significant differences between the contracts offered by the two exchanges, the overriding concept is the same—offer producers a chance to lock in prices, says MBA Dairy Specialist Kevin Kirk. He says the need for such a marketing tool will become more critical as the dairy market grows more unstable. 

"The milk prices have fluctuated 15 to 16 percent over the past year, while cheese prices varied 17 percent and butter prices dropped 54 percent in one week," Kirk cautioned. At the same time, feed costs are higher and government policy remains uncertain at best.

Jim Baxter, director of commodity marketing and education for the CME, is predicting that there will be no government price support in the future, meaning that prices will vary widely, similar to cattle and hogs. He suggests that producers consider the use of future and option contracts as a way of leveling out the prices they receive.

"If you lose your market is going downtown... you're better off selling futures contracts," Baxter advised. "It's by far, the best way of protecting your milk price—no question about it. However, if they (prices) go up, options provide a price floor. It's nice to pay a premium and have the potential for the higher prices."

MSU Agricultural Economist Jim Hilker predicts that if the fluid milk contracts are to be successful, however, that milk cooperatives will have to play a major role in providing members a chance to utilize the futures contracts through forward pricing, similar to how other cash market participants offer cash producers, a risk management tool.

"If these contracts are going to work, in my opinion, the co-ops are going to have to use them as a marketing tool for their individual members," Hilker suggested. "There's a good deal of risk in the markets, and the co-ops would be the logical place to use the contracts to help reduce that risk. They would theoretically have the expertise and the resources to do it right."

Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) General Manager Walt Weise says that, although the cooperative is studying the contracts, they have no immediate plans to get involved in using them.

"This is more of an individual farmer assessment as opposed to the co-op," Weise said. "It's pretty easy for a producer to buy or sell a 50,000-pound unit—the forward pricing opportunity is there with or without a co-op. I don't know that we (MMPA) should be speculating or gambling on behalf of all farm members."

Hilker and Weise do agree, however, that individual producer utilization, early on, will be minimal. "Some big dairy farmers use the contracts," Hilker said. "But they need to have someone in place who's an expert in getting the right contract and understands the contract specifications and details."

"It should really be used as a risk tool," Hilker continued. "But the price in is a range that offers you a profit margin, that's a reasonable time to consider using the contracts. That's especially critical with these high feed prices, because you don't want to risk a drop in milk prices with these current grain prices."

Contract Specifications of Milk Futures

The contract specification for Grade A milk for the CSCE and the CME are given below. There are some significant differences between the two contracts.

The biggest distinction between the CSCE and the CME contracts is the delivery point. The CSCE contract requires delivery from an approved plant or facility in the Madison, Wis., district of the Chica
go Regional Federal Milk Market Order. The buyer is responsible for picking up the shipment and assuming all transportation costs from the point. The CME contract, on the other hand, requires delivery to a CME-approved facility within the boundaries of Wisconsin and Minnesota or licensed in the portion of surrounding states included in the Chicago Regional or Upper Midwest Federal Milk Marketing Orders. The seller assumes all transportation costs to the buyer's facility except that the buyer will be assessed a standard freight rate per mile for each additional mile the milk is hauled over and above the distance between the seller's facility and either Bay Clare or Fond du Lac, Wis. The excess hauling costs will be paid to the seller.

Source: Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Futures Contracts For Milk: How Will They Work?, Ed Jesse and Bob Cropp, Professors and Extension Dairy Marketing and Policy Specialists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Specification</th>
<th>CSCE</th>
<th>CME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commodity</strong></td>
<td>FOB delivery of Grade A milk with 3.5 percent butterfat content from an approved plant.</td>
<td>FOB delivery of Grade A milk with 3.5 percent butterfat content to an approved plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trading Unit</strong></td>
<td>One tanker load.</td>
<td>One tanker load.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery Unit</strong></td>
<td>One tanker load, allowable variation 48,000 to 50,000 pounds.</td>
<td>One tanker load, allowable variation 3 percent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trading Hours</strong></td>
<td>9:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. NY time.</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Price Quotation</strong></td>
<td>Dollars and cents per hundredweight.</td>
<td>Same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Fluctuation</strong></td>
<td>$0.01 per cent., equivalent to $0.025 per contract.</td>
<td>$0.025 per cent., equivalent to $0.125 per contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Price Limits</strong></td>
<td>From the previous day's settlement price, $0.50 per cent., variable limits effective under certain conditions. No price limits on two nearby months, with no limits on third nearby month from first day of a delivery month until the last trading day of the delivery month.</td>
<td>From the previous day's settlement price, no trading at a price more than $1 per cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standards</strong></td>
<td>Grade A raw milk with 3.5 percent butterfat content.</td>
<td>Same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery Points</strong></td>
<td>From Interstate Milk Shippers (IMS) certified plants, receiving stations or transfer stations located in the Madison district of the Chicago or Upper Midwest Federal order.</td>
<td>To CME approved facilities within boundaries of Wisconsin and Minnesota or that portion of surrounding states included in the Chicago or Upper Midwest Federal orders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery</strong></td>
<td>Pick up by the buyer from the seller's plant.</td>
<td>Seller to buyer's facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Trading Day</strong></td>
<td>Six Exchange business days prior to the last Exchange business day of the delivery month.</td>
<td>Seven Exchange business days prior to the last Exchange business day of the delivery month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notice of Delivery</strong></td>
<td>First Exchange business day following the last trading day.</td>
<td>Same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First and Last Delivery Day</strong></td>
<td>Onetanker load; allowable variation 48,000 to 50,000 pounds.</td>
<td>One tanker load; allowable variation 3 percent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPS/GIS Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complete Analytical Services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil, forage, tissue, water, manure, time and fertilizer; herbicide, pesticide and environmental analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manure Management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manure and soil analysis; Recommendations for manure utilization that provide minimal environmental impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nitrogen Monitoring</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil sampling and recommendations for corn, soy bean, and vegetables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integrated Pest Management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop scouting for weeds, traces, and disease with control recommendations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brookside Laboratories, Inc. Crop Consulting Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Consulting Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPS/GIS Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complete Analytical Services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil, forage, tissue, water, manure, time and fertilizer; herbicide, pesticide and environmental analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manure Management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manure and soil analysis; Recommendations for manure utilization that provide minimal environmental impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nitrogen Monitoring</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil sampling and recommendations for corn, soy bean, and vegetables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integrated Pest Management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop scouting for weeds, traces, and disease with control recommendations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Brookside Consultation for this area.

Dennings and Associates, Inc. 7879 Upton Road • Elsie, Michigan 48831 517-862-5615
Year in and year out, Crow's is at the top!

Independent university trial results are some of the best proof of Crow's hybrids’ outstanding performance. They can pour on the yields for you, too. Call your local Crow’s dealer or 1-800-331-7201 for more information.

CROW'S
Milford, IL • Nevada, IA • Greenville, OH

Purdue University 1995 Yield Trials

Northern Sandy Loams, Regular Population
Crow's 490
196 B.P.A.
26.4% Harvest Moisture
2% SL

Crow's 494
179 B.P.A.
20.1% Harvest Moisture
2% SL
Plot Average
175 B.P.A.
18.9% Harvest Moisture
2% SL

Central Clay Loams, Regular Population
Crow's 494
157 B.P.A.
18.4% Harvest Moisture
1% SL

Crow's 490
157 B.P.A.
21.6% Harvest Moisture
3% SL
Plot Average
153 B.P.A.
18.9% Harvest Moisture
2% SL

Southern Silt Loams, Regular Population
Crow's 490
157 B.P.A.
21.9% Harvest Moisture
3% SL
Plot Average
141 B.P.A.
20.0% Harvest Moisture
4% SL

LES SIELER
Adrian, MI
517-263-2458
CARL F. SPARKS
Cedar Rapids, IA
616-445-3195

GREG PARKHURST
Armada, MI
810-794-3894
ROBERT MOLVINEX
Coopersville, MI
616-637-8710

LOREN CLEMENTE
Battle Creek, MI
616-965-4034
JEFF CONLIN
Decatur, MI
616-423-8351

RON WENGER
Gelding, MI
517-897-8068
JOE BENNETT
Edmore, MI
517-762-5480

MICHAEL OBER
Big Rapids, MI
616-796-3063
DENNIS LASCZUS
Fenton, MI
517-269-7980

STEPHEN SMITH
Blissfield, MI
517-489-2854
ALAN HEED
Fowlerville, MI
517-546-3339

LANCE KALBREICH
Brown City, MI
810-346-2332
ANDY SPARKS
Fremont, MI
616-642-0345

ED GROHOLSKI
Burlington, MI
517-785-2111
DALE THORNE
Handyer, MI
517-563-2683

JAMES D. CROW
Cameron, MI
517-254-4512
HERBERT HAIGHT
Homer, MI
517-568-4072

MARK HILASKI
Hollings, MI
616-793-4541

DON HASSDOVRE
Hudsonville, MI
616-875-8403

GOLDEN ACRES
Jasper, MI
517-443-5526

RICHARD ZENER
Kingsley, MI
616-289-3329

WENDLL NORDER
Lansingburg, MI
517-651-5409

RON GUDAKUNST
Ostree, MI
517-487-7941

DANIEL GUST
Ottawa Lake, MI
517-486-2237

JAMES F. CROW
Quincy, MI
517-639-4854

BIL MORGAN
Sherwood, MI
517-741-3998

LARRY ROBERTS
Three Rivers, MI
616-279-2117

EDGAR MILLER
White Pigeon, MI
616-483-7284

Northern Sandy Loams, Regular Population
Crow's 490
196 B.P.A.
26.4% Harvest Moisture
2% SL

Crow's 494
179 B.P.A.
20.1% Harvest Moisture
2% SL
Plot Average
175 B.P.A.
18.9% Harvest Moisture
2% SL

Central Clay Loams, Regular Population
Crow's 494
157 B.P.A.
18.4% Harvest Moisture
1% SL

Crow's 490
157 B.P.A.
21.6% Harvest Moisture
3% SL
Plot Average
153 B.P.A.
18.9% Harvest Moisture
2% SL

Southern Silt Loams, Regular Population
Crow's 490
157 B.P.A.
21.9% Harvest Moisture
3% SL
Plot Average
141 B.P.A.
20.0% Harvest Moisture
4% SL

MPPA honors farmers, veterinarian

Ray named Michigan's '96 Master Pork Producer.

C hip Ray, of Gobles, has been named by the Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) as Michigan's 1996 Master Pork Producer. The award is given annually to producers who demonstrate skills in production, swine reproduction, and take an active leadership role in the Michigan pork industry.

Ray is currently nearing completion of converting his 600 sow farrow-to-finish operation into a 10,000-head/a-year finishing operation. "I looked at my operation and decided that in order to remain competitive, I needed to make some changes," Ray explained. "When I looked at the facilities that I had, it was only natural to convert everything to finishing space."

Ray has been active both nationally and locally in pork industry activities, having just served as the immediate vice president of the National Pork Board. He has also served on numerous committees for both the National Pork Producers Council and the former National Livestock and Meat Board's Pork Industry Group. Ray also served as the first president of MPPA and is currently serving on the organization's executive committee.

Schug receives MPPA's '96 Pork All-American Award

Mike Schug, from Climax, was named to receive the 1996 Pork All-American Award and will represent Michigan on the National Pork Producers Council's Pork All-American team at the World Pork Expo next June in Des Moines, Iowa. The award, created in 1970, is intended to acknowledge outstanding young pork producers who have established themselves as dedicated, involved business professionals and leaders in their communities.

Schug entered into the family partnership in 1980 with his father, Uoyd, and brother, Denny, in a 600 sow farrow-to-finish operation. Mike now manages the pork production portion of the operation, while Denny manages the cropping program. The Schugs closed the herd in 1980 to help with disease control. Since then, no new animals have been brought into the operation, with all replacement stock produced through the use of artificial insemination. The operation also utilizes all-in-all-out production, phase feeding and split sex feeding.

Schug serves as a regional representative on the MPPA board of directors and also serves on the Pork Quality Assurance Program Committee, and the Michigan Pork Expo Planning Committee.

Granger receives MPPA's Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Larry Granger, swine species veterinarian in the Animal Industry Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, received the MPPA's Distinguished Swine Service Award, which is given annually to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to Michigan's pork industry and MPPA.

Prior to assuming his present position, Granger was in private practice for several years and also worked with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Veterinary Services Division. Granger was recognized for his efforts in the state's pseudorabies eradication program to eradicate the costly disease by the year 2000. Dr. Granger has also been active in working with producers interested in setting up producer networks.

Ray named Michigan's '96 Master Pork Producer.

Chip Ray, of Gobles, has been named by the Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) as Michigan's 1996 Master Pork Producer. The award is given annually to producers who demonstrate skills in production, swine reproduction, and take an active leadership role in the Michigan pork industry.

Ray is currently nearing completion of converting his 600 sow farrow-to-finish operation into a 10,000-head/a-year finishing operation. "I looked at my operation and decided that in order to remain competitive, I needed to make some changes," Ray explained. "When I looked at the facilities that I had, it was only natural to convert everything to finishing space."

Ray has been active both nationally and locally in pork industry activities, having just served as the immediate vice president of the National Pork Board. He has also served on numerous committees for both the National Pork Producers Council and the former National Livestock and Meat Board's Pork Industry Group. Ray also served as the first president of MPPA and is currently serving on the organization's executive committee.

Schug receives MPPA's '96 Pork All-American Award

Mike Schug, from Climax, was named to receive the 1996 Pork All-American Award and will represent Michigan on the National Pork Producers Council's Pork All-American team at the World Pork Expo next June in Des Moines, Iowa. The award, created in 1970, is intended to acknowledge outstanding young pork producers who have established themselves as dedicated, involved business professionals and leaders in their communities.

Schug entered into the family partnership in 1980 with his father, Uoyd, and brother, Denny, in a 600 sow farrow-to-finish operation. Mike now manages the pork production portion of the operation, while Denny manages the cropping program. The Schugs closed the herd in 1980 to help with disease control. Since then, no new animals have been brought into the operation, with all replacement stock produced through the use of artificial insemination. The operation also utilizes all-in-all-out production, phase feeding and split sex feeding.

Schug serves as a regional representative on the MPPA board of directors and also serves on the Pork Quality Assurance Program Committee, and the Michigan Pork Expo Planning Committee.

Granger receives MPPA's Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Larry Granger, swine species veterinarian in the Animal Industry Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, received the MPPA's Distinguished Swine Service Award, which is given annually to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to Michigan's pork industry and MPPA.

Prior to assuming his present position, Granger was in private practice for several years and also worked with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Veterinary Services Division. Granger was recognized for his efforts in the state's pseudorabies eradication program to eradicate the costly disease by the year 2000. Dr. Granger has also been active in working with producers interested in setting up producer networks.
Nutritional benefits of soybeans growing

Soys now thought to help prevent cancer, fight heart disease and lower cholesterol levels

W hat’s the next big growth area for soybean demand? Ask Dr. Mark Messi na and he’ll tell you the answer could be as close as your kitchen table. Messina, a nutri-
tional consultant based in Port Townsend, Wash., just outside of Seattle, says that the negative image of soybean products for human consumption is largely undervalued and unqualified today. Messina holds a master’s degree in nutrition from the Uni-
versity of Michigan and a Ph.D. in nutrition from Michigan State University.

“If you haven’t tried soy products in the last five to six years, you haven’t tried sooy products,” soybeans in the human diet. Messina was surprised Cancer Institute looking at the anti-cancer effects of ing up a $3 million research project for the National Soybean Association to fund research regarding the soybean’s effect on colon cancer.

“Some of the byproducts definitely inhibit the growth of colon cancer cells in cell culture tests,” Bennink explained. “We have purified the chemicals from soy and put them in a media where we’ve grown cancer cells, and the chemicals appear to inhibit the growth of cancer cells. When we fed whole soy to rats that had been treated with a colon cancer drug, we saw a decrease in some of the early symptoms of colon cancer.”

Product development is also being worked on at MSU, by incorporating soy flour into pasta dishes and other food items to increase human consump-
tion. Bennink says that scientists have been successful in increasing the soybean mixture to as high as 55 percent in spaghetti and as much as 30 percent in noodles.

Researchers are also attempting to integrate more soybeans into breakfast foods and snack items. “If we can convince consumers and major food manufacturers that there are definite health benefits, these types of food items would be a good way to increase soybean consumption,” Bennink concluded.

Products Containing Soybean or Soy Products

The number of soy products on the shelves of supermarkets, food co-ops and health food stores is increasing rapidly. These products are being pro-
duced by small companies and major manufactur-
ers. Products range from main dishes to snack foods and desserts.

adrian Chow Mein Friaids — Firm or Soft Tofu Chiecko — Tofu Boca Burger — Chef Max’s Favorite and Original Aromas — Regular, Firm, Soft Tofu, Arrowhead Mills — Soybeans Health Valley — Tofu Baked Beans Vegetarian Cuisin, Tofu Black Beans Vegetarian Cuisin, Tofu Lentil Vegetarian Cuisin Westbrae Natural — Wide variety of soy milks Health Valley — Soy Morn EdenSoy — Multiple varieties of soy milks EdenWest — Rice and Soy Beverage TofuRice — Wide variety of soy cheeses Berry’s Tempeh Wide variety of products containing soy oil, such as crackers, breaths, cookies and other baked goods.

Soy sauces

Soy sauces and Tamari — light and regular

For more information on soyfoods, write to:
Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee P.O. Box 287 Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Incorporate Healthy Soyfoods into Your Daily Diet!

As technology advances, science is discovering that unique compounds found in soybeans may help prevent or even treat some diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, high blood pressure, gallstones and kidney disease.

Consuming even one portion of soy per day may help your body fight against these diseases. Whether whole soybeans, soy flour, tofu, soy oil, soy milk or other soy products, the health benefits associated with soyfood consumption are truly remarkable.

For more information on soyfoods, write to:
Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee P.O. Box 287 Frankenmuth, MI 48734

MSPC

Source: Dr. Kathy Rhodes, Registered Dietitian and Cardiovascular Nutritionist, Preventative Cardiology at MDSport, University of Michigan

Do You Need to Get Your Heart Back on Track?

Yasmin Roy

February 15, 1996

Each page contains one or more paragraphs of text. The text does not contain any images, tables, or diagrams.

Nutritional benefits of soybeans growing

Soys now thought to help prevent cancer, fight heart disease and lower cholesterol levels

What’s the next big growth area for soybean demand? Ask Dr. Mark Messina and he’ll tell you the answer could be as close as your kitchen table. Messina, a nutritional consultant based in Port Townsend, Wash., just outside of Seattle, says that the negative image of soybean products for human consumption is largely undervalued and unqualified today. Messina holds a master’s degree in nutrition from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in nutrition from Michigan State University.

“If you haven’t tried soy products in the last five to six years, you haven’t tried soy products,” soybeans in the human diet. Messina was surprised Cancer Institute looking at the anti-cancer effects of ing up a $3 million research project for the National Soybean Association to fund research regarding the soybean’s effect on colon cancer.

“Some of the byproducts definitely inhibit the growth of colon cancer cells in cell culture tests,” Bennink explained. “We have purified the chemicals from soy and put them in a media where we’ve grown cancer cells, and the chemicals appear to inhibit the growth of cancer cells. When we fed whole soy to rats that had been treated with a colon cancer drug, we saw a decrease in some of the early symptoms of colon cancer.”

Product development is also being worked on at MSU, by incorporating soy flour into pasta dishes and other food items to increase human consumption. Bennink says that scientists have been successful in increasing the soybean mixture to as high as 55 percent in spaghetti and as much as 30 percent in noodles.

Researchers are also attempting to integrate more soybeans into breakfast foods and snack items. “If we can convince consumers and major food manufacturers that there are definite health benefits, these types of food items would be a good way to increase soybean consumption,” Bennink concluded.

Products Containing Soybean or Soy Products

The number of soy products on the shelves of supermarkets, food co-ops and health food stores is increasing rapidly. These products are being produced by small companies and major manufacturers. Products range from main dishes to snack foods and desserts.


Soy sauces

Soy sauces and Tamari — light and regular
What could be better than a bailing fire in a horse's mouth? If you want to be sure of having plenty of wood this cold season, you'd better get that chainsaw ready for action.

Since gas breaks down in storage, you should have drained the tank before putting it away last year. If you failed to do so, that should be step number one. When you fill up with fresh fuel, make it regular unleaded gasoline. It's what most makers of chainsaws recommend, so there's no need to pay more for premium whether you're using conventional gas or the new, cleaner-burning reformulated gas.

Check the owner's manual for the proper fuel or in doubt, hold on to your hand saw. It's as little as one part oil to 16 parts gas. With others, it's as much as one-to-one.

A faulty oil in the mix can cause severe engine wear, too much oil will result in carbon deposits in the combustion chamber and an insufficient octane rating for the fuel-oil mix. It's best to pay a few pennies more for blends of two-stroke engines. Don't substitute cheaper auto oil.

Be sure to always shake the container of fuel oil, again - to avoid the risk. If you plan to be away for a length of time, it will begin to separate. Before starting the chain saw, check the spark plug. A faulty plug can cause engine power shortage, hard starting and rough idling. If the plug has tan or light gray deposits, it should still be good. If the deposits are white and blistery, black or metallic, it should be replaced or cleaned with a wire brush or hand file.

Another important step before getting started is to check the chain. Two-fell-finger chains - both the line and the fine-foil section. Use a clean, soft paintbrush or toolbrush.

During the season, the chains should be washed weekly with soap and water to dissolve grease.

Every time you sharpen or replace the cutting chain, rotate the guide bar to avoid one-sided wear. It's also necessary to clean the oil-inlet hole and bar groove regularly.

If you live on the third of the country that has switched to reformulated gasoline as part of the ongoing struggle to make the nation's air safer, you'll be pleased to know that RFG, as it's usually called, actually burns cleaner than conventional gas. That means fewer carbon deposits and a smoother-running engine.

The reason it burns cleaner and pollutes less is because RFG contains a higher percentage of oxygenates (a chemical form of oxygen) and a lower percentage of toxic chemicals such as benzene, which has been shown to cause cancer. The added oxygen makes RFG burn more thoroughly and thus burns cleaner.

Although RFG was developed for automobiles, it works fine in all types of small engines too, including chain saws, thanks to the Portable Power Equipment Manufacturers Association (PPMA) member companies in the United States, Europe and Japan. Re-tester kits of RFG and found 'no significant performance effects.' EPA dealer turnover turned up no customer complaints. But remember: when it comes to what fuel is right for your chain saw, your owner's manual should always have the final say.

Thanks to reformulated gasoline, international competition requires all types, including chain saws, will spew 300,000 less tons of smog producing hydrocarbons into the air each year. That's the equivalent of taking 8 million cars off the road. Overall, the new, cleaner-burning fuel is expected to reduce toxic pollution by more than 20 percent over the next decade.

For more information about RFG, call 800-468-6743.
LEASE FINANCING FOR EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES

- 100% tax deductible
- Fixed payments
- Min advance payment

TEL McMILLAN INC.
800-451-3322

FOR SALE: AuSable seed oats. Putty, lust weight, and germination tested. Call Duane Basinger at 1-517-734-3694.


WANT THE BEST SOYBEAN VARIETY? Stine 2606, top yield in MI south- ern Michigan trials. Stine 3600, highest 2-year average. Introductory offer, $950 per ton or try some Stine supply. Limited order, now.

Seeds

COMPLETE FARM SYSTEM

"Designing for Growth"

FORMAR COMMODITIES

GOOD QUALITY ALFAFRA hay, 2nd and 3rd cutting, also, have straw. Delivery available. Flak Farms
1-516-694-5183

B & M Seed
1-917-603-2846

ROUND BALES ALFAFRA alfalfa, some stored inside. Delivery available! No need to bale before winter. Call 1-619-588-6809 or leave message.

Lease financing for equipment & vehicles

- 100% tax deductible
- Fixed payments
- Min advance payment

800-451-3322

FOUR SEEDS FOR SALE: AuSable seed oats. Putty, lust weight, and germination tested. Call Duane Basinger at 1-517-734-3694.


WANT THE BEST SOYBEAN VARIETY? Stine 2606, top yield in MI southern Michigan trials. Stine 3600, highest 2-year average. Introductory offer, $950 per ton or try some Stine supply. Limited order, now.

Seeds

COMPLETE FARM SYSTEM

"Designing for Growth"

FORMAR COMMODITIES

GOOD QUALITY ALFAFRA hay, 2nd and 3rd cutting, also, have straw. Delivery available. Flak Farms
1-516-694-5183

B & M Seed
1-917-603-2846

ROUND BALLES ALFAFRA alfalfa, some stored inside. Delivery available! No need to bale before winter. Call 1-619-588-6809 or leave message.
Discussion Topic

March 1996

A monthly resource for the Community Action Groups of Michigan Farm Bureau

Farmers have always been eager adapters of new technology, especially when it improves their bottom line. So what should farmers make of the hoopla over the Internet? What is it? What does it mean for agriculture? How can farmers take advantage of the Internet's capabilities?

The formal answer for "What is the Internet?" is that it is a linked computer network that links individuals, universities, government agencies, commercial organizations and non-profits (like Farm Bureau). The informal way to describe the function of Internet is that it is something like a worldwide system of electronic sidewalks. You can "walk" along the Internet to visit specific people, go directly to specific destinations for information or products, or just meander along, stopping when you feel like it at interesting spots.

Visiting people on the Internet is accomplished by using e-mail. Computer users can use e-mail to send (or receive) messages with anyone in the world who also has an e-mail address. It is similar to the way your county Farm Bureau office uses an e-mail system to communicate with the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

This e-mail function makes available the part of the Internet that is perhaps most useful to farmers: newsgroups. Newsgroups have been formed nearly everywhere you can think of. "Large numbers of practicing producers, literally from all over the world, can talk to one another through newsgroups," said Don Jones, Extension agricultural engineer with Purdue. Jones is a well-known expert on agriculture and the Internet and was a featured workshop speaker at the 1995 ARBF Annual Meeting in St. Louis. "The newsgroups let farmers have something like a coffee-chat about their farm operations. Many agribusiness people and Extension staff monitor these conversations."

Another important part of the Internet is the World Wide Web. This lets people navigate along the Internet using "hyperlinks" that send them directly to a destination. Unlike the text-only messages of e-mail, the information on the Web is multimedia and rich with graphics, photos, video and sound.

Getting hooked into the Internet can be somewhat technical. You need a computer and a device called a modem that connects your computer to a phone line. Accessing the Web also requires Windows (or the Macintosh operating system.) You also need to subscribe to a service that connects you to the Internet (known as an Internet provider.) All three of the major online services (America Online, Prodigy and CompuServe) offer e-mail and Internet access.

Once you are connected, the possibilities are nearly limitless. One of the highlights of the Web's many resources for agriculture is the new Michigan Farm Bureau site. MFB's Web pages offer weekly news summaries and the opportunity to get news releases and Ag in the Classroom lesson plans by e-mail; information about how agriculture cares about the environment; details on the latest MAGMA sales offers and weekly excerpts from the Michigan's Cookbook with Karen and Dean recipe book.

The address for MFB's Web page is http://www.fb.com. The e-mail address for the MFB Information and Public Relations Division is info@fb.com.

The American Farm Bureau Federation's Web page is http://www.afb.org. It offers news, background information about American agriculture and links to about a dozen other state Farm Bureau Web sites, including Michigan, Texas and Georgia.

Other Web sites of interest to agriculture include the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and its National Agricultural Library; Agriculture On-line (Successful Farming); Michigan State University and nearly every other university in the country.

INTERNET TIP

Check the ends of Web addresses for clues on what the addresses connect to. For example, endings like:

.org for organizations
.com for commercial groups
.edu for educational institutions
.gov for governmental bodies

Discussion Questions

1) How many members of your group own computers?
2) What do they use the computers for?
3) For those members who do not currently own computers, what kinds of uses would they have for a computer if they did own one?
4) When you hear the word "Internet," what kind of picture enters your mind?
5) What information or topic areas have you heard about that you might be interested in connecting to through the Internet? If you could connect to newsgroups, what kinds of things would you discuss?

Expect 12 percent increase in corn acres

A according to a recent FarmQuota report, fertilizer producer Vigno Corporation expects U.S. producers to plant about 79.5 million acres to corn in 1996, up 12 percent from last year's 72.2 million acres, while soybean acreage, on the other hand will be down approximately 2 percent, based on the company's survey of Midwest farmers in December 1995.

The corn estimate of 79.5 million exceeds the 79.2 million acres planted for the record 1995 million bushel crop planted in 1994. Vigno, who will be doing a follow-up survey in March, predicts that 1996 corn acreage could go even higher. "It's possible that our second farmer survey will show planned corn acreage exceeding 80 million acres," said Vigno President Robert Powell.

Apparently, major seed companies concur with those estimates, with several major suppliers predicting corn acreage of 80 to 82 million acres, which translates into higher earnings for 1996. Northrup King is expecting an increase in sales of 15 percent, while Dekalb is expecting a 15 to 18 percent increase in sales. While Pioneer didn't release projections, Dave Nelson, agribusiness consultant, predicts that Pioneer's market share of seed sales will grow to 46 percent, while Dekalb's and Northrup King's market shares will grow to 11 percent and 4 percent, respectively, he concluded.

The Insecticide For People With More Brains Than Money.

Smart people like you know value. That's why you probably already know about THIMET* soil and systemic insecticide. Year after year, THIMET has proven itself for rootworm control. Now, with conservation tillage, THIMET is proving itself against high residue insects, such as wireworms, white grubs, and other pests that will increase their pressure season after season and for which there is no rescue treatment. So, if you want to save your money and show off your brains, get THIMET in the LOCK'n LOAD® closed handling system. It's your best all-around package for value and performance.

PROTECTION. VALUE. PERFORMANCE.